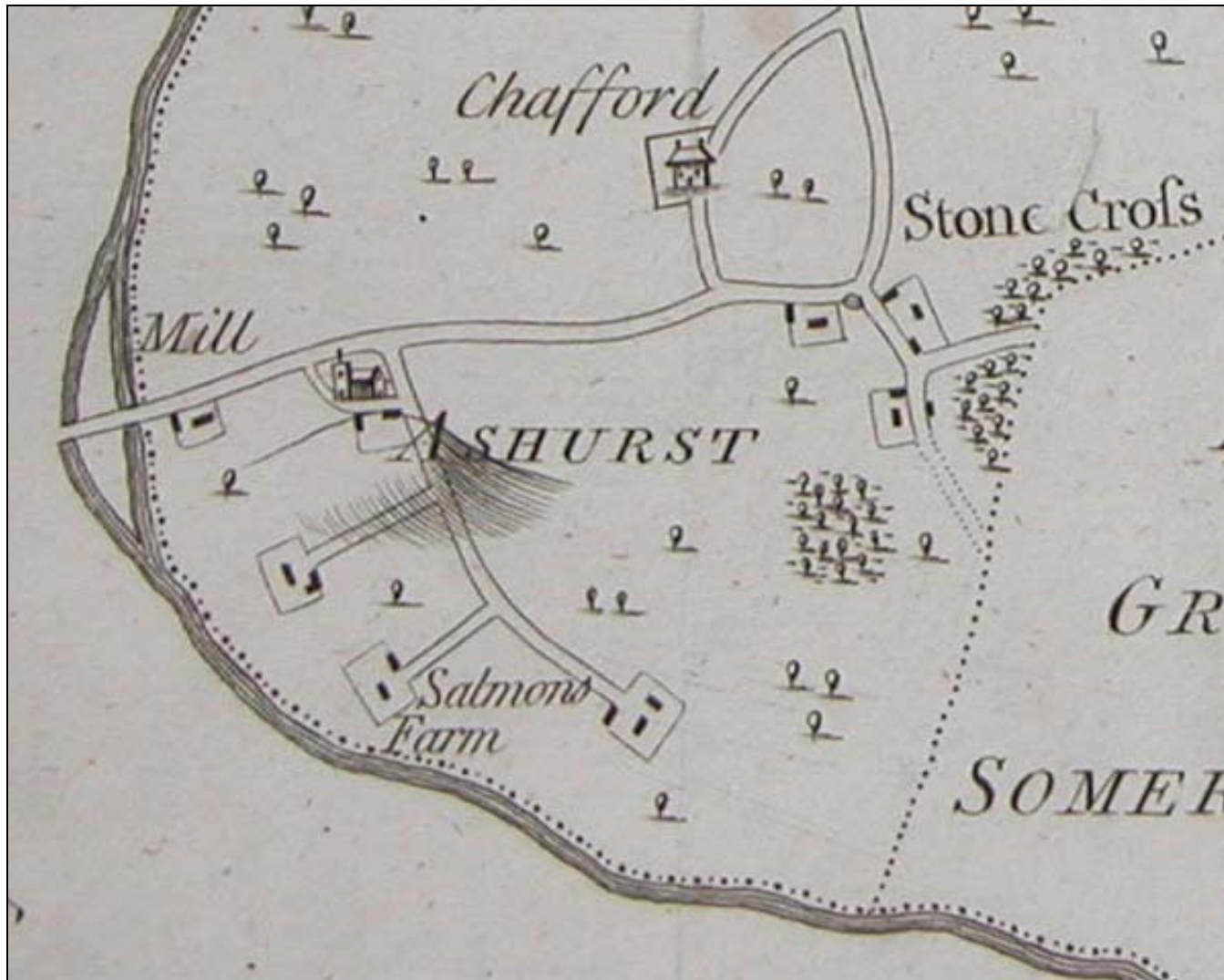


Fig. 7 J. Andrews, W. Dury and W. Herbert, *A Topographical Map of the County of Kent ...* 1769

