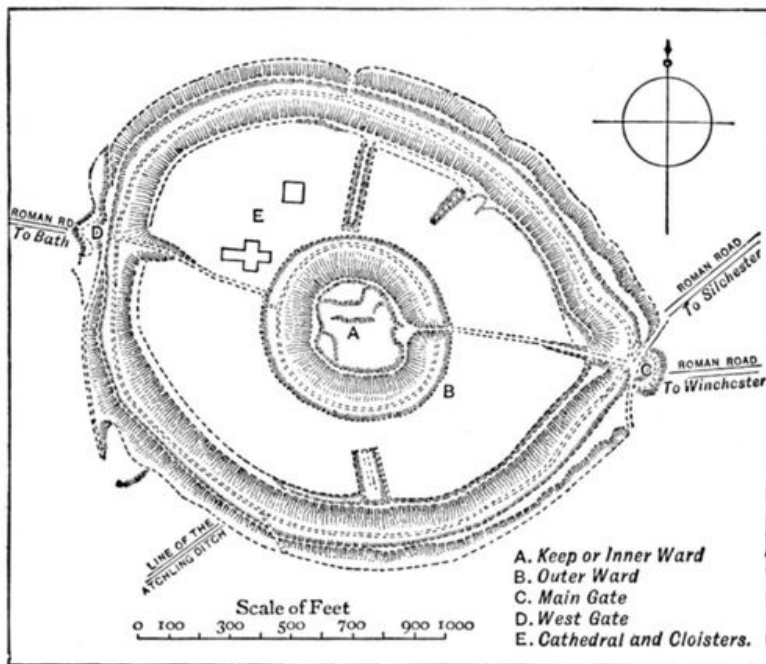




*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards and divers historical prospecting.*

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## HERITAGE

The following two items from the Chapter Minutes show how easily our heritage could have been lost.

### Old Sarum

January 1887: Letter from Solicitor of Her Majesty's Treasury with reference to placing Old Sarum under the guardianship of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works in pursuance of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882 and the further consideration of the matter was postponed. (Left, plan of Old Sarum reprinted in Samuel R Gardiner's 1916 edition of 'Student's

History of England from the Earliest Times to the Death of King Edward VII', courtesy of Ordnance Survey).

August and September 1891: General Pitt-Rivers (Augustus Henry Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers FRS FSA 1827 – 1900) offers to buy Old Sarum. Instead Chapter wish to transfer it to the Public Buildings Guardian where it would be covered by the Ancient Monument Protection Act and archaeology would then be regulated. The Chapter Clerk submitted the draft deed for constituting the commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings guardians of Old Sarum by virtue of the



powers of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882 which was approved and the Chapter seal was ordered to be affixed to the engrossment thereof.

Following the passage of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882, Pitt Rivers (the Father of Archaeology) became the first Inspector of Ancient Monuments: a post created by anthropologist and parliamentarian John Lubbock, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Avebury, - who married Pitt Rivers' daughter, Alice!

WH Hudson, A Shepherd's Life, 1910 (a book I strongly recommend): Nature had made it a sweet and beautiful spot; the earth over the old buried ruins was covered with an elastic turf, jewelled with the bright little flowers of the chalk ... Once during the last five or six centuries some excavations were made

when, in 1834, as a result of an excessively dry summer, the lines of the cathedral foundations were discernible on the surface. But it will no longer be the place it was, the Society of Antiquaries having received permission from the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury to work their sweet will on the site. That ancient beautiful carcass, which had long made their mouths water, on which they have now fallen like a pack of hungry hyenas to tear off the old hide of green turf and burrow down to open to the light or drag out the deep, stony framework. The beautiful surrounding thickets, too, must go, they tell me, since you cannot turn the hill inside out without destroying the trees and bushes that crown it. Hudson was a noted naturalist and writer. His views about Old Sarum can be seen as a hangover from the 19th-century view of romantic ruins.

