

Dr John Mills of Yateley Diary 1876 to 1880

The full manuscript of the diary is held at the Hampshire Record Office. In the present transcription () brackets indicate those used in the manuscript, [] brackets indicate doubtful readings and { } enclose what seem to be omissions. Unusual phrases or spellings are repeated in a 'sic' list.

Mrs Christison's notes on her typescript of John Mills diary.

Mrs Christison was J.M.'s eldest daughter (by his second wife). She transcribed those parts of the diary which referred to Yateley and included the following explanatory notes.

76.10.2 John and his wife, Maggie, were staying with his wife's half-sister Elizabeth Petrie, a widow, and her two unmarried daughters, at 44 Euston Square. Her eldest grandson, yet unborn, was well known at Yateley as Dr A.S.Petrie.

Burrill was gardener to J.M.'s brother and sister at 327 Clapham Road, London.

The Rackleys lived at the right hand cottage as one looked across the pond from Cloon Eavin White Gables. Round Close.

76.10.4 The house was at this time a square 8 roomed house, but with a fifth bedroom between the two back bedrooms, at the top of the stairs. The 4 rooms at the S.W. were added after J.M. bought the house, I believe it was in 1895.

The Masons were then living at the (so-called) Manor House.

{76.10.9 Note from Sidney: Mills was taken when 4 on coach to Exeter.}

76.10.12 Emmie was the daughter of Mr Eggar of Jenkins Place, Bentley. She had married the eldest son of Elizabeth Petrie and was the mother of Dr A.S. Petrie. Sam Eggar was her brother.

76.10.16 Till about 1905 when the village shops were becoming well-stocked the arrival of the "Stores" from the Army and Navy Cooperative Company, Victoria Street, London, was an important event.

Mrs and Miss Becher were then living at Moorside, Cricket Hill.

76.10.23 The Masons lived at Firgrove House.

76.10.25 "Lotte" was Miss Charlotte E. Smith, a very dear friend from London.

76.10.30 Mr Walter lived at Bearwood.

76.11.1 The old Fleet Road entered the grounds of Minley Manor at the Lodge straight across the Exeter Road from the Cricket Hill road and leavinbf at the lodge at the junction with the Elvetham road. Later the road was changed because the owners wanted more privacy. Alongside this road was a very old beech tree held together by chains.

76.11.4 Surely Yateley Manor should read Yateley Hall.

76.11.6 Harry is John's brother Henry and his family at Harrow.

76.11.7 Called on Mrs Gibson presumably at Hurstleigh, Blackwater.

76.11.9 The Heatherlie was where J. and M. had lived at Beckenham.

76.11.10 Bessie was the eldest daughter of Elizabeth Petrie.. I think she painted the little view of the Church which I sent you.

76.11.18 William was John's bachelor brother from London.

76.11.20 I can't place this drive. I know the public had much freer access to the park then than later.

76.11.21 Douglas Petrie was son of Elizabeth Petrie. M.A. is Henry's wife, Mary Anne, née Holroyd. Henry was John's brother then living at Harrow.

76.11.22 Presumably "across Bostock's", i.e. out in the lane below Tylers shop.

76.12.8 Was Cables the predecessor of Hills as butcher?

76.12.10,11 Charlie is Miss C. Duffin an unknown.

76.12.12 Was the Davis family already established as laundresses at Brandy Bottom ?
{?Mary Corderey and Sarah Boseley}

76.12.15 Graham Petrie was another son of Elizabeth Petrie.

Alfred Eggar was a well known auctioneer at Farnham later, brother {sic} of Emmie Petrie.

76.12.23-31 Capital letters are used freely in the original but punctuation is chiefly small dashes. I have followed them as best I can.

77.1.1 William was in the Superintendent's Office of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway's Victoria Office.

Where was Mr Kelsey's new house? I never thought of the house at the corner of Eversley Cross Green belonging to recent history. I think it was Richard Kelsey who lived there. I think Louis Kelsey, his brother, lived at Blackwater.

77.1.4 Fanny (Mrs Johnstone) was J.M.'s first cousin, and also M.'s half-aunt by marriage! if such a relationship can be recognised.

Evidently the telegraph had not yet reached Yateley.

77.1.8 White was presumably the parlour maid. The younger maids were subject to fainting till about 1900. Compare the Victorian novels, both mistresses and maids!

77.1.14 So there was a Sunday post.

77.1.15 I seem to have heard of a Mr Burch living on the right as one reached the bottom of Star Hill.

Bear in mind that J.M. knew this road well in coaching days. His family moved to Exeter in 1834.

77.1.18 Elizabeth and Mary were mother and daughter from Euston Square.

77.1.30 "Gomms" partly fills the two words I could not decipher on Dec.31, 1876.

