

JAMES BUTLER MOODY: 1887 DIARY

INTRODUCTION

As the year 1887 opens the sixteen year old James Butler Moody (JBM) is living above the family business (furniture and removals) at 17a London Street, Basingstoke, with his parents, James Moody (60) and Elizabeth Moody (42) and his four siblings, Blanche (20), Arthur (18), Ethel (13), Frank (11) and Mabel (8). His sister, Ethel, kept a diary although unfortunately it seems that only two have survived, for 1895 and 1900. The 1895 diary has been put onto the James Moody and Sons website (jamesmoodyandsons.co.uk).

IMPORTANT YEAR

1887 was an important year for JBM. He left Queen Mary's School this year and on 13 November he left Basingstoke (a tearful farewell) to start a month's trial pupilship at Mr Daniell's Brewery in East Donyland, Essex. Earlier in the year he recorded his first shave!

BASINGSTOKE NAMES

The diary has many references to family and friends. Some of the surnames which appear: Adams, Angelsmith, Allen, Bayley, Bristow, Caldecott, Cannon, Chadwick, Chute, Clift, Cooksey, Dunn, Fencott, Gammon, Goldman, Knight, Lear, Lodwidge, Loe, Marsh, May, Palmer, Paice (his mother's family), Portsmouth and Powell.

RELATIVES

His mother's sister, Jane, and her husband, Richard Knight are frequently mentioned, as is his Uncle William (his mother's brother, William Hamblin Paice) then living and working at the Tanqueray Gin Distillery in Vine Street, Bloomsbury. Uncle William played a part in JBM's entry into the world of brewing. Another of his mother's brothers lived in Hammersmith, the widowed Uncle George. JBM was particularly friendly with Uncle George's son, Charles. There are also references to an Aunt Mary, in Hammersmith. I think this was another of his mother's sisters, Mary Annie, who married Rev Ebenezer Corbishley.

PIGEONS AND CHICKENS

There are many references to JBM's interest in breeding and selling pigeons and bantams, although this had to be wound up before he moved to Essex .

HANDYMAN AND SPORTSMAN

He was often working with his hands at the family home and business and he learned how to make a tennis net for the tennis court which he created in the back garden at 17a London Street. He was clearly enjoyed tennis (so much tennis!), cricket and football (with associated teenage high jinks). He actually played football for the town on 5th February. Glued inside the front cover of the diary is a newspaper cutting of a report on the Queen's School 1886-87 football season, in which he is mentioned.

RECREATION AND HOBBIES

He enjoyed tennis (so much tennis!), walking, dancing (first public ball on 10 February), cycling, skating (the winter of 1886-87 was notoriously harsh), swimming and rowing. He could also turn his hand to jam making. To keep fit he exercised with dumbbells. He was involved in amateur dramatics as well as going to the theatre: on 31 January he saw Henry Irving on stage. During the year he found time to read a number of books and always recorded what he thought of them.

CODED ENTRIES

A few diary entries are in a code which I have not yet been able to decipher.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to Angela Masterton-Smith, a granddaughter of James Butler Moody, for the loan of this diary. Also to Barbara Applin (Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society) for the history of St Thomas's Home.

Brian Butler

Grandson of Ethel Moody and great nephew of James Butler Moody

1 January 2014

JANUARY

1 Saturday *A coded sentence, followed by:* Came home from Loe's dance at 1 o'clock this morning. We heard the church bells ring. Went for a jolly skate up the canal with the Loes, met Lynch & had a talk with him, he was staying here for a few days.

2 Sunday. Went for a jolly skate up the canal.

3 Monday Went skating up the canal.

4 Tuesday Had a small dance in the evening, the Allens, Loes & their cousins & Minnie came. We took down the gas in the front room down stairs; left off about ½ past 12. Went off very well.

5 Wednesday Met Leslie Angelsmith down in the town, he had come with his wife & child & company to act at the Drill Hall next week. Had a long talk with him.

6 Thursday Went skating.

7 Friday Went skating in the morning. Went on putting up the wirework in the pigeons' place which was broken down by the snow on Bank Holiday. There was 17 ins of snow on level ground up our garden.

8 Saturday Finished putting up the pigeons' house and let them all out. Leslie Angelsmith came in to tea & stayed for an hour or two.

