



# The Adventure of Abbey Grange

Brian Clark | John Openshaw Society

*16th March 2025*

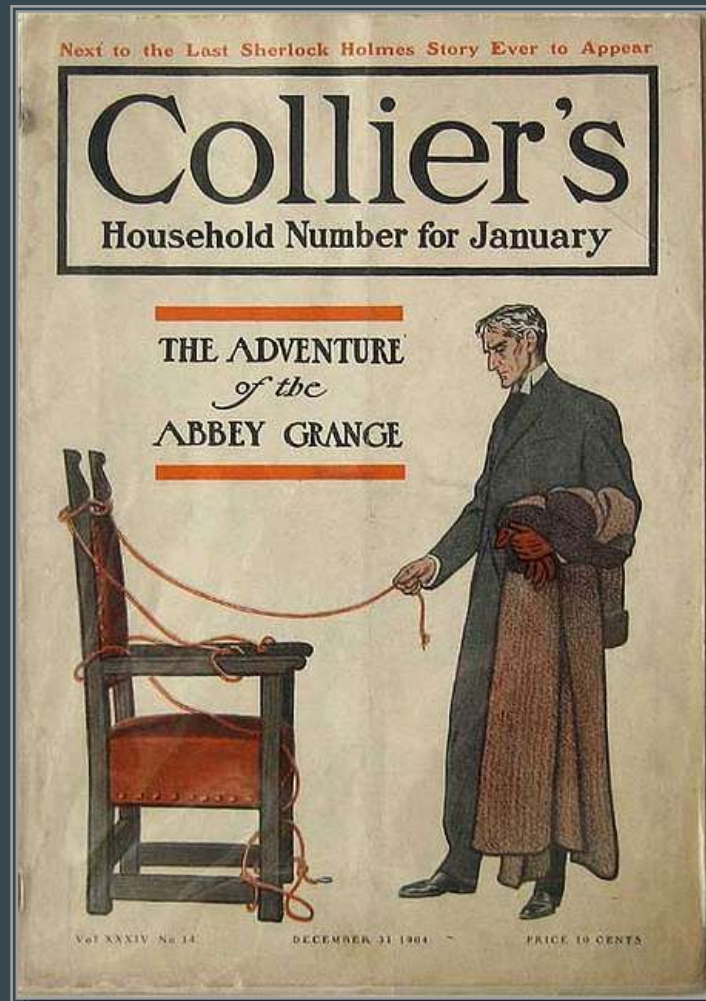


*“Come, Watson, come!” he cried.  
“The game is afoot. Not a word!  
Into your clothes and come!”*

IT WAS on a bitterly cold night and frosty morning, towards the end of the winter of '97, that I was awakened by a tugging at my shoulder. It was Holmes.

# Publication History

- Published in *Strand Magazine* in September, 1904
- Published in *Collier's Weekly* on 31 December 1904
- *Los Angeles Times* > 30th April 1905
- *San Francisco Call* > 21 May 1905
- *Le Journal* > 21-25th August 1905
  - Translated as *L'Aventure de l'abbaye de Grange*
- *Шесть Наполеоновъ* > late 1905
  - Translated as *Красный Шнурокъ* (*The Red Lace*)
- *L'Abbaye de Grange* > late 1906
- *Les Premiers exploits de Sherlock Holmes* > 1909
- Included in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*
  - Released in New York in February, 1905
  - Released in London on 7th March 1905



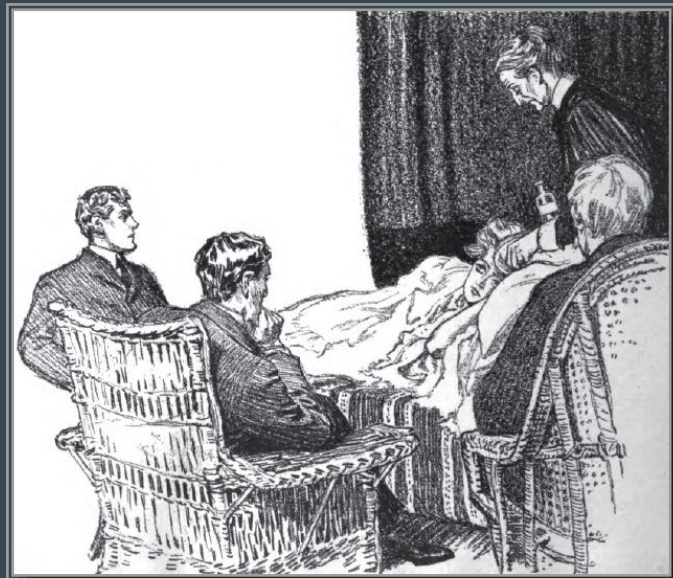
# Logistics and Characters

**Chronology:** January 1897 or December 1897?

- Return: “...towards the end of the winter of ‘97”
- Original manuscript and Collier’s: “...towards the end of ‘97”