Now, my question to you is, how come Old Sarum was the Chapter's to sell? After all they left in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and we know that Henry VIII sold Old Sarum in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Also, why if Old Sarum was on the 1882 schedule of protected sites did they need to minute it in 1891?

### THE CLOCK

September 1891: Mr C. J. Daintry solicitor of Petworth having written enquiring if the D&C would sell the framework and wheels of the old clock the Chapter Clerk was instructed to ask him for what purpose he wished to purchase the same and what offer he would make for it and *to point out that it being of curious construction it had a value relative to the history of clock-making*. Mr Daintry was invited to visit Cathedral to see the condition of the clock.



### CLOISTER CROSS BACKSTORY

One of the battlefield crosses in the cathedral collection is one that once marked the grave of **Captain Christopher Ken Merewether** of the 1/4th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. Captain

Merewether was the only son of the Rev. Canon Wyndham Arthur Seinde Merewether and Harriot Edith Merewether (née Fox). Canon Merewether was for a while Vicar of St Thomas' Church, Salisbury and then a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, which probably helps to explain the presence of his son's cross in the cloister. Captain Merewether died of wounds at Port Said, Egypt on the 20th December 1917, after being seriously wounded on the 13th November during the Action of El Mughar in Palestine (also known as the Battle of Mughar Ridge). At the time of his death, Captain Merewether was 27 years old.

Christopher Ken Merewether was born at North Bradley, near Trowbridge (Wiltshire) on the 26th May 1890, the only son of the then vicar, the Rev. W. A. S. Merewether, and his wife Harriot. Christopher Ken was baptised at North Bradley on the 3rd August 1890. He first features in the 1891 Census, when the family were living at the vicarage at North Bradley. The family were still living at North Bradley a decade later, but in the 1901 Census, Ken Merewether features on the return from Rottingdean (East Sussex), where he was at school. By the time of the 1911 Census, the Rev. Merewether had become vicar of Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, and the family had moved to the vicarage there. In the census return, Christopher Ken Merewether was back living with his parents and described as a 20-year-old undergraduate student.



Merewether was educated at St Aubyn's, Rottingdean, and Winchester College, where he was in the Senior Division Sixth Book, and head of his house (Revd J. T. Branston's). Matriculating at Oriel College, Oxford, he took Honours in Modern History and upon leaving the university, was selected by the directors of the White Star Line of Liverpool for training as an assistant manager. Having passed through the Officer Training Corps at Winchester, he was appointed to the command of the Bradford-on-Avon half company of the Wiltshire Territorials. On the outbreak of war he left his appointment with the White Star Line and joined the Wiltshire Regiment, with which he served continuously from August 1914 until his death.

The Bradford Detachment was officially G Company of the 4th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. C. K.

Merewether was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment in January 1909, then promoted Lieutenant in 1910. Lieutenant Merewether's name appeared frequently in the pages of the Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser from 1910, because that was where the detachment's orders of the week were published. C. K. Merewether was also a keen sportsman, especially at hockey and cricket. For example, he gained his half blue playing for the Oxford team in the 'Varsity hockey match of 1913. His short death notice in The Sportsman emphasises this aspect of Merewether's life : Capt. C. K. Merewether, Wilts Regt. who died from wounds on Dec. 19, played hockey for Oxford against Cambridge, and cricket for Oriel College and the Authentics.

After the outbreak of war, Lieutenant Christopher Ken Merewether must have volunteered for overseas service, thus becoming part of the first-line battalion of the 4th Wilts. In October 1914, the 1/4th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment sailed to India with other Territorial Force units from the south-west of England. Like many of those units, the 1/4th Wilts would have spent several

years garrisoning India. In October 1917, however, they moved to join the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF). The 1/4th Wilts then became part of 233rd Infantry Brigade in the 75th Division. The infantry battalions in that Division were a mixture of British and Indian Army units; for example, the 233rd Brigade comprised the 1/5th Somerset Light Infantry, the 2/4th Hampshire Regiment, and the, 2/3rd and 3/3rd Gurkha Rifles.