10 Monday Arthur & Papa went to Stanlake Park to take an inventory & stayed there till Friday. Arthur came home for Wednesday night. (*A short coded entry follows*).

11 Tuesday Charles Paice came down from Hammersmith in the afternoon. Went to the Down Grange in the morning with Will Allen. John P wrote in to say they were going to thresh but they did not.

12 Wednesday Went to the Basin at Hackwood skating in the morning. Took Venus with me. Out to Portsmouth's in the afternoon, went out shooting. I shot several small birds. Mort Lear fell in the duck pond up to his neck. Went to Leslie Norman Angelsmith's performance "The New Magdalene" at the Drill Hall. He sent us tickets for this night.

13 Thursday Minnie, Blanche, Charles & I went to the Drill Hall in the evening to "Naval Engagements", Leslie's wife acted. It was awfully good.

14 Friday Went to the Broadwater skating in the morning. As I was coming away Leslie Angelsmith came down. I lent him my skates, which he brought back in the afternoon. His daughter's name is "Ivy". Went to the canal skating again. Went to "Naval Engagements" again at the Drill Hall.

15 Saturday In the morning went to Portsmouth's to see a rick threshed, took Venus & killed a heap of rats. I had dinner at Portsmouth's & went home soon after & took Blanche & Minnie skating up the canal. We had a splendid skate. An awfully cold day.

16 Sunday Went for a fine skate up the canal in the afternoon.

17 Monday Went to Winchfield by train & walked to Dogmersfield Park. Had a splendid skate. The ice was like glass & over a foot thick. Walked on to Odiham, had tea at the "George", walked to Hook station & back by train.

18 Tuesday It thawed dreadfully & the ice was not fit to skate on; we went to the canal to see & then went over Basing ruins.

19 Wednesday Charles & I drove over to Mr Clift's at Sherborne for a dress for Minnie & stayed there to dinner & drove Mr Clift in. In the afternoon cleaned out pigeons' house & found the fantails had laid & killed two young carriers. Took my watch to be cleaned for the 1st time to Mr Porter's.

Sherborne: JBM is inconsistent with his spelling. It is usually appears as Sherbourne

20 Thursday Went to Reading with Charles Paice. Saw the new statue of a lion in the Forbury Gardens, the museum & went over Huntley & Palmer's biscuit factory; ordered a bushel of pigeons' food at Gammon's & paid for it 5/-. We went on up to Hammersmith.

The Maiwand Lion war memorial erected in 1886.

21 Friday Went to Olympia, the new Agricultural Hall at S Kensington (the largest hall in England, opened the day after Christmas Day) & saw the "Hippodrome". It was very good. Edith, Julia & Charles went with me.

Edith and Julia: Charles' sisters

22 Saturday Went to the "Forty Thieves" at Drury Lane in the afternoon, enjoyed it immensely. The 1st time I had been to Drury Lane.

23 Sunday Went to Chiswick Church in the morning.

24 Monday Charles & I walked across Barnes Common & through Richmond Park to Richmond & came back by train. Went to the Zoological Gardens in the afternoon & into Uncle William's to tea & back by 'bus. Finished reading the "The King's Own" by Marryat. Very good tale.

25 Tuesday Went to Whiteleys in the morning & saw Jamie. In the afternoon went to Richmond Park to see "George's v University College" rugby match for the cup. Univ Coll won by 2 goals to 0. Met Percy Johnson there.

26 Wednesday Bought this book for 10d. Went to the Japanese village in the afternoon & saw the performance there. It was very good. Went from there to Bloomsbury to tea & back from Charing +. Edith Paice's 25th birthday.

This book: Pettitt's Scribbling Octavo Diary for 1887. Interleaved Blotting

27 Thursday Went for a long walk out by the Willesden canal with Charles. In the evening went to a concert at the Vestry Hall at Turnham Green with Edith, Julia & Charlie & Mr Duggin.

28 Friday Came up to Uncle William's at Bloomsbury in the afternoon to stay. Went with Uncle & Aunt to "Harbour Lights" at the Adelphi Theatre in the evening. Enjoyed it immensely.

29 Saturday Went to the British Museum & saw the Egyptian Mummies. In the aft. went to Barnes by train with Uncle & walked thro' Richmond Park to Richmond; went to Mr Esse's to tea & supper.

