

# Chapter 14

1861-  
2.6.1947  
1

## 1896-1909 Sydney Chesshyre Bristowe

*In which we learn about the first owner after the Dawnays; a tragic drowning; 13 servants at the house; the existence of a croquet green; another birth at the house; a painter and Assyriologist; the link to Brockwell Park, Herne Hill, London; and the first motor car known to have been sold from the house*

**B**ookham Grove House and estate was sold during late November or early December 1896<sup>2</sup> and whilst the new owner is not verified for this date, it is most likely that the purchase was made by Mr Sydney Bristowe.

**T**he Bristowes had lived in Surrey for some time: The 12th February 1887 edition of the West Surrey Times mentions Mrs Sydney Bristowe performing in Chertsey in a 'tableaux vivants' as Lady Jane Grey watching her husband led to execution<sup>3</sup>.

And in the 16th Feb 1895 edition of the West Surrey Times their place of residence is noted as Old Avenue House, Weybridge<sup>4</sup>.

Sydney and Ethel were definitely in the Bookham area at the end of April 1899 as they attended a wedding at St Mary's in Fetcham<sup>5</sup>, although their residence is not noted it could be assumed that they were already residing at Bookham Grove. This is suggestive, although not definitive proof, that they were the purchasers of the property in 1897.

Sydney and his wife, Ethel, are noted as living at Bookham Grove on the 2nd August 1899<sup>6</sup>, as Mrs Bristowe gave out the prizes at the Bookham Cottage and Garden Show:

'At 5 o'clock the prizes were gracefully distributed to the successful competitors by Mrs Bristowe of Bookham Grove, and on the proposition of the Rev E Malleon, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded her for so kindly undertaking that duty'

Sydney is noted as living at Bookham Grove in November 1899, providing donations to the Surrey County Fund set up for the relieve of sufferers through the war in the Transvaal, South Africa<sup>15-17</sup>.

He was sworn in as a Grand Jury member on August 28th 1900<sup>18</sup> although his residence is not given, it does give an indication of his interest and involvement in Surrey society.

Bookham Grove House and estate was sold during late November or early December 1896<sup>2</sup>:

'Bookham Grove, just outside the picturesque village of Bookham, between Leatherhead and Guildford, has changed hands, after being in Viscount Downe's family for several generations. The mansion and whole estate, extending to about 320 acres, passes to the new owner at Christmas'.

However, tragedy was soon to strike in a widely reported case<sup>7-13</sup>: The family, whose address is given as Bookham Grove, were at Ackergill Tower, Wick, Caithness, Scotland when on the 4th September 1899<sup>14</sup> their second daughter, Irene (known as Frankie), was drowned while bathing in Ackergill Bay at the age of 9 years:

'An elder sister went into the water with her, and both got beyond their depth, but the elder sister was able to save herself by swimming. The younger girl disappeared in deep water. The body was recovered half an hour afterwards. Mrs Bristowe accompanied her daughter to the beach, and was a distressed witness of the sad fatality.'<sup>7</sup>

**S**ydney Bristowe certainly owned the house - so the only thing that has not been definitively confirmed is that he purchased it in 1896; the fact that there is no further sale announcement in the papers of the time until it is sold again in 1909, strongly supports the assumption that the Bristowes were in residence from 1896 to 1909.

**T**he 1901 census lists a Mr and Mrs Sydney Bristowe, their 2 children and 13 servants, with their families, as living at Bookham Grove <sup>19</sup>:

Name	Age	
<a href="#">Sydney Bristowe</a>	40	Dealer in stocks and shares and employer
<a href="#">Sylvia Bristowe</a>	15	
<a href="#">Murial Bristowe</a>	8	
<a href="#">William Bristowe</a>	6	
<a href="#">Lucy Gore</a>	23	Governess
<a href="#">Caroline Day</a>	50	Nurse retired, domestic
<a href="#">Phoebe Wood</a>	50	Cook, domestic
<a href="#">Ada Arnold</a>	32	Housemaid, domestic
<a href="#">Mary Arnold</a>	28	Housemaid, domestic
<a href="#">Artemis Revelle</a>	41	Lady's maid, domestic (Boulogne France)
<a href="#">Louisa Quickenden</a>	20	Nurse, domestic
<a href="#">Lily Smith</a>	22	Kitchen maid, domestic
<a href="#">Lizzie Dawson</a>	19	Kitchen maid, domestic
<a href="#">Thomas Simpson</a>	20	Footman, domestic
<a href="#">William Carpenter</a>	45	Coachman, domestic
<a href="#">Mary A Carpenter</a>	41	
<a href="#">Joseph Carpenter</a>	5	
<a href="#">Caroline Carpenter</a>	4	
<a href="#">Stanley Carpenter</a>	2	
<a href="#">Lack Carpenter</a>	1/12	
<a href="#">Frank Matthews</a>	10	Groom, domestic
<a href="#">Arthur Mitchell</a>	31	Butler, domestic
<a href="#">Laura Mitchell</a>	35	
<a href="#">Dorothea Mitchell</a>	2	
<a href="#">Freda Mitchell</a>	1	

