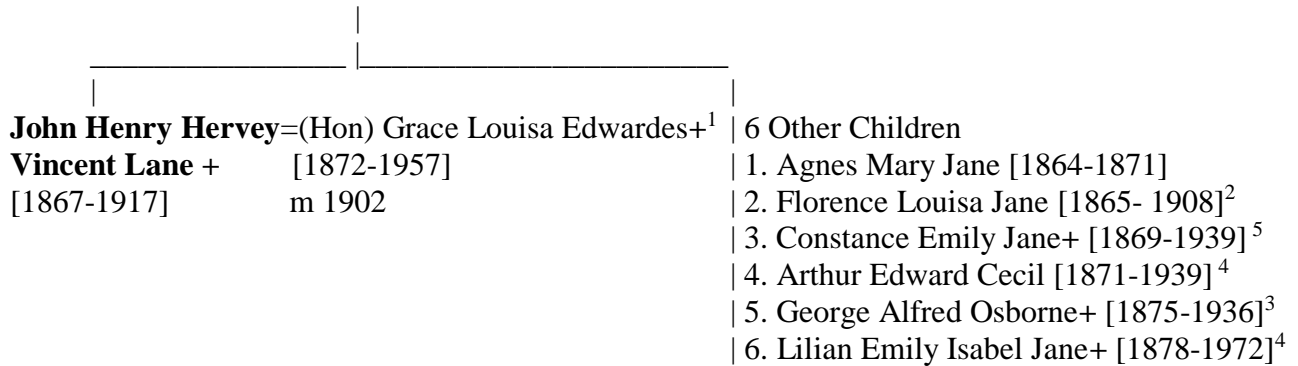


Arthur Lane

Arthur Lane was the 5th child of John Henry Bagot Lane and the younger brother of JHHV Lane, the last Lane Lord of the Manor of Kings Bromley.

John Henry Bagot Lane = Susan Anne Vincent



This photograph of him was taken at Lily Hill in about 1887.

He was born in 1871 at Lily Hill, Bracknell, the second home of the Lanes, where he was still living in 1881.

This photograph of him was taken at Lily Hill in about 1887, when he was about 16:



FAMILY GROUP possibly at LILY HILL (Vincent Home) c.1887
Arthur. John. George. Susan Anne (mother) & Constance (?)

This portrait, Taken at Kings Bromley shows Arthur as a young man:



This portrait shows Arthur behind his mother and to the right of Dean Ernald Lane, next to him is George. Sitting in the chair is JHHV Lane, sitting on the right is Lilian:



Although John Henry Bagot and his family lived mainly at Lily Hill, they used King Bromley Manor as a much loved summer residence as we know from the recollections of Arthur's sister Lilian, who later became Lilian Bromley Davenport. In the summers of 1876 to 1878 Arthur's mother Susan Anne Lane painted many watercolours of the Manor and its park. In the 1891 census Arthur is recorded as aged 19 and living as a boarder student with the Reverend Henry B Hodgson at The Vicarage, Thornbury, Glos., with another three students. In the 1901 census when 29 he is recorded as a boarder at Belle Vue house, Lympe, St. Stephens, Kent as a timber merchant and employer. He never seems to have settled to a career and seems to have taken the happy-go-lucky attitude of a youngest son, even though his brother George was in fact four years younger.

Arthur had the large stained glass East window at Bracknell Parish Church erected in memory of his father who died in 1886. It was subscribed for by relatives and friends, and there is also a window in memory of his mother. Under the window of the Presentation in the Temple in the Lady Chapel is a brass tablet stating that it is in the memory of Susan Ann Bagot Lane, died 1899, widow of Lt. Col. J.H.B. Lane, and eldest daughter of Henry W. Vincent of Lily Hill. The treble bell in All Saints, Kings Bromley, cast by John Taylor, Loughborough, 1892, is inscribed: "Arthur Lane gave me. Gloria in Excelsis".