30 Sunday Went to Mr Bird's at Wimbledon to spend the day.

31 Monday Went over the library in the British Museum with Charles Paice. Wonderful. Walked up to the city & went into St Paul's Cathedral, heard part of the service in the afternoon. In the eve. went to "Faust" & saw Irving act. It was splendid. Was weighed at the Distillery: 10 stone.

FEBRUARY

1 Tuesday Went to the National Picture Gallery in the morning. In the afternoon went to Madame Tussaud's for the 1st time, enjoyed it very much. Finished reading "A House of Tears": very curious tale.

2 Wednesday Came home from London this morning. Went to School in the afternoon. I ought to have gone back on the 20th January. Came down in the train with a gentleman & a soldier who had been in Egypt & China for the last 6 years, he told us several tales he had done.

3 Thursday Had a football practice after 4 o'clock. This term we are doing:

2nd Bk Virgil's Aenid

xxiii Bk of Livy

Batailles de Dames - French

La Canne de Jonc - French

Midsummer Night's Dream. Sha.

1st & 2nd Bks of Kings & Acts

Chemistry

Lessing's fables - German

Hall & Knight's Algebra

4 Friday Went to Allen's to supper & brought Blanche home.

5 Saturday Played for the town in a football match against Amersham Hall: we beat them by 4 to 1. A very jolly game.

6 Sunday Went out with Willie & Bert Allen

7 Monday Mr Hindle lent me his gown & hood & Mr Harding his cap to try on for the ball, which I wore. Went to Uncle Richard's to supper. Paid my football subscrip 2/6 & my library subscrip 1/-

8 Tuesday Uncle Richard got me an invitation to the ball. Had a football practice after school. Made a lot of beetle wings into sprays for Ma's dress. Kate Allen came to tea & supper. Had a committee meeting of football club.

9 Wednesday The work-shop chimney caught fire in the morning & I climbed up on to the roof & let wet sacks down & salt. Got late and did not go to school in the morning. Edith Paice came for the ball. Went up to the station to meet Edith Knight & take her to Aunt Jane's.

10 Thursday Went to a Fancy Dress Ball at the Town Hall (my first public ball) given by Major May. I went as a B.A. of Cambridge. Enjoyed it immensely. Went at 9 & got back at 10 mins to 5 o'clock. Blanche went as May Queen, Arthur as a French Guard, Ma as Firefly. Edith Paice went as Spring, Minnie Rush as La France, Mrs Clift with us as "Granny".

11 Friday I danced every dance & 2 extras. Miss R Deane looked very nice. I danced 3 with her, also Miss Temple, took Miss Lovibond to supper. Went to school in afternoon. Ethel, Frank & Mabel went to a juvenile ball in the evening at the Town Hall & enjoyed it very much; an immense Xmas tree.

12 Saturday Played for the School against Basing. Had a very good game & had a drawn game 2 all. We did not play any old boys. I was captain of the School team this term.

13 Sunday Willie Allen came to tea & supper.

14 Monday Ordered football shirts (light & dark blue) for the eleven at Hewett's. Ma, Blanche, Arthur & Edith drove Minnie home & I walked over from school & had tea there & drove home with them at quarter past seven.

15 Tuesday Had valentine on Sunday from Julia Paice – a rattle, woollen ball & a monkey, in a big box. Had a football practice in the afternoon at 4. We all went down to Aunt Jane's to tea. I & Arthur went at 7. Had a jolly game of cards; I lost a shilling.

16 Wednesday Ordered some goal posts at Paget's painted light & dark blue & iron shod. Mr Hudson gave a concert at the Drill Hall; it was most awfully bad. I did not go.

17 Thursday Had a good football practice in the afternoon; the eleven for Saturday against the masters, Bayley & Warren & the school. We all went to an entertainment at Basing in the evening. Kate Allen came to tea & went with us (at least with Harry Powell). It was very good. Goldman recited very well.

18 Friday There was a row at school in the morning for soaping Millard's bed & putting a lot of things in it. Chadwick stopped our changing in the dormitory. Bayley & Warren did it last night. Got the party ticket for tomorrow. 1/8 each. Had a jolly game of cards in the evening.