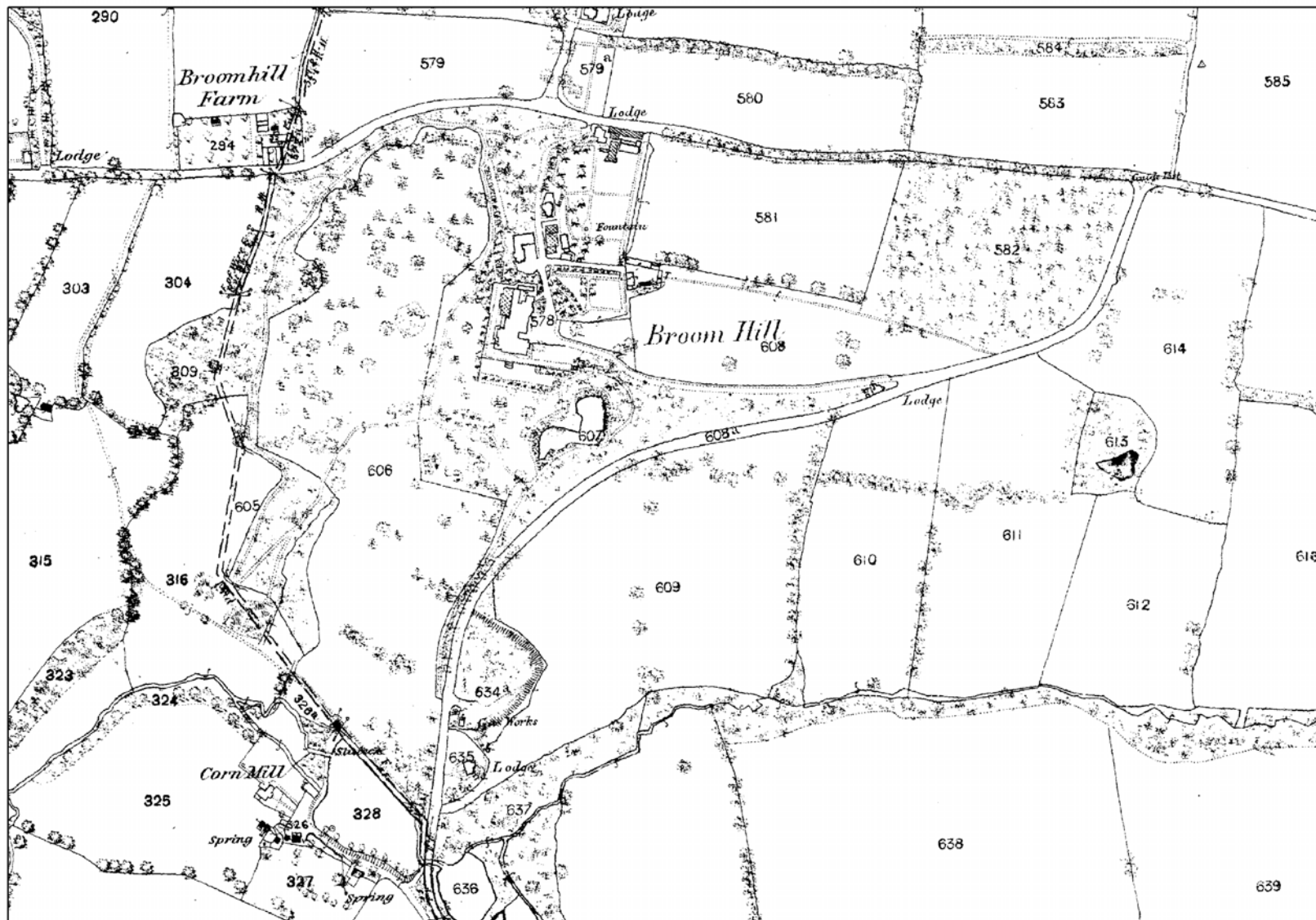


Fig. 8 Edward Hasted map of Ashurst 1778



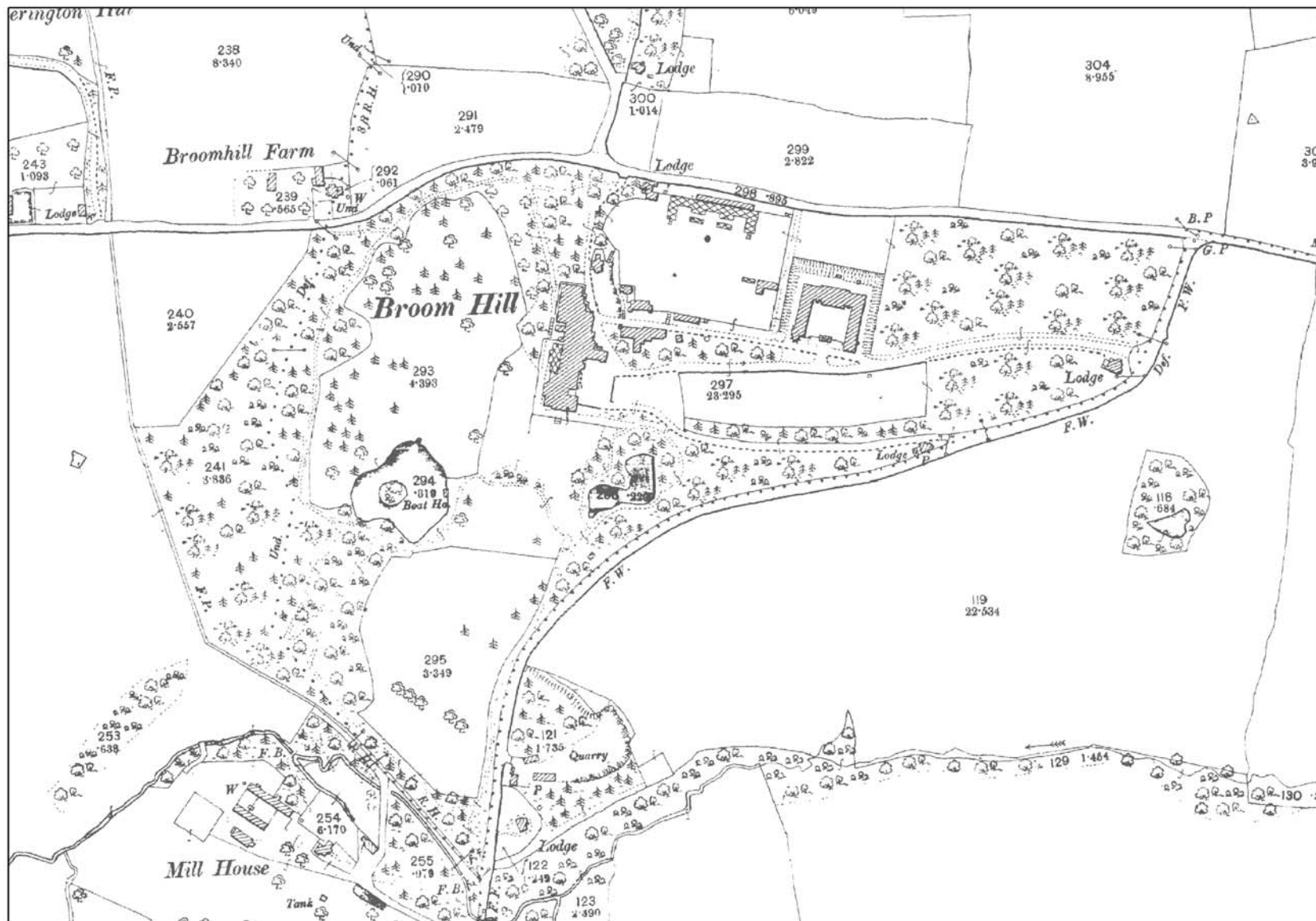
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Fig. 9 Ordnance Survey 1st edn 6" map (1862)



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Fig. 10 Ordnance Survey 2nd edn 6" map (1897)



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Fig. 11 Ordnance Survey 3rd edn 25" map (1909). Sheet 60/7



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Fig. 12 Ordnance Survey Revd edn 25" map (1936). Sheet 60/7



Fig. 13 Aerial view of Salomons. Undated (private collection)