## Characters

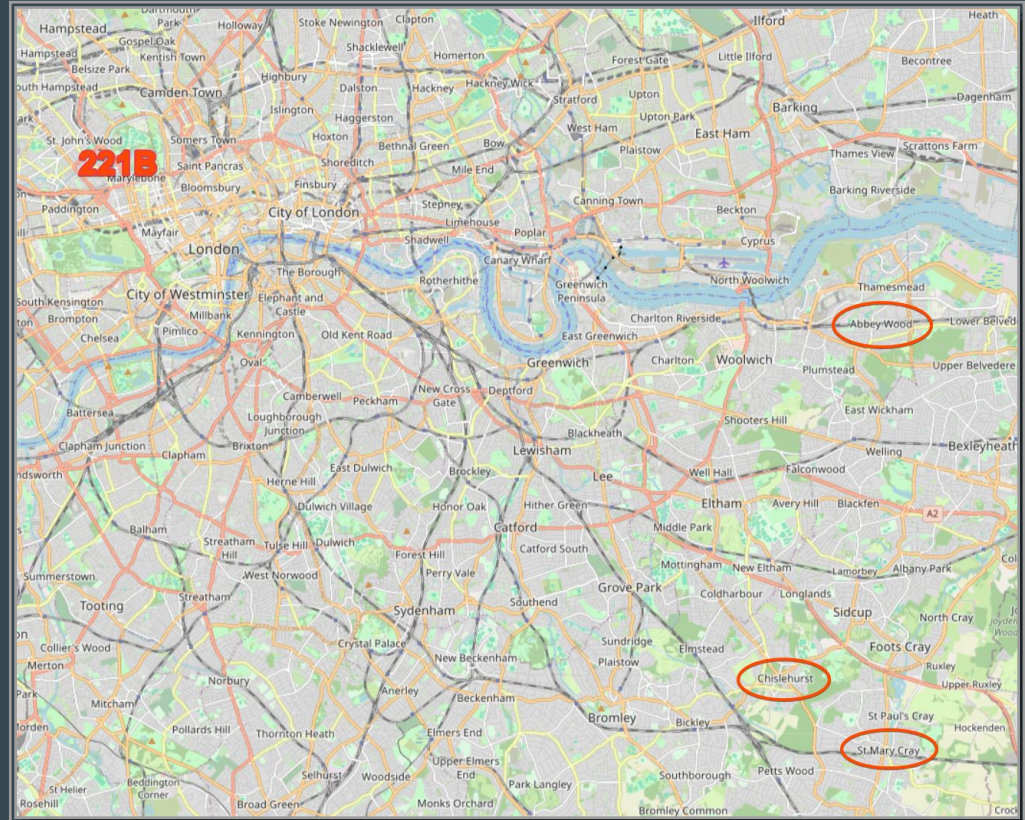
- Holmes and Watson
- Inspector Stanley Hopkins
  - Also in *The Golden Pince-Nez*, *Black Peter*, and *The Missing Three-Quarter* (3-4 more?)
- Sir Eustace Brackenstall, one of the richest men in Kent (“Heppenstall” in the manuscript)
- Lady Brackenstall (Mary Frasier from *Adelaide*)
- Theresa Wright, Lady Brackenstall’s loyal maid
- Captain Jack Crocker of the *Rock of Gibraltar*
  - “Croker” in the original manuscript; “Crocker” only in the American versions





# Geography: Abbey Grange, Marsham, Kent

- Kent was “Chislehurst” in the original manuscript
- Abbey Wood is a hamlet near Chislehurst
- Marsham is a village in Norfolk
- Marsham is . . . St. Mary Cray?



# Justice Served?

## Holmesian Justice / Mercy / Felonies

- Abbey Grange
- The Blue Carbuncle
- The Devil's Foot
- Charles Augustus Milverton
- Boscombe Valley

## Discussion Points

- Did Mary Fraser ditch Croker to marry for money?
- Was there a conspiracy to murder Sir Eustace?