James Chadwick: Head from 1883 to 1913.

19 Saturday Edith Paice went home. Went to Caversham in the afternoon at 1.20. We did not take any masters except Romaine to umpire & found they were playing 4 masters through a mistake in (*word unclear*). We beat them 1 to nil, it was really 2 but one was not given. Had a jolly tea there (Caversham House School) & came home at 6.30.

20 Sunday Wrote a long letter to Rex

21 Monday Decided to have a play at the Drill Hall at the end of this term. A farce "Who's Who" & "Take That Girl Away" a very good play. We have drilling last hour every Monday afternoon. Blanche & Edith Knight played a duet at a poetry reading in the Church Cottage.

22 Tuesday Shaved for the first time. Had the first rehearsal of "Take That Girl Away" by L S Buckingham. I decided to take "Rocket" the artist. Had a football practice at 4 o'clock. Went in to Allen's new shop to sit with Willie & Bert from 8.30 – 10.30pm.

23 Wednesday Great earthquake in the north of Italy & S France, about 2000 lives lost.

24 Thursday Our new goalposts arrived, painted light and dark blue. We played Ackender School, Alton on Johnson's meadow; all the X1 had on new light & dark blue shirts, they looked very nice. We beat Ackender Sch. 4 goals to nil. Mrs V Adams, Blanche Powell, Edith & Aggie Knight came to tea & supper. Had a jolly evening.

25 Friday The foll. are the X1 for this season who had their colours.

M Lear & H Barton – right wing.

E Dunn & W Saul – left wing.

W J Lear – centre

Mr Hindle, W Caldecott, H Barton – 1/2 backs.

J B Moody (captain), L Bayley – backs

A E Bolly – goal

26 Saturday We played Basing on Johnson's meadow. They were playing their strongest X1. One goal was got by a corner I kicked, another I kicked from a free kick for hands. We beat them 5 goals to one. Our fellows played awfully well.

MARCH

1 Tuesday Had a football practice, the X1 for Thursday v. all others. We do not play masters on Thursday. ½ year's interest on £100 due : £2.

2 Wednesday Arthur paid me £2 int. Paid 5/- of it for Gymnasium Subscription & kept 5 shillings for pocket money. Put the rest in Bank on Saturday.

3 Thursday Went to Whitchurch by brake to play Newbury Gram. Sch. We beat them 13 goals to nil. 18 of us went. I, Bayley & Lear had an awful spree after we had changed. Got back about ½ past seven. Made an awful noise coming back, singing & blowing horns.

Brake: horse-drawn carriage

4 Friday Went out for a bicycle ride with Smith & Cosens. Had a jolly ride through Basing. I hired mine at Watson's. My first ride this year.

5 Saturday Played full back for the town against Basing. A very good game. We beat them 2 to nil. Arthur played and we drove there in the wagonette & took Gray, Hindle & Chadwick. Put £3 into Savings Bank, £1.00 of Papa's interest. The rest from the New Zealand.

Wagonette: light four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle with two lengthwise seats for passengers.

6 Sunday Went to Uncle Richard's to supper. 2 burglars broke into a house here & also into Hook Church. They were both caught & committed for trial. There were 2 others caught and committed for trial last week, the people are getting rather frightened.

Richard Knight was a magistrate. Perhaps he was the source of this news.

8 Tuesday Had a practice, the X1 for Thursday against all others.

9 Wednesday Bought a jolly silver mounted pipe at Webb's, 2/3.

10 Thursday Went to Alton by brake to play Ackender Sch. We beat them 8 goals to 2. One goal kicked by my corner. Both X1's had a splendid tea at some Cafe. Went for a ramble across country with some of the Alton fellows. Got back at ½ past 8, very noisy.

11 Friday Went up to School after tea on the bicycle, the first time I had used it this year. It went very well.

12 Saturday Played Caversham Sch. on the Common. We beat them 5 goals to nil; one of which was disputed. I kicked the first goal, a long shot. I was playing full back. It snowed part of the time. Chadwick didn't give them tea

Hopefully there was no connection between no tea for the opposing team and the disputed goal!

15 Tuesday Heavy snow all day. We were unable to play football all week on account of the snow. Had rehearsals up at School every day.