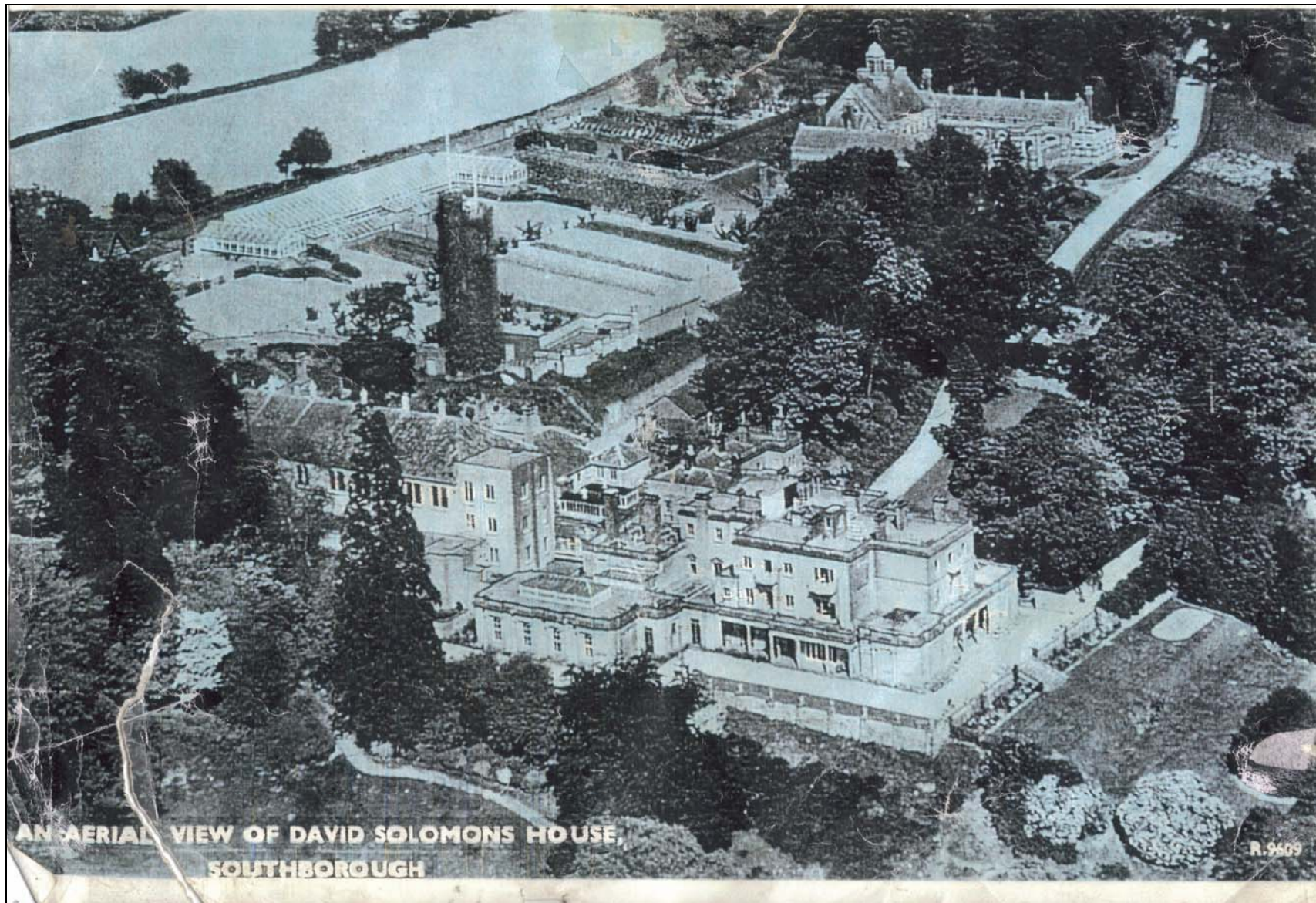


Fig. 14 Alfred Wilcox, *Garden Life* (10 April 1906)

VERY soon after I arrived, early in the month of April, at Broomhill, the well-known country residence of Sir David Salomons, Bart., a short distance from Tunbridge Wells, in order to look round the gardens, and have a chat with Mr. Roberts, the head gardener, I discovered that there are a number of features to which special attention is given. Not that any department is neglected, for a stroll through the pleasure grounds justifies the statement that they could not be kept in better order. But, picturesque and attractive as they are, the splendid kitchen garden and the fine range of glasshouses at Broomhill stand first in order. For this reason only, and not because there are no other subjects of interest, prominence is given to them in this article. I will deal first, however, with the natural beauties of the pleasure grounds, beginning with the delightful Wood Walk.

Passing the theatre, which, like the stables, and, in fact, everything at Broomhill, attests the taste of the owner, we proceeded from the upper terrace, nicely shaded from the east wind, by natural steps, towards the rockery and the lake. In the former are some favourite old Oaks, and in the centre of the lake, which contains trout and dace among other fish, is an island. The Beechy Wood, so-called because of the number of Beeches, is another charming spot, and here it may be said that Broomhill has a well-deserved reputation for its old trees, which Sir David carefully preserves. Like the undulating ground, they constitute a distinct attraction. In one of the few level spaces an extra tennis court is being made, with Rose beds all round, which should prove a useful and pleasing addition.

"Do shrubs thrive?" I inquired, as I noticed, near choice specimens of *Cedrus deodara*, *Wellingtonias*, and *Cryptomeria*, some fine bushes of *Rhododendrons*.

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Roberts, "they do very well, indeed, *Rhododendrons* notably. These

Continuing our walk, we came to another small lake, cleaned out last year, and, observing on the way several tombstones, erected to the memory of pet dogs and cats, we reached the old drive, leading to the main road. The great ornament of the drive is a magnificent Oak, exceedingly symmetrical, with Ivy clinging to its spreading branches. Through the Rock Walk, we proceeded back to the terrace, to look at the bedding.

"We do not," said Mr. Roberts, "go in for spring bedding, but for summer these twelve beds are chiefly filled with *Begonias*, *Cannas*, and *Fuchsias*. At present there are sets, but I propose to alter them to designs."