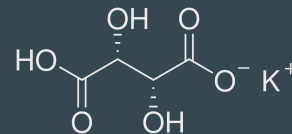
*“Holmes smoked for some time in silence. Then he crossed the room and shook our visitor by the hand.”*





# Beeswing

- “Bee’s-wing” (or “bees’-wing”) rather than “bee-swing”
- A filmy, translucent crust that forms on port wine and occasionally in older bottle-aged wines
- It appears as a light, flaky, or filmy crust on the inside of the bottle
- Potassium bitartrate forms when tartaric acid reacts with potassium; both occur naturally in grapes
- Harmless to drink, doesn’t affect the taste
- When dried, it’s known as *cream of tartar*. Uses include:
  - Stabilizing egg whites, whipped cream, meringues, soufflés, and more
  - As a mordant in textile dyeing, and as a reducer of chromium trioxide in mordants for wool
  - As a metal processing agent that prevents oxidation
  - As a cleaning agent when mixed with a weak acid such as vinegar



# “Multiplex” Knives

**1880s**

The Swiss Army ordered development of a versatile, multi-functional pocket knife

**1884**

Karl Elsener opened a cutlery workshop in Ibach, Switzerland. His mother Victoria actively supported him.

**1891**

Elsener won a contract to make the “Soldier's Knife” (Modell 1890)

**1897**

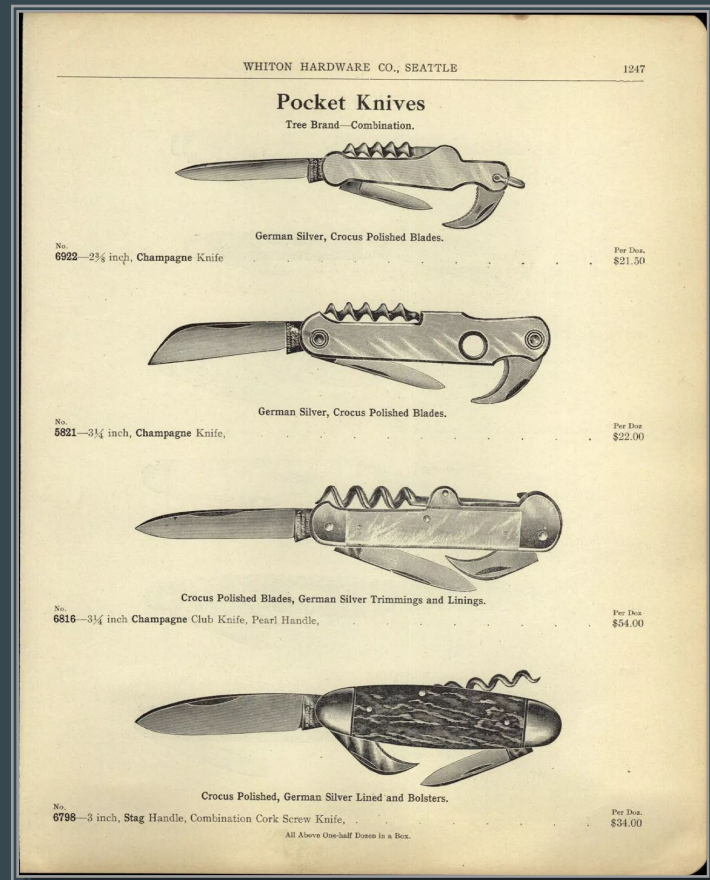
The "Original Swiss Officer's and Sports Knife" was patented, becoming the basis for the modern Swiss Army knife.

**1909**

Elsener chose his mother's name, Victoria, as the brand name, and registered the Cross&Shield emblem as a trademark.

**1921**

The invention of stainless steel (Inox) led to the creation of the company and brand name Victorinox, combining “Inox” and “Victoria”.



1905 Catalog from Whiton Hardware in Seattle



# Illustrations by Sidney Paget for *Strand*



"HALLOA, HALLOA, WHAT IS THIS?"

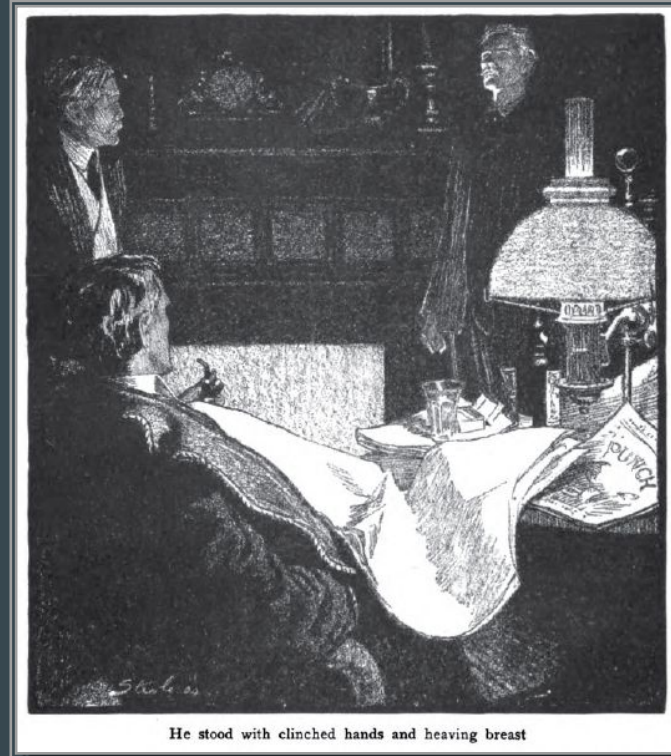


"I COULD SEE BY HOLMES'S FACE THAT HE WAS MUCH PUZZLED."

