

MAY

1 Sunday £4 interest on the £206 in New Zealand Inscribed.

2 Monday Went out for walk yesterday and tore a new pair of breeches awfully. Mended & painted small frame for seeds. In the afternoon I went up to School to fetch my books; had a talk with Chadwick & gave him my keys. (*Coded entry follows*).

3 Tuesday Made some paint & painted the coach-house window white. In the afternoon went to a military funeral in the cemetery – Sergeant Hitchcock's. Then I tricycled over to Sherbourne – had tea there & a jolly game of tennis with Minnie after. Ethel was staying there.

4 Wednesday I was puttying & painting the stable windows all day. Had my hair cut. In the evening went down to Uncle Richard's, he helped me indite a letter to the directors of the Bank. Stayed there to supper with Arthur. Katie Knight was staying at Aunt Jane's.

5 Thursday Painted small frame in the morning. In the aft. drove Uncle & Aunt Jane & Ma for a long drive. In the eve. tricycled to Odiham with Will & Bert Allen & Arthur. I went on a "tandem" with Will, stopped at the "George".

6 Friday Very wet. Added up & corrected mistakes in the Dustpan Accounts for Arthur. In the aft. drove Mabel up to Mrs Stephen's to tea. Finished reading "The Spy" by Fennimore Cooper. Very good novel, but nothing in it beyond the simple story.

The Little Dustpan was a small shop run by the family at 11 Church Street, Basingstoke.

7 Saturday In the morning painting. In aft. drove Ethel, Frank & Mabel out primrosing. (*Coded entry follows*).

8 Sunday In the eve. went for a walk with Katie Knight after church.

9 Monday In the morning finished taking notes from "A strange story" & took it up to the School library & had game of cricket. In the aft. painting. In the eve. Katie Knight, Aunt Jane & Blanche & H. Powell came to spend the eve. Had some singing etc.

10 Tuesday Took the tricycle to Watson to have a new tire on the little wheel. Cleared the furniture out of the Drawing room to be cleaned. Took the guitar to Powell's to have some new strings. Tricycled over to Sherbourne, took Minnie some sunflower seeds, stayed there to tea & had a jolly game of tennis after. Wrote to G. Dunn.

11 Wednesday My birthday. 17 yrs old. Went to see Mr Bayley to see if he would support my application for the Bank. Yes. Ordered a luggage carrier for the tricycle from Watson. In the aft. umpired for the dayboys v. the boarders on the Folly. Drawn. Bought a tennis shirt at Hewell's – 8/9d. Went into Dunn's & stayed there to supper.

12 Thursday In the morning painted window. Went down to the wharf to get a post for carpet pole & swing. In the eve. made my application to the chairman of directors of L & C Bank referring him to Mr Bayley, Chadwick, Millard & Dale. Wrote to Blanche.

13 Friday In the morn. painted window. In the aft. went for a long tricycle ride, rode up Farleigh Hill & though Preston Candover. In the eve went down to Allen's to ask for Marian. Fantail, Jacobin, Carrier hatched this week, rather bad.

14 Saturday Wrote to Knightsbridge for india rubber collar. Met the Vicar, who said he would be pleased to give one reference. Took the tricycle to Watson to have new rubbers on pedals & luggage carrier. Drove Ma & the children to Sherbourne.

India rubber: celluloid

15 Sunday Had a letter from Bank Directors to say I must wait till my writing was better before I applied. Went down to Uncle Richard's to spend day. Katie Knight was there.

16 Monday Killed 2 carrier & 1 Jacobin pigeons. Pa paid me 2/- for the 3. Went to Mr Dale, he said there were so many applying that they were very particular. Painted window. Went down to Allen's to tennis in the evening. Wrote to Aunt Mary at Twickenham.

17 Tuesday Started writing copies to alter my hand. In the aft. tricycled out to Sherbourne to a tennis party to meet Mr Anderson, Miss A. Clift & Miss Monkston who is going to New Zealand next month. Had a splendid game & stayed to tea. Ada Allen & Katie Knight came here to tea & Willie & Bert to supper. Jolly evening. Had letter from Twickenham.

18 Wednesday Wrote another letter to the Bank Directors to say I thought I could improve. Finished painting windows & made paint for doors. Uncle George came down about some affair of Jamie who has left Whiteleys. He went back in evening. Aunt Jane came in to supper.

Jamie: possibly Frederick James, son of Uncle George.

19 Thursday Had a letter from Blanche in which Aunt Mary says I could tricycle up to Twickenham tomorrow. Painted stable door. Bought a Daily Telegraph & answered 3 advertisements for situations. Only had an answer to one, which was no good. My india rubber collar came. I wore all the time at London.

About this time there is a definite change in handwriting, clearly a conscious effort to improve things after the bank "episode".

20 Friday Tricycled up to Twickenham & took my clothes with me. Started at 10.10 A.M. & arrived at Mr Hamilton's, Sunningdale (sic), at a quarter to one, had lunch with him & went for a walk in Virginia Water. I started again at 4. Hamilton rode with me as far as Egham. Arrived at Twickenham at 6 o'clock, not at all tired.