Sydney was a stock exchange dealer <sup>1</sup>.

Sydney was at Bookham Grove on Wednesday 10th July 1901 <sup>20, 21</sup>, and is holding the office of the Ruling Councillor:

'At the invitation of the Ruling Councillor, Mr Sydney Bristowe, the members of the Bookham Habitation, No. 1461, of the Primrose League, spent a most enjoyable afternoon in the grounds of the Grove, on Wednesday. The weather, though extremely warm, was beautifully fine, and the attendance was a large one. Tea was served in a marquee and was much enjoyed, and afterwards a meeting was held over which the Ruling Councillor presided.' <sup>20</sup>

'..in the delightful grounds of Bookham Grove...At 5 o'clock a capital tea was provided in a large marquee, and following this came the annual meeting. Swinging boats, cocoa-nut shies and amusements of a kindred character were largely patronised in the evening, and selections of dance and other music were played by the Bookham Brass Band...on the proposition of Mr Keswick, a vote of thanks to the Ruling Councillor and Mrs Bristowe for the pleasure they had afforded the members that day was carried with acclamation' <sup>21</sup>.



This is what the house looked like in 1901 <sup>22</sup>. Note the addition to the left side with extensive chimneys which possibly indicate the location of the kitchen, what looks like a door behind the white structure on the left side (the glassed arch), the balustrade at the roof, and the right hand dormer window appears to be opened, suggesting the room is in use at this time in history.

January  
1903,  
<sup>23, 24</sup>

#### 'ENTRANCE TO BOOKHAM GROVE

The surveyor reported that Mr S C Bristowe of Bookham Grove had applied for the water table at his entrance to be made up, and that the only way of effecting this was to lay a drain with a catch pit, the cost of which he estimated at £6

It was resolved that the work be carried out subject to Mr Bristowe contributing £4 towards the cost.'

Bristowe  
was one of  
the trustees  
for the Barn  
Hall <sup>25</sup>





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Upper Street 1904  
Bookham Grove is to the left outside of this photograph, but note the very wide road <sup>26</sup>

On the 11th November 1904 <sup>27</sup> Mrs Bristowe of Bookham Grove was noted as attending the opening meet for the Surrey Union Foxhounds at Norbury Park along with Miss Graham.



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Dorking Road 1906  
Bookham Grove House grounds to the left, fenced not walled <sup>28</sup>

In addition it is noted as his seat in a book published in 1911, although this may simply have taken the information from the 1901 census <sup>29</sup>

Among the gentry at the end of the 19th century 'the game croquet was the fashion, there being greens at Bookham Grove, Eastwick Park, Fairfield House and the Grange' <sup>30</sup>



In 1885 Sydney married Ethel Susan Graham Patterson

1865-  
2.3.1952

They had 6 children 1:

1. Sylvia Emily Frances (1886 - 5.9.1959)
2. Lynn Gordon (1888 - 7.11.1958)
3. Irene Chesshyre ( 1890 - 4.9.1899 )
4. Muriel Mary (1893 - )
5. William Paterson (1894 - 27.3.1958)
6. Nicholas (17.4.1902 - 27.9.1953)

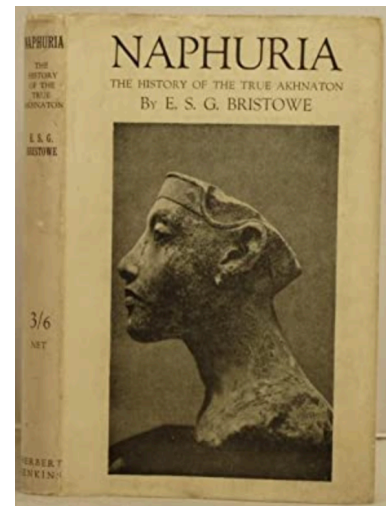
He was born in  
Bookham Grove  
19, 31, 32

Sydneys wife Ethel, also known as E.S.G. Bristowe, was a British painter, and an early 20th century author on alternative theories within Assyriology, e.g. as expressed in her 1927 book 'Sargon the Magnificent'. She authored 6 published books from 1923 until 1950 <sup>33</sup>.



