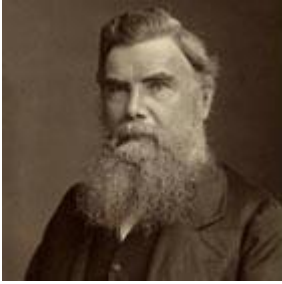


GEORGE CARTER BIGNELL

Natural history collection



"The reputation of the late Mr G C Bignell as an entomologist is too well known to need any comment of mine..." Hodgson, 1917

G C Bignell, pictured above, was born in Exeter on 1 March 1826. He lived in Stonehouse, Plymouth and Saltash, Devon.

Looking for adventure, Bignell enlisted in the Royal Marines in 1842, where he stayed for 22 years. He left the Royal Marines with the rank of barrack sergeant.

After retiring from the Royal Marines, he was appointed Registrar of Births and Deaths for Stonehouse and Poor Law Officer for the Stonehouse Board of Guardians. These jobs left him enough free time to pursue his real passion; entomology.

He joined the Plymouth Athenaeum where he met many other entomologists. He wrote numerous articles for *The Entomologist Magazine*, *the Young Naturalist* and the *Transactions of the Plymouth Institution*.

Bignell became a Fellow of the [Royal Entomological Society](#) in 1880. It is very possible that Bignell was acquainted with another of Plymouth Museum's important collectors; James Higman Keys. Both were keen entomologists; both lived in Plymouth; they were both fellows of the Royal Entomological Society and J H Keys printed Bignell's bookplate, shown below.

G C Bignell passed away on the morning of his 84th birthday in 1910.