77.1.31 Isabella was the sister of Mrs Sidebotham, for whose husband see Dec.14,15, 1876.

77.2.1 Bessie Johnstone was sister of Henry and Arthur, see Jan.4-9.

77.2.9 Where was The Forester? Was it opposite the Sandhurst Halt of later days? {Yes - Sidney Loader}.

77.2.10 Which cottage? Was Mrs Noad mother of Mrs Wilding who was governess to the Stilwells. I always understood Mrs Wilding lived in the cottage next the barnyard, occupied for a long time by Mr Stilwell's gardener, Mr Chapman. It has an interesting name but I can't remember it. When the Stilwells no longer needed a governess, Mrs

Wilding moved to [Lingfield], now I believe Cricket Hill Cottage. Gen Brown {added in another hand}.

77.2.11 Edward was son of J.M.'s brother Charles.

77.2.15 Which Minley House? Was it where Mr Profitt lived?

77.2.17 The Dipleidoscope was a nautical instrument with which J.M. could tell midday by the sun.

77.2.20,22 Fanny Johnstone was J.M.'s first cousin. Mother of Harry, Arthur and Bessie already referred to.

Veitch was an Exeter firm, some of whom were pupils of J.M.'s father there.

77.3.4 Does he mean the actual Post Office or the wall box where Dr Russell lived. On the left immediately before turning left to the Ch. I think this box was changed with road widening.

77.3.6 Mary was J.M.'s younger sister, Mr Bromfield her clerical husband.

77.3.20 Mr Claypole was predecessor to Mr Price next to the Duke of York.

77.3.23 These fields were where the A327 now is.

77.3.26 Were the Way wardens road-men?

78.1.8 Willie son of Highla.

78.1.17 Captn William Mills, son of Arthur Mills. In A&S Highlanders. Later known as colonel Willie.

{St Erth in Cornwall, near Penzance. See also 78.1.26}

78.1.18 Presumably some {Houdans} were bought as there were traces of Houdan among our hens in my childhood. {See also 77.4.14 and 77.6.3}.

78.1.26 Rev. A. Mills of St Erth, Cornwall. {See note above, 78.1.17. Alfred / Arthur?}.

78.1.31 Old Mrs Wickham was still there in 1901, living with her son Rev. Wilfred Wickham.

78.2.3 Mary Sumner, later Mrs Gould.

78.2.6 Kitty is Mrs George Mills, living at Clifton that her sons might go to Clifton College.

78.2.9 Nothing ever did grow here except in a hot frame and marrows on a manure pit. We called it Starveacre.

78.2.21 If the Holly Bush was another pub, where? {? Eversley Cross, off Chequers Lane? V.K.}

78.2.22 Had the boy been sent to the Shutes while his sister was infectious - This would have been quite in order.

78.3.5 {Re the two cottages by Rackleys} I think I sent S.I.L a painting of these.

78.3.8 Hilton ?Hill see Feb.3 Mar.19

78.3.10 {Kitty and Charlie} presumably Mrs G.L. Mills and her second son.

78.3.13 Dr and Mrs Haynes from Eversley Street.

78.3.15 Old Mr Parker and his daughters Lucy and Anne lived in the house adjoining Mr P.'s Wheelwrights shop. Lucy was fair and sweet and generally ill, suggestive of a decline but lived at least nother 15 years. Annie appeared rather hard and was the Martha of the family. Mr P. suggested a bearded Patriarch. They were nonconformists.

78.3.23 Glass; ?Thermometer. Bell; A large handbell rung to indicate time for those working outside. Ours was rung 15' before family dinner. I have an idea it had also been rung around 8 a.m.

78.3.24 J.M. used to describe vividly how they watched from the dining room window as the darkness came up the valley.

78.3.25 Eurydice monument is at Shanklin I of W.

78.4.2 Lester was General "Johnny" Lester, a very dear friend from Indian days.

78.4.9 This sounds as if the grass it was to be scythed.

78.4.11 Harry is presumably Henry Mills from Harrow.

78.4.17 ?Notification of Infectious Diseases Act introduced 1878.

78.4.18 I think Mrs Blakeley lived at Hartsleap, Sandhurst straight across the valley from Holly Hill.

78.4.20 "Work" means decorations.

78.5.6 John is John Petrie, Douglas his younger brother. Emmie is John's wife, née Eggar of Bentley. Their son is Alex. S. Petrie.

78.5.7 The Bromfields are J.M's sister, Mary and her husband. Polly is Mrs Chas. Mills, widow.

78.5.8 Arthur is presumably Arthur McLeod Mills, second son of J.M's eldest brother, Arthur.

78.5.9 Bessie is wife of Arthur McLeod.

78.5.10 Harriet is presumably Harriet Tierney, a cousin on the Johnstone side. Lottie is Miss C.E. Smith. {Tierney is clear and the i is dotted}.