One of ESG Bristowe's paintings <sup>37</sup>

The 15th July 1911 edition of the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser <sup>38</sup> reports on a garden party held at Denbies and in the list of invited guests appear the names of 'Mr and Mrs Sydney Bristowe (Bookham), suggesting that they were still resident at Bookham, although they had by this time sold the property <sup>39</sup>.



One of ESG Bristowe's books <sup>33, 34</sup>

According to Wikipedia she moved to Balmaclellan, Scotland in 1903 <sup>33</sup>.

Although this must have been a second property purchase as they still lived at Bookham Grove:

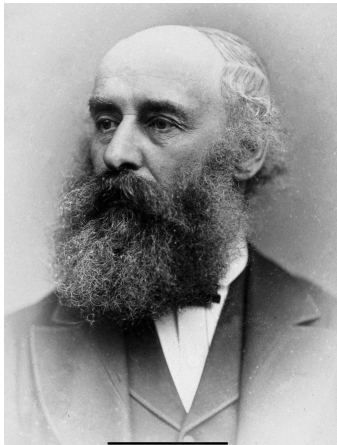
The 10th January 1908 edition of the Surrey Mirror lists the guests attending the Dorking County Ball, and there is Mr S.C Bristowe of Bookham Grove and party (note the paper misprints his first initial as 'A') <sup>35, 36</sup>.

On January 17th 1914 Sylvias marriage is noted in the newspaper and her parents are noted as 'Mr and Mrs Sydney Bristowe of 66 Portland Place and formerly of Bookham Grove, Surrey' <sup>40</sup>. The fact that their former residence is recorded strongly suggests that they lived at Bookham Grove for quite some years.

Sydney's father was Thomas Lynn Bristowe (31.3.1833 - 5.6.1892). In 1888 he began a campaign to raise funds to purchase the land known as Brockwell Estate, Herne Hill, London, to buy the land and save it for the public. In 1892 the newly created Brockwell Park was formally opened. Tragically, he collapsed and died from a heart attack on the steps of Brockwell Hall at the opening ceremony! A stone drinking fountain with a bust of Thomas was placed in the park as a memorial in 1893, but was demolished in the 1950's. The bust was rediscovered at a later date and is now inside Brockwell Hall at the cafe <sup>41</sup>.



Thomas Lynn Bristowe bust <sup>42</sup>



John Syer Bristowe <sup>43</sup>

Sydney's grandfather was a famous English physician, called John Syer Bristowe (19.6.1827-20.8.1895), working at St Thomas's hospital in London. He was known for treatment of diseases of the nervous system <sup>43</sup>, and principally therefore as a neurologist, as well as for valuable works on public health which he prepared for the Privy Council <sup>44</sup>.

**B**ookham Grove was sold again in 1909 to Victor Silberberg (Hayward):

An advert on the 31st July 1909 states that the estate had already been sold and announced an auction on the premises scheduled for August 5th at noon to sell off:

'the whole of the garden tools, mowers, rollers, plants in pots, lawn seats, chairs and numerous outdoor effects. First class Brougham and Victoria with rubber wheels, well made Tumbril cart with ladders, Tank cart etc. Capital bay gelding, quiet to ride and drive, brass mounted single and double harness, saddles, etc. 5 h.p. Baby Peugeot motor in excellent order with Dunlop tyres, new extra tyre and sundries. 5 well bred Jersey cows and heifers and 2 calves. Fine Berkshire sow, about 200 head of poultry, incubators, Boulton and Paul's hen houses, coops, troughs etc. 2 cottage pianofortes by Broadwood and sons.' <sup>45-47</sup>.



5 h.p. Peugeot Bebe <sup>48</sup>

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