At the Action of El Mughar on the 13th November 1917, infantry units from both 233rd and 234th Brigades — including the 1/4th Wilts — were detailed to attack Ottoman lines and capture the village of Mesmiye. Junction Station was captured soon afterwards, and the focus of the EEF could then turn towards the capture of Jerusalem. Captain Merewether

was seriously wounded at El Mughar. He was wounded in the fighting about Katrah and Mughar on 13 November and was subsequently admitted to Kantara Hospital, from where he was transferred to the 31st General Hospital at Port Said. He was reported dangerously wounded in the right shoulder and spine and on Monday 26 November 1917, news received stated that his condition was still grave, but that he was cheerful and had practically no pain. A report on Captain Merewether's fate was published in the Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury of the 20th December 1917, ironically on the very day that he died. This paid full tribute to Merewether's previous work at the White Star Line.

*News has reached Liverpool that Captain K. Merewether, Wiltshire Regiment, is lying dangerously wounded in hospital in an Eastern port. About a year or two before the outbreak of war, Captain Merewether, who received his education at Winchester, and subsequently at Oxford, where he graduated with honours in modern history, entered the Liverpool office of the White Star Line to obtain a business training, and in his brief commercial career attracted favourable notice by reason of his sterling qualities. He was a Territorial officer and shortly after the commencement of hostilities proceeded abroad with his regiment.*

Captain Merewether's death was reported in the Bath Chronicle of the 29th December 1917: *Capt. Christopher K. Merewether, Wilts Regt., died on the 19th December of wounds received in action on November 13. He was the only child of the Rev. W. A. S. Merewether, Vicar of St. Thomas', Salisbury, and grandson of the late Mr. H. A. Merewether, Bowden Hill, Chippenham. Deceased was 27 years of age. Captain Merewether was buried at Port Said War Memorial Cemetery, in Egypt.*

As mentioned before, his battlefield cross is now in the cloisters of Salisbury Cathedral, Wiltshire. His name appears on the main civic memorial at Salisbury as well as the church memorials at Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon and St Nicholas, North Bradley. There are also family memorials in the churches at North Bradley (a stained-glass window) and at Bowden Hill, near Lacock (a plaque shared with his cousin, Captain John Alworth Merewether of the 9th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, who had died on the Somme in 1916). Merewether's name also appears on the war memorials at Winchester College and at Oriel College, Oxford. It also features on the memorial board at Liverpool Cricket Club, in the suburb of Aigburth, which must relate to the period Ken Merewether worked for the White Star Line.

Ken Merewether's father, Wyndham, Arthur, Scinde Merewether had been born at Bowden Hill House in 1852, the son of Henry Alworth Merewether, Q.C. and his wife Maria. Like his son, Wyndham also studied at Winchester and Oriel College, Oxford. He was ordained priest in 1877. He served a curacy in Bradford on Avon from 1876 to 1880 before working in London for five years. He then became vicar of St Nicholas, North Bradley, where he served from 1886 to 1908. During this period, Wyndham Merewether married Harriot Edith Fox at St George's, Hanover Square, Westminster in 1888. In 1908, he was appointed vicar of Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon. In 1914, he became vicar of St Thomas's Church, Salisbury. In 1919, he became a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral and he later served as Rural Dean of Wilton. Canon Merewether's obituary in the Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser of the 8th December 1928 recorded: *For several years Canon Merewether*



had been in falling health, and recently contracted pneumonia, from which death resulted. The strain of work during the war years told severely on his strength. However, in 1919 he was collated to the honorary canonry of Preston in Salisbury Cathedral and became Rural Dean of Wilton. When in 1922 he found the work too much for his strength, he resigned the benefice, but at the request of the Bishop retained the unpaid office of Rural Dean.