Mr Hamilton: Rev R A Hamilton? See addresses at end of diary

21 Saturday Took the tricycle to a shed near the station. In aft. went to Richmond with Uncle William, Aunt P. & Mrs Esse, to see the new recreation ground opened by the Duchess of Teck, & afterwards to a garden party given by Sir. W. Ellis. It was awfully grand, plenty of champagne, claret cup, ices etc. Uncle & I were taken in photograph close to Duchess of Teck & her daughter, who is very pretty. Awfully jolly.

The Duchess of Teck's 19 year old daughter, Mary, would become Queen Mary, when her husband, Prince George, whom she married in 1893, succeeded to the throne as George V in 1910.

22 Sunday Walked through Bushey Park in morn. & to the Knight's at Isleworth in the evening with Uncle W.

23 Monday Wrote some copies. Went up to Hammersmith at eleven, had dinner there, went out for a row up past Richmond, with Edith, Julia, Blanche & Charles. They have a jolly new boat & keep it at Kew. Took Blanche back to Twickenham in the evening. Walked up to Knightsbridge with Fred to pay for my collar 1/- & bought pair of cuffs 2/-.

24 Tuesday Wrote some copies. Walked to Richmond with Blanche & I went on to Hammersmith to dinner. In aft. went with Charles to the American Exhibition. Saw Buffalo Bill's "Wild West" & had a ride on the toboggan & Switchback Railway. Met a lot of B'stoke people there. Enjoyed it immensely. I went back to Bloomsbury to sleep.

25 Wednesday "Merrie Hampton" won the Derby. In morn I went up to Oxford St & bought 4 ties 2 ½ each at Hope Brothers. Charles came up to dinner & we went to the Academy in the aft. It was the first time I had been & I enjoyed it immensely. Ernest Johnson had a picture there. I met the Misses Temple there & spoke to them. In the eve. Charles & I went for a long walk to see the people come back from the Derby.

The artist Ernest Borough Johnson (1866 – 1949) lived part of his life in Basingstoke. In 1887 he exhibited a painting "Her Daily Bread" at the Royal Academy.

26 Thursday In the morning I went to Bow Street Police Court to hear the cases. Sir James Ingham was the judge. In the aft. I went with Aunt Polly up to Rotten Row to see the grandees. In the eve. I went again with Uncle William to see the American Exhibition.

27 Friday In the morning Charles came up & I walked up to Gower St. with him & arranged to meet him at King's Cross St. after he had been to his doctor. We went down to H'smith to dinner & out for a walk in the aft. I went back to Twickenham to sleep. Grandma gave me 10s/6d while up there.

28 Saturday Went out for short ride on the tricycle & then went up to Richmond with Blanche. I went on to H'smith in aft Uncle George, Charles, Fred & I rowed the boat down to Twickenham. Had tea at Aunt Mary's & brought Blanche back to H'smith. We both slept there. Bought "Monte Cristo" 1/- at Richmond.

29 Sunday Went for long walk in morning.

30 Monday We all went for a splendid picnic with the Bulls up to Walton on Thames. I rowed or towed nearly all the way. Had dinner & tea out on the river. Started from Twickenham at 11 o'clock a.m. & got back to H'smith at ½ past eleven p.m. Had a most splendid day. There were three boats full of us.

31 Tuesday In the morning Fred & I went up to Paddington Swimming Baths. Had a jolly swim & came back by 'bus. In aft Fred photographed us in a group twice. Then we all went up to Rotten Row by 'bus, walked through Hyde Park & back by 'bus. I went down to Twickenham to sleep, having very much enjoyed my stay in H'smith.

JUNE

1 Wednesday Tricycled back to Basingstoke. It was a very hot day. I started at 11 o'clock & got to Mr Hamilton's at one & had dinner. He tricycled 6 miles along the road with me & was very pleased to see me. It was a splendid ride, the scenery beautiful & the roads good. Got home at 7 o'clock, had a cold bath, a pint of beer & some meat & went down to Allen's & had a game of tennis.

2 Thursday Katie Knight went home. In the morning wrote to Edith to thank her for my visit & to ask Paul Bull about a gentleman he knew in Florida who wanted a companion. In aft. went down to Hackwood Park to see a cricket match, rode back with Mr Gabell & Warren. In the eve sent some pansies & stocks etc up to Aunt Mary.

3 Friday Arthur gave me a monogram stamp for a birthday present. Mended some baskets. Went in to see Dunn who was having a week's holiday.

Against this entry JBM has inked and used this stamp: an elaborate intertwined JBM.

4 Saturday Killed a carrier pigeon & took it down to Marion Allen. Uncle & Aunt Jane went to Deal. Went down to our baths, the first time this year. The water was good. Umpired on Folly for the School against St. Michael's. School lost. Arthur's birthday.

5 Sunday Went over Mr Lodwidge's garden.

6 Monday Watering in the garden all day. In eve. up to Station to get Exchange & Mart. Minnie & Mrs Clift came in to tea & asked me to go over to tennis when I liked.