After his mother died, Arthur's older brother, the heir JHHV Lane, sold Lily Hill, married in 1902, and moved with his young wife into Kings Bromley Manor, where between 1903 to 1913, they had seven children. Arthur, George and their sister Lilian seem to have moved with JHHV (John) to Kings Bromley. Their sister Constance was 'feeble minded' and was kept away from the family in a guest house in Bexhill. George had a career in the army, but when he was home he shared with Arthur a 'bachelor pad' known as 'Cecil's room' after their uncle, who had lived in it previously. This is a watercolour of Cecil's room painted by Arthur's mother Susan Anne Lane in 1878:



Arthur went to live in Canada for some time. He first went over to Canada in 1904, where he embarked at Montreal. In the 1911 Canadian census he was living on his own at 10 Mansions, Ceswichaw, Shawnigan, Nanaimo, British Columbia. According to Grace Lane in Kings Bromley Historians' publication:

“George was a regular army colonel with the Coldstream guards. Arthur, I don't know, he travelled a lot and finally landed up in British Columbia, he was always rather eccentric. And he arrived in British Columbia and said he was going to build this house out there. He took a Chinese servant with him, also a grand piano. He couldn't play the piano very well but he used to pump away on it and bellow like a bull. He enjoyed that. And Uncle Arthur and the Chinaman lived in the wooden case of the grand piano on the beach somewhere in British Columbia until the house was built. He married a very very nice Canadian woman.”

Arthur fought in the 1st World War in the Canadian forces. He must have come back however to visit Kings Bromley because Grace remembered this anecdote about him:

“There was a wonderful party at the beginning of the 14/18 war to which all the tenants were invited and Jane was dressed up as Britannia (*she would have been 11*) and she sang 'Rule Britannia' in the most terrible, you know, actually not in tune at all and then I expect you have heard all this but on the platform, I think it was in the dining room, there was a platform, everything was done very beautifully, there was a conjuror anyhow he said "Now Miss Lane I want you to tell me what you want, and I'll give it to you" well Jane had been primed about it and there was a great big chest on the stage, and she said "I want to see my uncle Arthur" and we all thought you cannot see your Uncle Arthur, he's in Canada, so she repeated "I want to see my Uncle Arthur", so he said "Well I'll try" so he took his wand and waved it over the chest, opened it and out jumped old Arthur, he was so drunk he could hardly stand up, and I know my father went up onto the stage to try and sort it out - he was singing the most frightful songs and he embraced him and kissed him you see and they disappeared with a bottle of whisky.”

In 1919, after the war, Arthur put up the poster at the west end of the church which is still there. This poster lists all of the vicars and churchwardens of All Saints since 1633, as well as a considerable amount of other historical information. This would have taken a considerable amount of research and shows Arthur to have been a clever man, as well as a joker, a drinker and a sportsman. His prowess as a horse rider was remembered by Grace & Lettice:

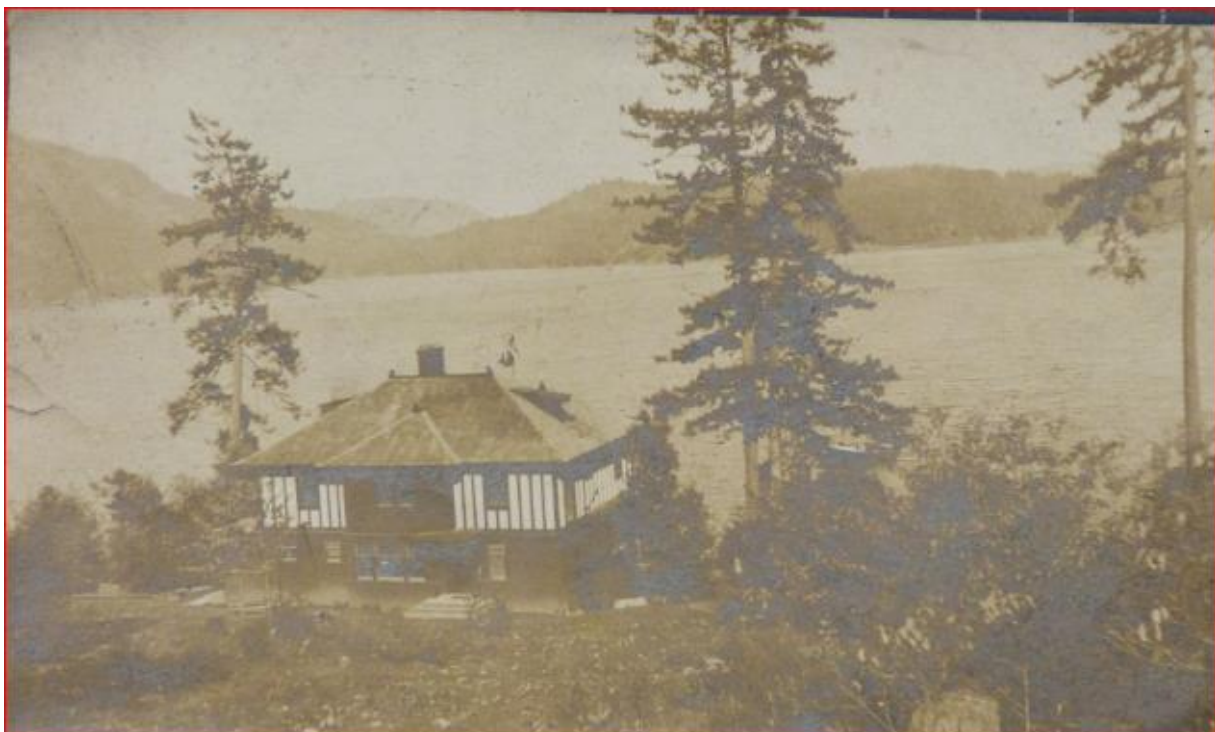
Grace: “Captain Arthur Lane, he was very keen on riding”. Lettice: “He used to jump through windows”. Grace: “Uncle Arthur, he was always doing something absolutely mad. Our father was a tremendous sportsman but he didn't ride or hunt. He was a very fine shot, very fine cricketer and a very fine fisherman, but riding, no. My mother was a wonderful horsewoman and before she married had never been out of a saddle, almost. She gave it up when she married, you know. But I think we all inherited it because my brother was extremely good when he went into the army, Richard. He was a rough riding Sergeant Major for the Royals. He was absolutely brilliant, apparently. He was never beaten on horseback in his life, he was an absolute natural. I think most of us would have loved to have ridden but it was too expensive.”

Grace: “I always remember him coming, we had a governess then called Miss Harsten and he decided he was going to teach Miss Harsten that afternoon how to play the Canadian national anthem The Maple Leaf For Ever. We were absolutely thrilled and he stood behind her, beating..... poor woman. He kept on at her I should think for about an hour and a half. She'd got the Maple Leaf by the time he'd finished. So she had to plonk this out as he appeared out of the trunk while he stood to attention and sung the Maple Leaf which most people probably were quite oblivious as to what a maple leaf was. But that didn't worry him.”

This picture of Arthur (thought for some time to have been JHHV) was taken in the yard of No. 3 Manor Road:



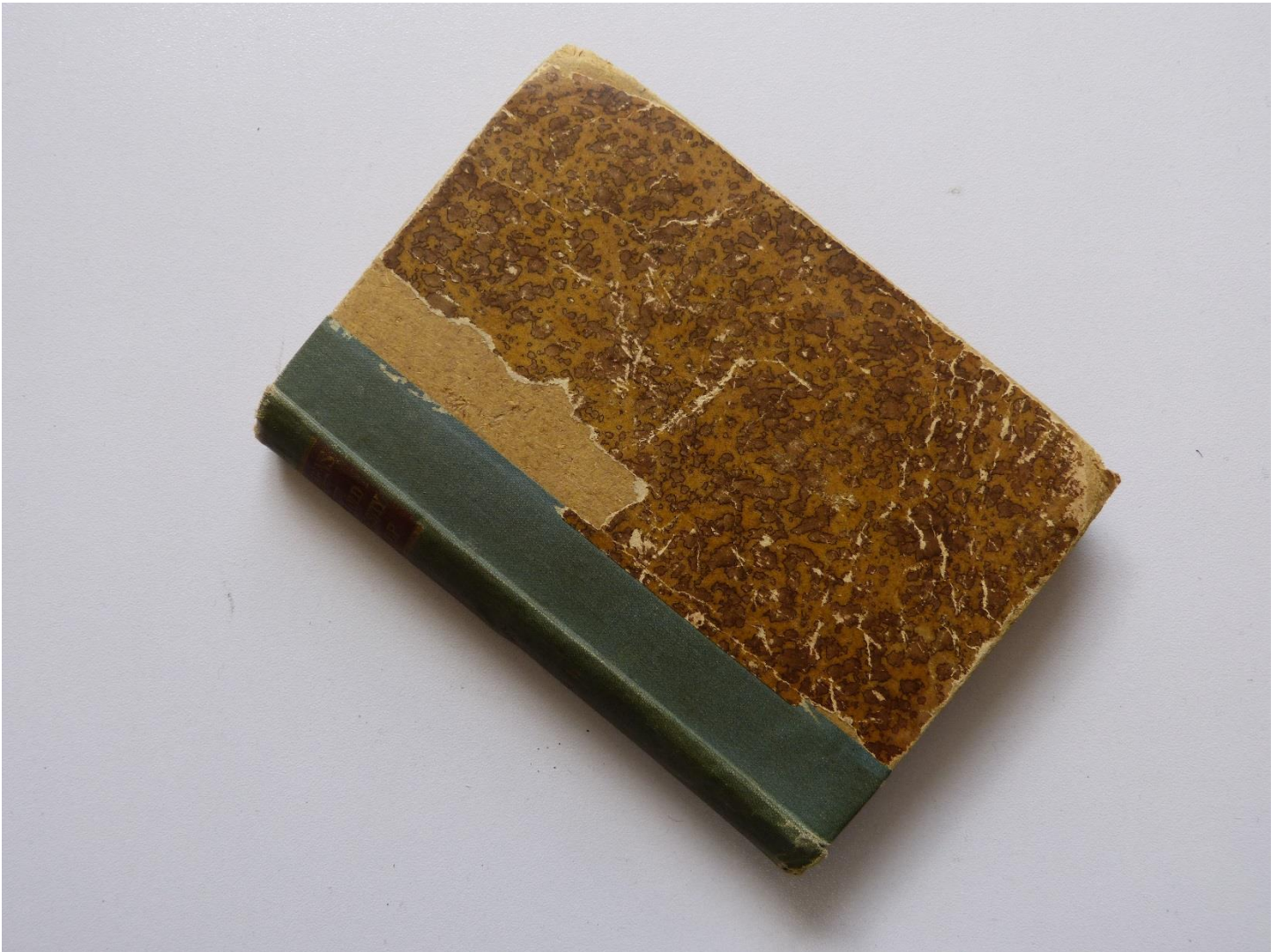
Arthur may have returned to Canada several times. He is listed on the 1924 passenger declaration where he is described as returning to Wilcuna, Cowichan Bay, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. We are fortunate in having a picture of this house:



Arthur married a Canadian, we do not know her name, but Grace Lane described her as “very very nice”. She must have come back with him to Kings Bromley at least once. In ‘Hark Back’ Gerald Armson mentions Tom Hall a road mender and Kings Bromley character who always talked back to the Lanes: “you would go by Tom Hall and he'd say "Good morning", or you'd say "good morning" to him, but if Mr. Lane would come by he'd say "morning Mr. bloody Lane". However, Amy Mathews remembers that Arthur and his wife would purposely go walking where Tom Hall was: Arthur either found Tom Hall amusing rather than offensive, or was not prepared to be cowed by anyone. This story is remarkable given that the Lanes expected the village men and boys to bow to them and the women and boys to curtsy.