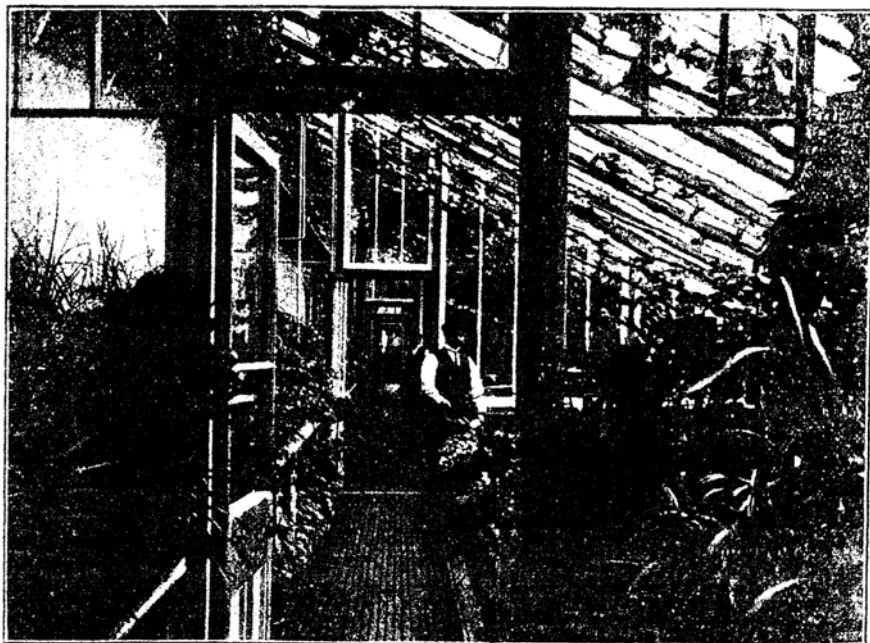
"You have a quantity of *Camellias*," I remarked, as we went into the winter garden close to the house.

"Yes, they give us a quantity of flowers, white, pink, and scarlet. One variety is *C. imbricata*, but there are others very much older, and one is of the Hollyhock shape, with a disc round the centre. Later on we plant the winter garden with Ferns. The largest of the several Tree Ferns spreads out twelve feet across. The roof is covered by *Cobæa scandens*."

The kitchen garden, which is above the house, is two acres in extent, admirably arranged, and strikes the visitor at once as being well looked after, both from the artistic and the practical point of view. Immediately we entered, I observed that the Loganberry is grown in quantity.

"We got the canes when they first came out, from Mr. Bunyard," replied Mr. Roberts, "purchasing three dozen, which we trained on wire, with fifteen or sixteen poles about six feet high between. They are treated exactly the same as Raspberries, and ripen about the same time. The crop is invariably good, and I believe that, generally speaking, the cultivation of the Loganberry is increasing."

"What varieties of Raspberries do you grow?"



THE RANGE OF FRUIT HOUSES AT BROOMHILL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

were planted more than twenty years ago. Many are named, but some are *ponticums*. Ivy is rather a feature here, and it is clipped every

"Only *Superlative*. These canes have been here from fourteen to fifteen years, and some years I have picked eight bushels from them."

"You have a brave show of Tulips here."
We grow a large quantity of the sweet-scented varieties, the Prince of Austria (red), and the Prince of Orange (yellow). The very early Tulips are Ortus, Duc van Thol, Pottebakker (white), and Nellie."

How many Daffodils do you grow in pots?
A great number. We have sixty vases to fill in the house twice a week, and that means a constant supply of blooms has to be kept up. Six of the chief varieties are: Golden Spur, Horsfieldii, Barrii, Empress, Emperor, and Sir Watkin. The two best white Hyacinths are Madame van der Hoop and La Grandesse."

Some of the spikes of your Hyacinths are grand, and you also seem to have a good collection of Azaleas."

"The principal varieties of Azaleas are Niobe, Sir T. D. Llewellyn, Apollo, Paul Webber, Simon Mardner, and Madame Joseph Vervaene."

If the Azaleas are kept in a cool house they will flower for six weeks."

"Of course, your Vines were planted when the range was put up?"

"Yes, in July, 1899. You will notice that the Vineries are built of pitch-pine, that there are slate stages and slate shelves, and that the grating is exceptionally wide. The woodwork was put up by Messrs. Crompton, Fawkes and Co., of Chelmsford, and the brickwork by Messrs. J. Crutes and Son, of Tunbridge Wells. The brackets were specially cast, and the ventilators work with a rod and lever. In this house Muscats are grown. I am a great believer in summer planting. It means that Vines get established for the next spring, and as a practical proof of the advantages of the system, I may say that out of thirty-two Vines planted in summer not one failed. In this house we grow a quantity of Maidenhair Ferns, which are stood in large china vases for house decoration."