16 Wednesday Bought a 6d eyeglass at Willis's to wear in the farce "Who's who."

17 Thursday Eleven fellows out of 17 passed the Cambridge Local. Caldecott ma(jor) passed the senior. Lear passed the junior. No one got honours. Chadwick was awfully waxy about it. I did not go in this time. I have passed the Junior 3 times, once with 3rd class honours.

19 Saturday Had a rehearsal of "Take that girl away" at the Drill Hall. Goldman coached us. From 4 till 6 p.m.

22 March Played Whitchurch Town on the Common. Beat them 7 to nil.

24 Thursday Had a football practice at School. Arthur came up.

25 March I now have £41.18.5 in the Savings Bank which has been accumulating since 1872 at Compound Interest.

Also £100 - legacy from Mr J Bristow - invested in my father's business paying 4 % per annum. Due ½ yearly on March 1st & September 1st. This was paid away for premium on Dec 14th.

This last sentence was clearly added later and refers to an entry on 14 December when he records his father paid a 100 guineas "premium" in respect of his pupilship at Mr Daniell's brewery

Also £206 - legacy from Mr J Butler - invested in the New Zealand Inscribed paying 4% per annum due half yearly on May 1st & November 1st. Less property tax 8p per £1. This was altered to 7p after May 1st. NB It was £200 Mr Butler left me, but I receive Int on £206, as I suppose they were bought at 103.

This day's entry is written on a Memoranda sheet at the end of the diary

26 Saturday Arthur went up to London to see the boat race. Cambridge won by 3 lengths. Oxford broke an oar. I won a shilling on a bet with R Bayley. Had a rehearsal at Drill Hall with Goldman.

28 Monday Had a rehearsal of both plays in the Drill Hall from 2 till 6. Had a letter from S Dunn. Began doing dumb bell exercise before breakfast.

29 Tuesday Went to Whitchurch by train to play the town. They had a much better team than before. Turler & Nunn played for them, had a talk with them about the School. We beat them 1 to nil, a very good game. Had a fine spree after we had changed.

30 Wednesday Had a delightful letter from Reg. Angelsmith.

31 Thursday Played Newbury Gram. Sch. on the Common. We let them play masters but we did not. We beat them 6 goals to one. This is the last match arranged. Arthur came home from London.

APRIL

1 Friday Grandma sent me 7/- by Arthur for pocket money. In the evening went to the Farningham Boys Concert at the Drill Hall. It was very good. Sat with the Bayleys.

Grandma: probably JBM's maternal grandmother, Nancy Paice .

2 Saturday In the afternoon drove Blanche & the children to Ashmoor & got a few primroses. Went to the Drill Hall from 4 till 6.30 for a rehearsal.

3 Sunday Went for walk and caught grass snake.

4 Monday Feel stronger through dumb bell exercises. Had photograph of the football XI & Chadwick taken up at Sch. by Gidney. Had a half in the afternoon for our last football practice, had a good game.

Bernard H Gidney, photographer with a studio in London Street

5 Tuesday Had a rehearsal in the afternoon. 2 Jacobin & 2 Fantail pigeons hatched this week.

6 Wednesday Had a rehearsal.

7 Thursday Uncle William & Aunt Polly came for Easter in the evening. Went out for a tricycle ride with Willie Allen in the evening.

8 Friday Went for a long walk with Uncle through the Park in the morning. Dug up the skeleton of a hedgehog in the afternoon. Tricycled with Willie Allen over to Sherbourne to meet the others who had driven there to tea.

9 Saturday Had a rehearsal of farce in the morning & the play in the afternoon. Went very well. Jamie came in evening. Finished reading "A Strange Story" by Lytton; a delightful book.

10 April Went to Basing church in evening.

11 Monday Went up into the cemetery in the morning. Had a rehearsal at the Drill Hall with Goldman in the afternoon. 2 carrier pigeons hatched.

12 Tuesday Had a rehearsal in the afternoon. Papa gave me a plain gold (18 carat) ring, which Mr Butler left him. I wore it in the play with another one he gave me a year or so ago.

The Mr Butler who left JBM a legacy (25 March)?