78.5.12 St Peters ?Eaton Square. Florence Holroyd is an in-law connection with the George Mills and Alfred Mills.

78.5.13 Kate is Mrs George Mills, Polly Mrs Chas. Mills. Spiers and Ponds the popular "nice" eating places.

78.5.22 Harriette Tierney is a cousin on the Johnstone side.

78.5.31 Mary P. is Mary Petrie.

78.6.4 Mr Tringham, who married Miss - Mason. {Edith,see 78.7.1.}

78.6.5 Kitty is Mrs George Mills {cf 78.5.13}.

78.6.7 Mary had congenital trouble with her hip, and had to wear a high boot on one side. Graham is Graham Petrie.

78.6.8 {Old Jennings} from the cottage in a painting I sent you - opposite Cloon Eavin. Fanny and Harry Johnstone.

78.6.10 Harry Johnstone became a good classical scholar and an excellent all round naturalist. His speciality was birds.

78.6.13 Graham; ?see 11th {but he had a fly from the station}.

78.6.25 Farmer Thrift; next to Parker's workshop.

78.7.1 Edie Tringham, née Edith Mason.

78.7.3 Col Jones' house was Ambarrow Farm.

78.7.6 Mrs Willis was Mr Stilwell's sister.

78.7.10 Mr Fitzroy's lower lodge in the back lanes. Cora and Dora are Mrs Tudor Trevor and her daughter.

78.7.14 I think Percy Smith was then at Holly Dene. Aimée's sister married -- Pennington.

78.7.16 Marechal Neil was a rose. T.Trevor; This seems odd as he left for India Feb.13.

78.7.19. Addisons; I am not sure but I think they had moved into Heatherlie after Coll. Mills' death. (Or was it called Heatherlie opposite the back entrance to the Grange).

78.7.26 Winter Garden; i.e. up the hill past the Stone Farm to the Cross Roads. Then left.

78.8.3 via Wokingham was the loop line. Ascot Camberley Woking was not yet completed.

78.8.5 Alfred was J.M's brother, vicar of St Erth, Cornwall.

78.8.7 Lucy Wood and Katie were a cousin on the Dewe side and her daughter.

78.8.9 The view was probably by the gateway leading to Blackbushe Farm.

78.8.15 ?where

78.8.16 Aimée's niece and nephew ? Pennington.

78.8.20 Old Billy; who?. Young Gibson; ?Tommy, who was later at Mr Kirkhoffer's and died in the SA War '99-1902.

78.8.27 Alice later lived in Yateley for a time at Lady Curries old house.

78.9.3 Outhouses were hen house, tool shed, root{?} house etc., not the Canadian sense.

78.9.7 The henhouse paving was still in good shape in 1913. Was Bull Annie's father?

78.9.11 Was this Grace Gibson who was later at Hawley?

78.9.16 Was Kitty the later Sister Katherine Mary, Anglican sisterhood?

78.9.17 Fanny (m) was Mrs Johnstone, Fan her eldest daughter.

78.9.19 Polly was Mrs Chas. Mills, Miss Eliza Mills her sister.

78.9.21 Garden house = earth closet. Mrs Glass' house was off the road from Eversley Church to the river.

78.9.23 Woods; where?

78.9.27 ? The Miss Martineau who later lived at Eversley Up Green.

78.10.2 The door was a swing door, known as "the baize door". Sandhurst; ?Aldershot {surely}.

78.10.3 Lucy was J.M's sister.

78.10.7 Fund; Bombay Military Fund Pension. I think it was £15 a quarter. Anne (Polly) was Mrs Chas Mills, mother of Edward. ?Annie September 19.

78.10.21 Guardian; The Church paper, not the Manchester Guardian now known as "The Guardian".

78.10.25 Mr B. is Mr Bromfield.

78.10.26 5 csacks of ?grastes

78.10.28 Heather Cottage was Harriet's home.

78.11.5 Lucy is Lucy Mills, J.M's cousin.

78.11.9 Lucy's boys were not her sons; her nephews, sons of her brother Henry.

78.11.10 Henry and Willie; Henry Holroyd Mills died a Canon of Truro. William Holroyd Mills became an Army Officer and died about 1901 as a result of the S.A. War.

78.11.13 Remember how much more important "blacks" were in those days.

78.11.21 Brushing mill; what was this?

78.12.4 John is John Petrie, Dr Petrie's father.

78.12.5 Henry and Arthur, J.M's brothers.

78.12.10 Father and Mother, Mr and Mrs Stilwell 8{not understood}. This house was later St Pancras Vicarage.

78.12.11 Ellenton; spelling uncertain.

78.12.18 Portfolio; A group of amateurs sent in a picture each which were then circulated and voted on.

78.12.21 Glass; presumably thermometer.

78.12.23 L.C.D. London Chatham and Dover Rly. Brighton; London Brighton and South Coast Rly. Both later absorbed in S.R.

78.12.25 "The children" are Jessie (Mrs [Handley]), Alex (Dr Petrie) and possible Eva (Mrs Hemsley).

78.12.30 Later this was one of the most impermeable quickset hedges I ever met.

78.12.31 Which Pope? Was it the father of Nellie Pope.

79.5.17 Dr Biddle lived in a thatched house in Vicarage Rd, now Mr Hammers, Gayton Lodge.

79.12.12 Gibson; Stilwell?