You also have a number of gold and tricolor Geraniums here?"

"There are about six hundred—Mrs. Pollock and Lady Cullum are the varieties. Sir David Salomons never wears a flower, but he has two of these tricolor Geraniums for a buttonhole every day in the year. For that purpose they are wired and tinfoil put round them."

"I notice that there are borders both inside and outside."

"Yes, and you observe that the trellis, which consists of galvanised wire, and has screws at one end to tighten it when required, is fixed two feet from the glass."

"Perhaps you would tell me why the usual plan of keeping close to the glass has not been followed?"

"I will endeavour to explain. The advantage of keeping the foliage clear from the glass, instead of allowing it to press close to the glass, as it generally does, is greater than many people imagine. In the latter event, a number of the best leaves cannot perform their function, because their upper surface is moist half the time. They are so close to the glass that respiration and inspiration cannot go on as it ought to do. One great advantage of having the trelliswork two feet from the glass is that the Vine shoots can be allowed to grow in an erect position till after they have flowered. Probably, the flowers set better in consequence, and the tying down becomes a very easy matter. Moreover, the branches get the full benefit of the light and air, and the Vines are in a much more even temperature than when they are close to the glass. Every gardener knows how difficult it is to tie a young Vine shoot down, and how frequently, when a shoot is tied down in the day and seems all right, it is found the next morning snapped off at the junction with the old wood, causing a permanent blank. This does not often happen when the tying is deferred till after the flowering. The shoots are then comparatively wiry,

and can be bent to a horizontal position with ease, which, at the same time, the fruit is inclined."

Between the late Vinery and the French house is a very fine glasshouse house, made of glass alone, which was garden for the late Mr. Roberts. The bottom deck being made of wood and ironwork. All the best are about a foot deep, and the rooms are packed from the beginning of November to the end of July."

"How long is the French and Madras house?" I inquired.

Thirty or twenty. The latter is thirty or eighteen. I think Pelagaria one of the best Peaches, and Lord Napier one of the best Nectarines. Royal George was a very good Peach. On the back wall we have Nectarines—Purimston Orange and Rivers' Early. I pointed off about a gallon of bloom in this house. The fruit does not set so well as a great quantity of bloom is allowed to remain."

"The Vines in your early Vinery are looking remarkably well?"

"We rather pride ourselves on the cleanliness of the foliage. The varieties are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. Strawberries are forced in this Vinery, but neither the Vines nor the Strawberries are so early as some, because all the roots of the Vines were lifted last September. But the lifting has had the best possible effect upon the Vines. In the intermediate Vinery we have Alicante, Gros Maroc, Hamburgh, and Madresfield Court."

"What varieties of Peaches and Nectarines do you grow out of doors?"

"The Peaches are Royal George, Grosse Mignonne, Hale's Early, Sea Eagle, and Dymond; the Nectarines that do best outside are Pineapple, Rivers' Orange, Stanwick Elruge, Lord Napier, Humboldt, Early Rivers, and Violette Hative."

"We have not said anything yet about Tomatoes and Melons."

"For planting outside, Sutton's Earliest of All is the best Tomato. The fruit is of medium size, brilliant red colour, and good form, very prolific and of good flavour. Sutton's Best of All is excellent; also Sutton's Abundance and A 1. I have tried many other varieties, but have found none superior to these. The Melons grown are Hero of Lockinge, Sutton's A 1, Empress, Sutton's Scarlet, Best of All, and Perfection."

Resuming our inspection of the houses, Mr. Roberts drew my attention to the stove to a quantity of Selaginella moss, grown in tins, mixed with Panicums.

"At any time," he continued, "we can stick into the moss, a Rose or any kind of flower, five or six inches high. Growing in tins the moss does not wither, and we change the plants as often as we like."

"How many Gloxinias do you grow?"

"Between two and three hundred. They are the spotted hybrids and selfs. The Bougainvillea glabra, which has been here since the house was built, is throwing out spikes a yard long."

"Orchids are not grown to any considerable extent?"

"No, but the foliage of the Cœlogyne cristata, which, six weeks ago, were a mass of bloom, was wonderful. Three pans had sixty spikes of flower on each plant in the pan. I never saw a finer lot."