## IRONWORK

Emily very kindly managed to obtain a copy of Medieval Decorative Ironwork in England by Jane Geddes and published by the Society of Antiquaries in 1999. This magnum opus is very detailed and has several mentions of Salisbury Cathedral.

First the Cope Chest, described as a Quadrant and at 12' 3" the largest in England, the lid of which was attached to a pulley system.

The padlocked chest currently outside the Morning Chapel was originally in the Muniment Room (see J&T No.33). An engraving of 1834 (below) shows the central iron hoop attached to a pulley system on the central column. It is dated at c1500 so not as early as we had surmised.

The Hungerford tomb: 1<sup>st</sup> June 1429, Lord Hungerford obtained a licence from the Dean, Simon Sydenham, to enclose *between the first arch of the nave to the arch where the altar of early mass is celebrated*. In 1778/9, Jacob Radnor wishes to renovate the tomb and employs James Wyatt to carry out the alterations. Gough's\* description of 1786: *they (the bars) were beautifully gilt and painted antiently in blue, gold, green, vermillion. The brattishing\*\* (cornice) was adorned with thirty-six coats of arms.*

\* R.Gough 1786-1796 Sepulchral Monuments in Great Britain.

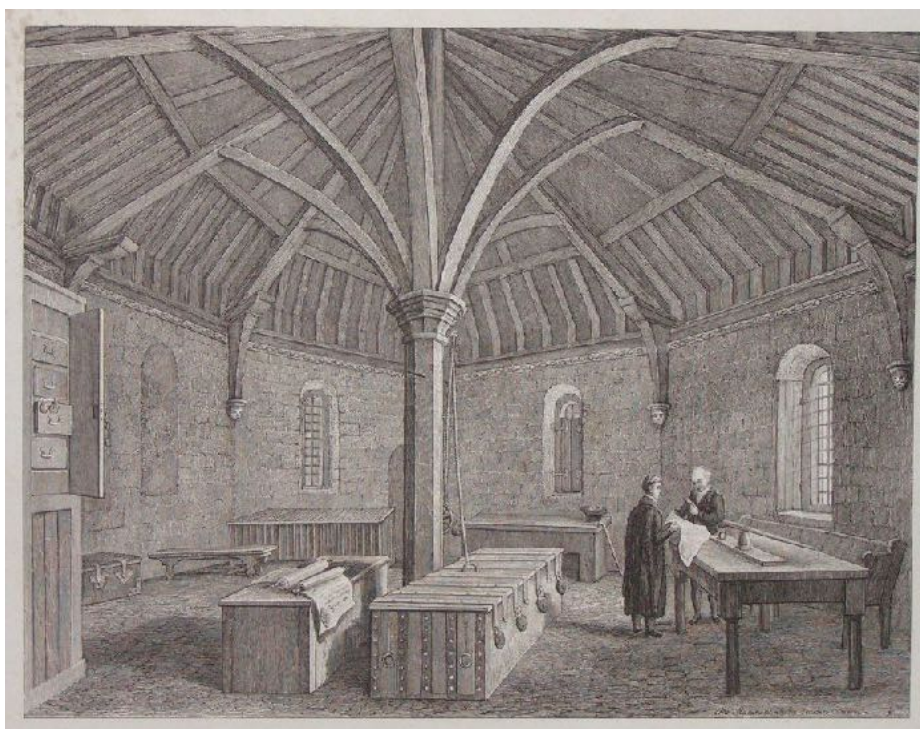
\*\* Brattishing originally referred to the covered wooden walkways constructed outside a castle's battlements.