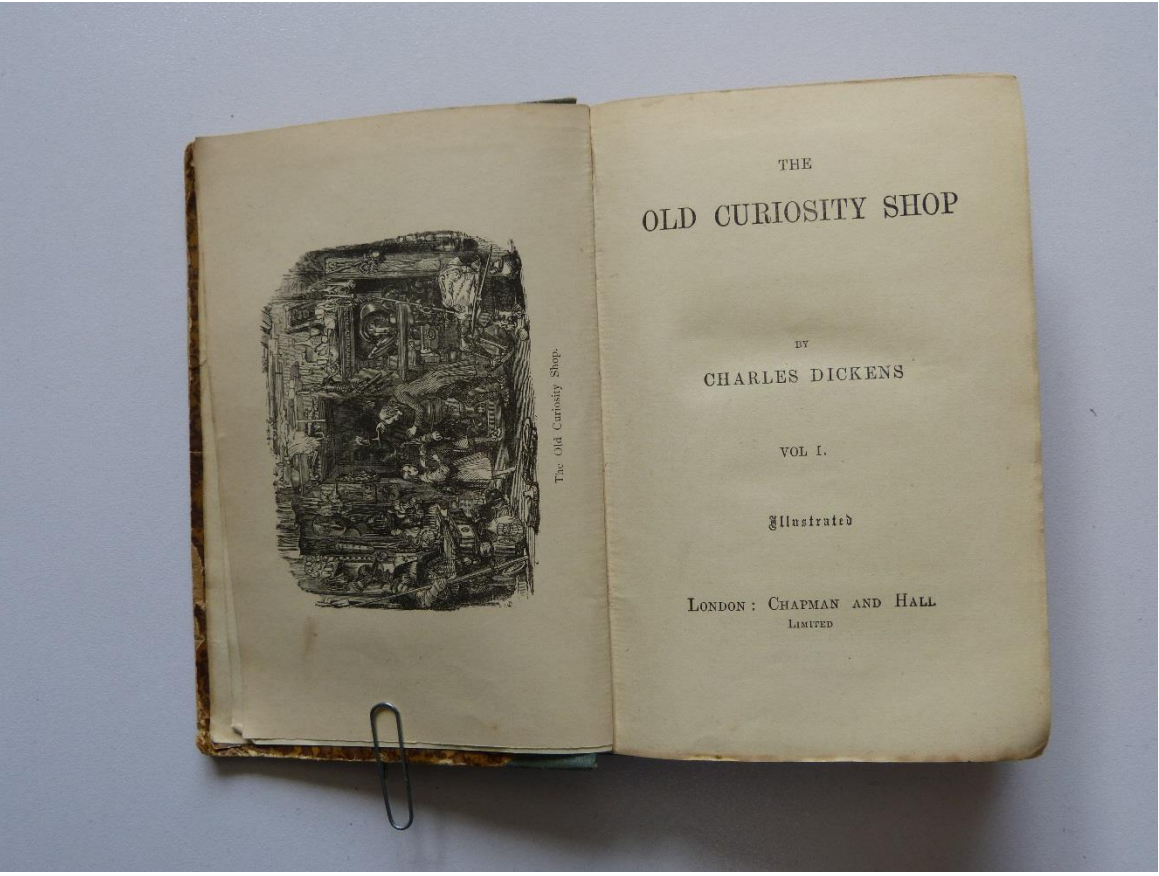
Arthur’s death is recorded in the Canadian Death Index of 1947, aged 75, at Duncan. Duncan and Shawnigan are both close to Cowichan Bay, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Recently Kings Bromley Historians have been shown a book in the possession of Carol Dawson of Alrewas Road. It is a copy of ‘The Old Curiosity Shop’ by Charles Dickens, published 1889 and containing Arthur Lane’s nameplate. Carol believes she received this in the 1960s or 1970s and that it was one of many that are around Kings Bromley somewhere:





Mr Arthur Lane,
K. B. M.



THE
OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

BY
CHARLES DICKENS

VOL. I.

Illustrated

LONDON: CHAPMAN AND HALL
LIMITED



The Old Curiosity Shop.