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

"About three hundred are grown for spring flowers, and about three hundred more for cut bloom. Some of the best of the former are

"We have sixty varieties of Apples, and about forty-five of Pears. I have shown a collection of fruit, not for competition, and I could have put up a hundred dishes. Before we discuss varieties, I may mention that this garden was altered and almost revolutionised between 1888 and 1890, when the new range of glass was erected. Pears, you see, are grown on various principles."

"Which system do you prefer?"

"It depends upon the variety. Williams's Bon Chrétien has a better flavour when it is grown as a pyramid or as a horizontal tree than on the wall. On the other hand, Winter Nelis and Josephine de Malines do better on the wall. One of the best late Pears is Nouvelle Fulvie, which comes in about Christmas. It is rather rough in outline, but a very good cropper. Like Nouvelle Fulvie, Olivier de Serres wants a wall. It is also a good late Pear, with an excellent flavour, and ripens in January. Other Pears which flourish most on a wall include Bergamotte Esperen, Glou Morceau, and Knight's Monarch, which lasts a long time after picking if it is kept nice and cool."

"What about Doyenné du Comice?"

"It will do well in almost any way, but it is a little cleaner on the wall. Beurré Alexander Lucas, which is spotted like the Trout Pear, does well on the wall, and as a tree. Most of the late Pears, however, flourish on the wall, but they vary according to the soil and stock on which they are grown, and, after they are picked, upon the way in which they are kept."

"Did you plant most of the Pear trees?"

"All, I think, save the old Catillac tree. The Catillac is one of the best stewing Pears."

"Which is your biggest Pear?"

"Marie Benoist. It will flourish in the open, but it should have a wall. One of its merits is that it comes in when nearly all the varieties are over. One of the prettiest is Durondeau, a mid-season Pear. Pitmaston Duchess is another mid-season. We grow both these on pyramids and horizontally."

"Then, there are the Pears on the cordons."

"Yes, we have a nice lot of various sorts on the east wall. They hang a little longer. We grow Doyenné du Comice in four different aspects, in order to have fruit at different times. Some are on the Quince, and others on the Pear stock. All the best Pears I put in paper bags."

"To protect the fruit?"

"The use of the bags prevents the friction of the fruit and the leaves. Also, the bags keep out the wasps and the birds, and the appearance of the Pear is improved. Another and important point is that, protected by paper bags, the fruit can hang on the trees until the end of October, regardless of frost. In fact, I have no trouble in keeping Pitmaston Duchess until the end of November. Each Pear is tied in the bag to the bough. When people ask me, 'Where do you keep your Pears?' I say, 'On the trees, hanging in the bags.' I warmly recommend the system. The flavour of the fruit is not in the least affected, and the Pears so protected give us a longer season of fruit."

"The Apple blossoms promise nearly as good crops of fruit as the Pears?"

"I can only hope that they will be as good as they were last year. There are a few grown horizontally, but none on the wall. The great majority are bush pyramids. Two of the earliest are Duchess of Oldenburg and Lady Sudeley, but we have more of the mid-season and late Apples."

"You might name a few of the choicest varieties?"

"Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lord Derby, Gloria Mundi (one of the most handsome), Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Egremont Russet, Mabbott's Pearmain, Fearn's Pippin, Washington, Emperor Alexander, Grenadier, King of Tompkins County, Brownlee's Russet (a small Apple), Dutch Mignonne, Beauty of Kent, Belle de Pontoise, Bismarck, Sturmer Pippin, Manington Pearmain, Lane's Prince Albert, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Newton Wonder, Claygate Pearmain, Ribston Pippin, Winter Pearmain, American Mother, Scarlet Nonpareil, Ross Nonpareil, Wealthy, and The Queen."

"I admire the idea of your archway of Cherries?"

"When they are in bloom, about the beginning of May, there is a mass of flowers. The varieties include Bigarreus of kinds, Black Tartarian, and May Duke. Along the bottom wall we grow Morello Cherries and Plums."

"Do you expect a fair crop of Plums?"

"They will flower well, but the sparrows pick the buds out so much that it is not often we get a big crop. The dessert varieties are Coe's Golden Drop, Purple Gage, Transparent Gage, Greengage, Jefferson, and Oullin's Golden Gage (a very good yellow Plum). The best cooking Plums are Washington, Archduke, Black Diamond, Victoria, Czar, and Pond's Seedling."

"You have all kinds of bush fruit?"

"We have a good supply of Gooseberries, the varieties being Whinham's Industry, Keepsake, Velvet White, Telegraph, Lancashire Lad, and Green Gascoyne, a thorny kind, which the birds cannot interfere with in budding. Of Currants, I think that the best black is Boscop's Giant, a very large Currant, which has also the merit of being apparently proof against the mite, one of the curses of Kentish fruitgrowers."