## BEQUEST

August 1892: *It was reported that Miss [Julia] Chafyn Grove [of Zeals] had bequeathed a legacy of £1000 to the Cathedral*

*Restoration Fund and it was ordered that the same when received should be paid to the Cathedral Restoration Fund account at Messers Pincnkey Bank.*

*Mr Robinson's estimate amounting to £45 for certain alteration to the organ cases, as suggested by Sir Arthur Blomfield, was accepted: and it was ordered that the amount of the estimate should be paid out of Miss Grove's legacy.*





June 1892: £897.18.0 received from Miss Chafyn Grove's estate. £1000 less £100 death duties and £ 2.2.0 solicitors fees from Messers Fullow Pye Smiths. The Chapter clerk objects to the charges and refers Pye Smiths to the Incorporated Law Society for arbitration.

Robinson was a well-known architectural carver based in Bloomsbury.

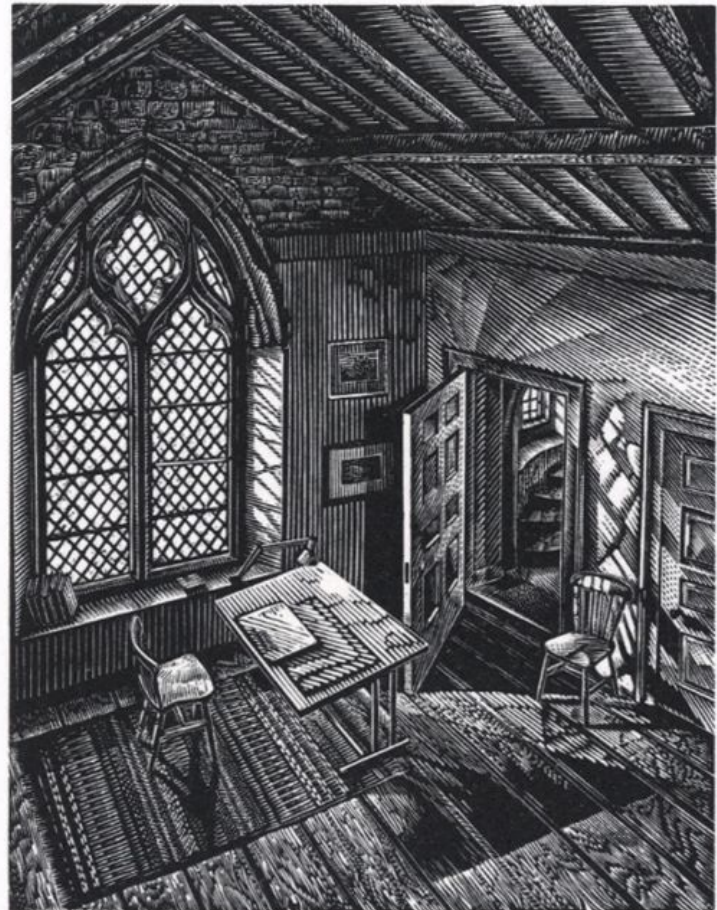
Sir Arthur Blomfield (1829 - 1899) was appointed Cathedral Architect in October 1882. His practice was joined by the writer and poet Thomas Hardy in 1862. He became a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1867 - proposed by Giles Gilbert Scott and one H. Brandon. He ended as vice-president in 1886. Now I don't know if I am any relation to H. Brandon but my grandfather was Henry and was a property developer in London who worked with some prominent architects of the period. He also lived in Portman Place which is where the HQ of the RIBA stands - I will try and investigate

further.

#### ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

The room over St. Ann's Gate is known by this name (right). It belonged to the Earl of Malmesbury who owned the house to the north of the gate and still bears his name. In January 1891 the Chapter write to Messers Cluttons that they would like to own the property now belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

This means agreeing the terms of a lease with Miss Marrian (appropriate name), the existing tenant, and the state of dilapidations (disrepair) with the EC. The transaction includes the two buildings immediately to the south of St. Ann's Gate. The situation is complicated by the Chapter deciding to out-source their property portfolio management to Messers Castle, Field & Castle of Oxford. This meant dispensing with the services of their long-serving Receiver (surveyor) H.W. Rigden.



34/100, Interior St. Ann's Gate, Salisbury. Howard Phipps 1986