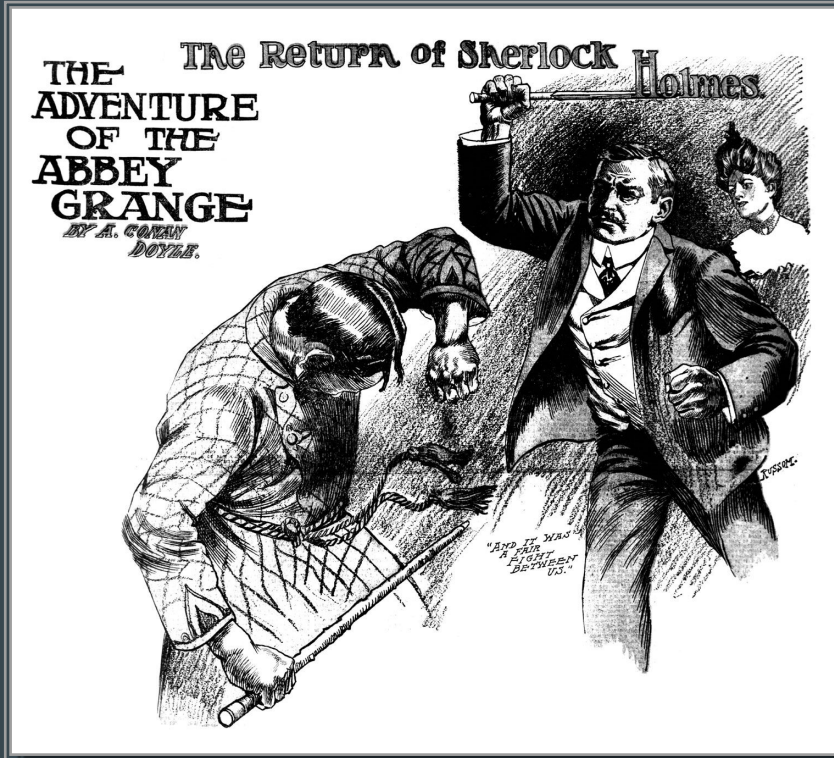


"HOLMES GAZED AT IT AND THEN PASSED ON."

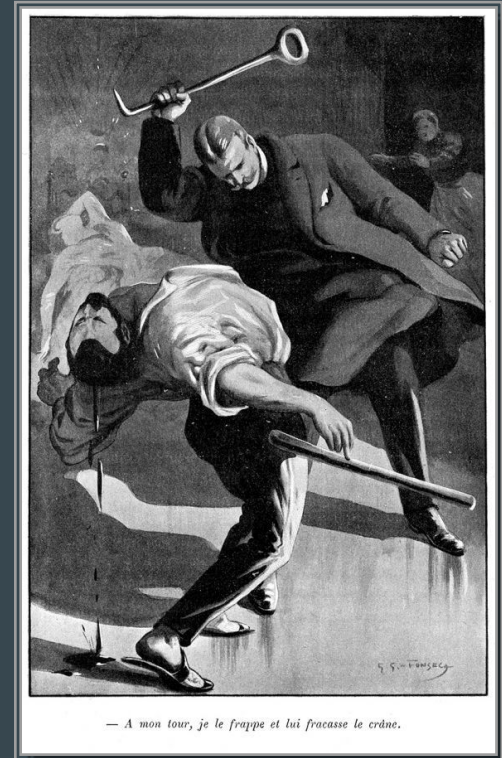
# Illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele for *Colliers*



# Illustrations of the fight!



by Reginald G. Russom for the *San Francisco Call*



by Gaston Simoes da Fonseca for *Félix Juven*



# The game's afoot!

- Shakespearean References
  - *The First Part of Henry the Fourth*, Act I, Scene 3: “Before the game’s a-foot . . .”
  - *The Life of Henry the Fifth*, Act III, Scene 1: “The game’s afoot!”
- Only spoken by Holmes once in the canon
- Watson uses it himself once in Wisteria Lodge
- Popular References
  - A play by Ken Ludwig
  - Indie board game (2025)
    - “a quick-paced game of competitive deduction for 2 to 5 players.”