"How about Strawberries?"

"One of the favourites is Sir Charles Napier, very refreshing and a good cropper. Of course,

we have Royal Sovereign, of which we force about thirteen hundred pots every year, and we also grow The Laxton. President still holds its own, and we continue to grow Sir Joseph Paxton and The Viscountess. Before we leave outdoor fruits, I may mention that the Blackberry Lacinatus does remarkably well. I planted two long rows about twelve years ago, and we get as good a crop of them usually as we do of the Loganberry."

"I should like the names of a few of your leading varieties of vegetables."

"We have just made some new beds of Asparagus, Mortlake Giant, surrounded by Peas. Our early Peas are William I. and Gradus; the main crop, Telegraph, Duke of Albany, and Gladstone; and one of the best for late work is Ne Plus Ultra. As I do not show Onions, I do not go in for huge specimens, but look out for the best for use. It is not easy to excel Sutton's Improved Reading and Ailsa Crag. Potatoes are chiefly grown on the farm."

"I see that you have Roses to beautify the kitchen garden."

"Yes, they are grown right round it. The Apple trees screen the Roses from the sun, to save them from being burned. The varieties are Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals. I have not yet planted any Hybrid Teas."

At this stage we went into the greenhouse, on the roof of which Roses flourish exceedingly.

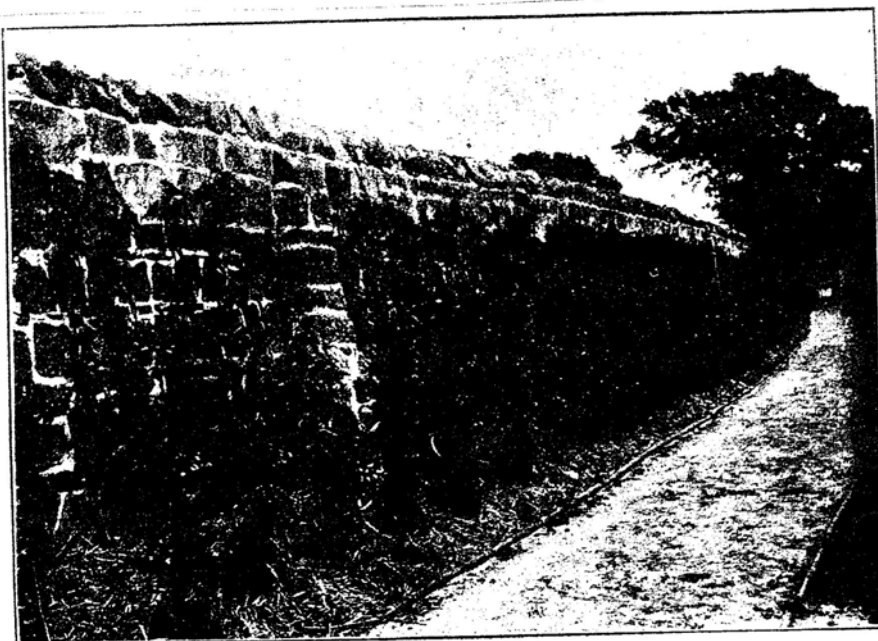
"Perle des Jardins," said Mr. Roberts, "does better on the roof than Maréchal Niel; the other Roses are Niphetos, Devoniensis, and Kaiserin Augusta Victoria."

Madame Ad. Chatin, Queen of the Exe, Winter Queen, Francis Pilan, Dazzler, Gratianopolis, and Princess Victoria. For big blooms I like F. S. Vallis, Bessie Godfrey, Duchess of Salterton, Lady Byron, Elsie Fulton, Miss Stopford, Mrs. Dawson, Mr. C. Beckett, and Edith Smith among others. The up-to-date varieties, such as Valerie Graham, B. H. Shrewsbury, Maud du Cros, and Madame Oberthen, are also grown."

There just remained time to have a glance at the potting shed and offices; the fruit room, with a good many Apples still in it, including King of Tompkins County, Mere de Menage, Golden Knob, Swedish Reinette, Tyler's Kernel, Hoary Morning, and Mannington Pearmain; the packing room, with excellently-contrived boxes; the commodious Grape room; the root room, and the modern boilers. Finally, I asked Mr. Roberts how long he has been at Broomhill.

"Twenty years this spring. Since I have been at Broomhill I have been awarded certificates for collections of fruit, and for Chrysanthemums."

ALFRED WILCOX.



THE TOMATO BORDER AT BROOMHILL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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Fig. 15 Photographs of Salomons January 2009



Above: Water tower and wall



Above: The house from the south



Above: Terrace on the south front