

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL
Ivry, Lady Freyberg

HERBERT ST GEORGE COBBOLD CBE

April 2016

Herbert, a second son, (#323 on the family tree) was born in 1871 whilst his parents lived at the Red House in Ufford, Suffolk and educated at Haileybury. He began his banking career in Manchester and later joined the Ipswich Bank of Bacon, Cobbold & Co whose business was taken over by Capital and Counties Bank Ltd in 1904. Later when it was amalgamated into Lloyds, Herbert remained a local director.

Previously, in 1889 he had been commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Duke of Connaught's Own Hampshire and Isle of Wight Artillery and was later promoted Major in the Essex and Suffolk Artillery Militia.

In 1909 he married his first cousin, Evelyn Anna Cobbold at St. Mark's, North Audley Street in London. They were married by Rev. R H Hadden, vicar of the parish and Honorary Chaplain to the King. The same year, presumably as their marital home, he bought the Rookery Estate at Sproughton which included some 48 acres. Also in 1910, following the death of his uncle Felix Thornley Cobbold MP the year before, he inherited his uncle's banking interests.

During his life Herbert was Chairman of the Eastern Counties Building Society - which became the Britannia - and on the local board of the Alliance Assurance Co - subsequently the Royal and Sun Alliance - and a director of the Ipswich Gas Light Company. He devoted much time to the Lord Lieutenant's War Fund and helped organise the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association for the county. As recognition of this work he was awarded the CBE. He was an officer in the Volunteers and a Special Constable. He was Treasurer of East Suffolk County Council and a Trustee of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital and was a chairman and Trustee of the Ipswich Nurses Home.

Herbert was a member of the Ipswich Art Club from 1920 until his death. A family member recalls visiting Herbert and Evelyn at The Rookery where the maids wore pretty little hats over pale green dresses with coffee coloured aprons. In the hall were bookcases holding first editions of the works of Hans Christian Andersen and Edward Lear which children were encouraged to read. Visiting children were required to change into afternoon clothes after lunch. Either side of the front door were fragrant Heliotropes and cattle grazed peacefully in the fields. If unaccompanied they were driven by the chauffeur, Pilbeam.

Herbert died at home in November 1944 aged 73 and a memorial service took place in Sproughton Church on Wednesday 29th November. His widow, a very religious person lived on another 14 years.



Stained glass window in Trimley Church depicting Herbert St George



Cancelled Five Pound bank note No. 14499 signed by H St G Cobbold, issued 24th October 1904