

In January 1886, Joyce Lucy was confined to the Gatehouse, being ill with scarlet fever. She went out of doors for the first time on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, Christina, Linda, Sybil and other members of the family went via Brittany to Pau on holiday; a favourite destination for British gentry. (Ada and Joyce remained at Charlecote as Joyce was still recovering). There they were able to enjoy travelling, golf and tennis as well as views afforded by the Pyrenees. The girls also had tuition in the Arts, especially music.

However, the enjoyment of the holiday was somewhat marred by Sybil's ill-health. After a week in Pau she became unwell and subsequently was several times confined to bed in pain which a local doctor confirmed as rheumatism and which steadily worsened. At times, she could only move one leg.

The family returned home on 22<sup>nd</sup> April but Christina Campbell (Scottish Granny who had joined them) and Sybil stayed back until 3<sup>rd</sup> May, arriving home on 6<sup>th</sup> May. On 17<sup>th</sup> June, Sybil caught a cold and the following day the local doctor Mr. Pitt confirmed that she had scarlet fever. She was confined to the Gatehouse on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. Her condition deteriorated and by the 23<sup>rd</sup> she was very ill.

The following extracts are from Linda's diary:

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. *Sybil was so ill that Dr. Pitt was sent for again and at 9.30pm Shellard drove to Leamington to fetch Dr. Haynes and a nurse from the Warneford. (She has rheumatic fever now as well as scarlet fever). They arrived between 12 and 1 o'clock.*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. *The motto on the calendar for today was "The longest day must have an end." And it was wonderfully true as I never knew such a long day. Sybil is dreadfully ill but the doctors said when they came in the afternoon that she was a tiny little bit better. Walked to Wellesbourne to get some flannel to make Sybil nightshirts....mother went to the lodge (Gatehouse) yesterday afternoon and has been with Sybil ever since (except for 2 or 3 hours this morning), she has come back here tonight to go to bed, as the nurse is up with her, she and Nana (MEL) take it in turns.*

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. *... Uncle Berkley came to ask after Sybil, she is a little better. She has had all her hair cut off. All the rubbish has been cleared out of the ground room on the other side of the Gateway and mother is going to sleep there... went out of doors after dinner (with mother). She has all her meals in the Lodge and does not come into the house at all.*

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. Sybil dies. Apart from the mention of a birthday in her diary for that day, Linda pasted in a death notice from a newspaper and an account of the funeral on 1<sup>st</sup> July. (See below). The next diary entry is on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

August 1<sup>st</sup> 1886. *We all thought she was so much better on the Friday night but she had a bad night and in the morning was worse and worse. They let us all come up (at about 10.30am). She knew us, we stayed till she went away (at 1.15 PM). She asked for Mr. Tobin (the vicar) but he was away so Mr. Barnard came instead. Mother telegraphed for S. Grannie (Tina's mother, Christina Campbell) She arrived on Monday (June 28<sup>th</sup>) and stayed till next Monday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Aymer (Carry's son) came on Thursday (July 1<sup>st</sup>) for one day. The hospital nurse (she was so nice and Sybil liked her so much) stayed till Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. All the wreathes were quite lovely. It is under the May Tree. The vicarage and village peoples wreathes were exquisite.*

There, reference to Sybil's passing ends.

The cutting below was pasted into Linda's diary. Rheumatic fever is a rare complication of scarlet fever.



Gravestone in Charlecote churchyard

At Charlecote Park, Warwick, on the 26th ult., Sybil  
Mary, third daughter of H. Spencer Lucy, Esq., aged 18.

June 26<sup>th</sup> CHARLECOTE. 1886  
DEATH OF MISS SYBIL LUCY.—We regret to announce the death of Miss Sybil Mary Lucy, third daughter of Mr. H. S. Lucy, who died of rheumatic fever on Saturday last, at the early age of eighteen. The sad event cast a deep gloom over the whole neighbourhood, in which the young lady was much beloved. The Colonists had been invited to Charlecote House, but of course the arrangement had to be broken through, much to the disappointment of all, and the party drove past on their way from Stratford with many expressions of sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Lucy. The funeral took place on Thursday, the body being interred in a brick grave, beautifully studded with moss and roses, cut from a favourite tree which in life the young lady prized very dearly. The Rev. F. Tobin officiated, assisted by the Rev. O. Mordaunt. There was a large number of mourners and friends, including Mr. H. S. Lucy, Mr. B. Lucy, Major Armstrong, Mr. A. Lane, Colonel Paulet, Mr. C. G. Lefroy, Mr. George Granville, the Rev. W. Barnard (Alveston), the Hon. and Rev. W. R. Verney, Rev. H. Knightley, and others. Between thirty and forty wreaths were sent by the principal county families and other sympathising friends, including the Charlecote school children and the servants at the house. The coffin, which was of polished oak with a zinc shell, was borne to the grave by the domestic servants at the hall, to whom the deceased had endeared herself by her many amiable qualities. JULY 1<sup>st</sup>.