7 Tuesday Watered the garden with liquid manure. Went on Tricycle.

8 Wednesday Sent an advertisement to the Exchange & Mart to sell a pair of Jacobins 5/- & pair of fantails 5/-. Painted the stable door inside. Had a letter from Herbie Horton, Bath.

9 Thursday Wrote to Gammon's for bushel of pigeons' food 5/-. Wrote to Paul Bull to send me particulars of Mr Godden. Wrote to Blanche.

10 Friday Painted Coach-house door outside first coat. In evening went over to Sherbourne & had a game of tennis with Minnie. Had a letter from Gammon to say he could let me have a sack 4 bush. For 19/- but I did not. Uncle William's birthday.

11 Saturday Wrote to Aunt Jane for Mamma. Mended corn bin. Had a letter from Paul Bull giving me particulars about Mr Godden, Pinellas Pt., Hillsborough County, Florida. His estate is just what I should like, by the sea. Ma objects.

12 Sunday Aunt Jane's birthday. Wrote to Paul Bull, Mr Angelsmith & Herbert Horton to tell them I was going to Florida.

13 Monday Got up early & began cutting down the pear tree in the middle of the lawn, so that we could play tennis. Dug up the roots myself. Getting my hand in for Florida. Went down to Allen's to tennis. Drove Ma & Misses Hasker out for drive.

14 Tuesday Cut up the pear tree & took it down to the cellar. Had a letter from Paul Bull giving me more particulars & telling me the way to go. Wrote to Mr Williams to ask him to sell me his portable bed which was being stored at our shop.

15 Wednesday Bottled a dozen of ginger beer that we made. Mr Parsons came for my fantail pigeons in answer to my advertisement in Exchange & Mart. He gave me three bantams & 2/- for a young pair of fantails. Went down to Allen's to tennis. Had a letter from Mr Williams saying he could not let me have the bed.

16 Thursday Went down & cleaned out Allen's boat in the afternoon. Had a letter from Herbert Horton advising me not to go to Florida. Bantams came this evening. Went down to Loe's to tennis. Wrote to Mr Williams to say I had sent off his box.

17 Friday Drove Miss Pike's school over to Sherbourne at 12 o'clock for the Jubilee there. Had dinner at Mrs Clift's. I stopped there till 10 o'clock; very jolly

18 Saturday Made some flags to decorate our house & covered some pots with red, white & blue for the table. My bantams began laying.

20 Monday Got up at 6 o'clock & went to the Corn Exchange to see the meat came in all right & send it out to different people to cook, 200 joints. In the aft there was a children's procession & 3000 had tea up the streets & afterwards a fête on the common. Had a game of tennis with Morton Lear.

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was celebrated over 20 and 21 June.

21 Tuesday Jubilee Jubilee Jubilee!!! come at last. Got up at 6 o'clock to see the meat came in all right & to put it on the tables all right & cut up bread & meat for the poor. After the procession 2400 people had dinner in the streets. I carved a joint at Mr Cannon's table. Afterwards a fête & bonfire etc on the common. All the town was illuminated at night. It was a splendid day. Went off beautifully. Anybody had dinner who lived in the town.

Queen Victoria travelled in an open landau in a procession in London. Spectators were accommodated on terraced benches along 10 mile of scaffolding erected for the purpose.

22 Wednesday Went to the Corn Exchange today to see things cleared away all right. Blanche saw the procession in London beautifully with Uncle & Aunt, they paid £5 for the 3 seats. Marked out our lawn & put up the tennis net.

23 Thursday Put up some wire netting in front of the greenhouse & in the evening played the first game of tennis that has ever been played on our lawn. Mrs Adams, Blanche & Harry Powell & Will. Allen came in & played. I went down to Aunt Jane's house to sleep as they were at Deal.

24 Friday Went down & marked out Adams' lawn in the afternoon & had a jolly game of tennis in the evening. Slept at Aunt Jane's.

25 Saturday Made some lead weights for the tennis net. Had a letter from Fred Paice to know if he could come up here on Tuesday from Salcombe. Wrote to Uncle William to tell him I wanted to go to Florida. Drove Ma & the children out for drive. Sunday

26 Sunday Grandma's birthday. Had a jubilee sermon – 2 hours. Willie Allen came in & we played tennis all afternoon & evening.

27 Monday In the morning I tricycled over to Sherbourne with a note from Nellie Loe to ask Minnie to come in in the aft. Arthur & I went to Loe's to a tennis party. The Caldecotts & Allens were there. Went to Aunt Jane's to sleep. Soon after I was in bed Uncle & Aunt came home. I did not get to bed again till 1 o'clock.

28 Tuesday Blanche came home & Julia with her. I painted the coach house door inside.

29 Wednesday In the evening went to a tennis party at Adam's, had some very good games.

30 Thursday In the evening Ma, Julia & I went up to Mr Soper's to see Mr Stephens who gave me a lecture on Florida & said it was the biggest fraud on earth & told me I should never make a farthing out there & should have to work dreadfully hard. This has settled my going to Florida.