13 Wednesday Played the part of Lavender in the farce "Who's who" & Rocket in the drama "Take that girl away" at the Drill Hall.- 8 o'clock to 10.30. Went off very well indeed, all the front seats were crammed. Took £15.15.6 & cleared about £4 for the football & cricket club.

14 Thursday Went to the Drill Hall in the morning to pack up my things. In the afternoon had another photo of the football X1 & the group of actors in their costumes taken. Had a heap of congratulations on my success.

15 Friday School broke up for 3 weeks, this is my last term. Had a jolly game of cricket with Lear & Caldecott in afternoon. In the evening went with 3 Bayleys, Caldecott & Goldman in afternoon to "A Night Off" at the Drill Hall. It was very good.

16 Saturday In the morning had a game of fives up at School with the Bayleys. In the afternoon had a pick up game of football between the town & church cottage – the last game this season.

18 Monday Went for a splendid tricycle ride with Will. Bayley to Reading. Ordered a bushel of pigeons' food at Gammon's, had dinner at the Abbey Cafe, went over the Museum & into the Forbury Gardens. Started back at 4.30, had a cold bath when I got home. Splendid.

19 Tuesday In the morning cleared away a heap of rubbish at the back of the vans. In the afternoon went up to School & had a jolly game of cricket with Caldecotts, Lear & Portsmouth.

20 Wednesday Got up at ½ past six & went for a row up the canal with Bert Allen, a splendid morning. Took the tricycle to pieces & gave it a thorough cleaning all day. Edith & Winnie Paice & M. Rush came here to stay & Edith Knight & Miss Ogden went to Aunt Jane's. Had a tricycle ride up London Rd in the evening. Frank went to stay at Mr Cliff's at Sherbourne.

21 Thursday Blanche & Edith made several jellies for the ball supper. Went to my 2nd ball, at the Drill Hall (the return one to Major May) the tickets were 12/6 each. Enjoyed it immensely, danced all the dances but 2. It was a splendid supper, I took Miss L. Ogden.

22 Friday Came home at 5 this morning & went to bed a little after 6. Willie Paice slept in my bedroom. We got up about ½ past ten, had breakfast & went for a walk. In the afternoon I drove the girls for a long drive through Sherfield & Basing. In the evening went to an entertainment at the Drill Hall. Singing very bad.

23 Saturday Frank's birthday. He was staying at Sherbourne. In the afternoon I drove Minnie back home in our wagonette with Ma & Blanche & Edith. Met Mr E N Williams on Wednesday & he came in on Thursday & had a talk.

24 Sunday Church, Church, Church. Went for a walk in the afternoon with Blanche & Edith.

25 Monday Started putting newspaper cuttings into a book from the Standard. A very wet morning. In the afternoon it was fine & we all went over to Mr Clift's at Sherbourne & had a very jolly game of Tennis, had tea there & got back about ½ past seven. The others went to a concert in Church Cottage.

26 Tuesday In the morning I tricycled over to Sherbourne to get some cream for Edith & came back & made a roller for sticking in newspaper cuttings. Went on the tricycle to Oakley Hall which was said to be on fire; when we got there it was only a chimney on fire. The fire brigade & a heap of people went.

27 Wednesday Made a shelf for a tray up in the workshop. In the aft. went out tricycling, but a heavy shower came on when by Basing. I got under a railway arch for nearly an hour & then started in the rain & got very wet but I had my mackintosh. In the evening I went down to Uncle Richard's to supper & played drafts with him all the eve.

28 Thursday In the aft. drove Ma & the children out primrosing along Thornton's lane & dug up a lot of roots. In the eve. went up to the station to see Bayley & Warren. Blanche sang in the chorus of H. Powell's concert, the others went. I stayed at home with Pa. It was a great success.

29 Friday In the morning took the little wheel off the tricycle all to pieces & cleaned the bearings. In the aft. went for a tricycle ride up the London Rd. & drove Blanche & Winnie up to the station, B. Went to Hammersmith to stay. In the eve. went on a double tricycle to Hook with Will Allen.

30 Saturday Photographs came from Gidney of Football team & Plays. Went in to see Mr. Dale, he said I was to wait till I was 17 & then write to the Directors of the Bank. Went for along ride up the London Rd. (*Coded entry follows*). Planted some maize & sunflower seeds in a bed. A squad of Huzzars came into town.