

Back in Time - 35 - Joseph Stevenson's Diary - 1933

by John Rabbitt

Among the documents Sameera discovered in her loft while renovation work was underway at her new house was a diary written in 1933 by Joseph Stevenson, the owner of the house (see Back in Time - 25). Joseph was 52 years old in 1933 when he wrote this diary.

The first thing to note is that the diary is very small measuring 2.75 inches x 4 inches (7cm x 10cm). The diary is incredibly fragile and great care was needed when photographing the diary. The writing in ink is incredibly small, particularly on pages such as 'List of Important Dates'. One wonders what sort of fountain pen Joseph used.

I have photographed some of the standard diary information pages, many make interesting reading, such as the 'Notable Dates for 1933' and the 'Inland Postal Rates'. The 'Table of Income and Wages' is fascinating, very useful for deciding how much to pay your maid. In 1933, a manager would expect to earn £350 per year (19 shillings and tuppence farthing per day), the average salary was £220 per year. In the 1930s the salary of women working in comparable jobs was about 60% that of their male counterparts.

The page of Personal Notes and Train Services is interesting. I think Joseph worked in Manchester so these would be the times of the 'Up' and 'Down' trains from Eccles to Manchester in the morning and the return trains in the evening. Between 8am and 10am there were 10 trains to Manchester; and in the evening there were 15 trains between 4:25pm and 6:45pm to Eccles. If only the train service today was as frequent.

The page 'List of Important Dates' includes family dates as well as the date Joseph purchased his house. On the opposite page is a sketch of the house and land with the dimensions and the area of the plot, 1503 5/9 sq.yds., and the date, July 9th 1877. The typical information you find on the deeds of a property of that age.

I have photographed a few weeks from the diary that shows what an active life Joseph led. There are numerous entries not only for the Eccles Operatic Society but also the Swinton Operatic Society. Masonic lodge meetings were very frequent, if there were no evening appointments Joseph would write "in all night". He was a very keen gardener, Sundays were often "garden all day, church evening". His holiday was spent in Prestatyn which included a "Rail Cruise" to Caernarfon and Menai Bridge.

In the summer Joseph played a lot of tennis with friends. There was no mention of a tennis club so perhaps he played on the tennis courts off Cavendish Road.

During the week of the 14th May Joseph was busy with auditions for the forthcoming operatic production. There were also entries such as "Swinton Operatic Conducting", I can only assume Joseph was a competent musician and conductor.

This glimpse into Joseph Stevenson's life through his diary shows how active and sociable life must have been in Ellesmere Park in the 1930s.

My thanks to Sameera for sharing with us this amazing find from her loft.

INLAND POSTAL RATES, Etc.

(Full information is given in the Post Office Guide)

LETTERS.—Not above 2 oz. 1½d. For every additional 2 oz. or fraction of 2 oz. ½d.

POST CARDS.—Single, 1d. Stamp ; Reply, 2d.

SPECIAL RATES FOR SAILORS, SOLDIERS, AND AIR FORCE.—Letters to H.M. Ships in Home Waters—the ordinary Inland Rates apply to all kinds of Postal Packets. Letters to H.M. Ships and Forces Abroad—Not exceeding 1 oz. 1½d., and 1d. for every additional oz.

BOOK POST (Printed Paper Rate).—Not above 2 oz. ½d. Every additional 2 oz. or fraction of 2 oz. ½d., up to 2 lb.

NEWSPAPERS.—Not above 6 oz. (single only) 1d., ½d. every additional 6 oz. or fraction of 6 oz. Two or more copies in one packet charged as if posted separately. Limit : 2 lb.

SAMPLE POST.—Same Rates as for letters and parcels.

PARCEL POST.—2 lb., 6d. ; 5 lb., 9d. ; 8 lb., 1s. ; 11 lb., 1s. 3d. Limit : 11 lb. ; length, 3 ft. 6 in. ; length and girth combined, 6 ft. Securely packed, contain nothing dangerous, etc. Letter may be enclosed. "Parcel Post" written left top corner. Subject to certain rules, compensation for loss or damage is given up to £2. Certificate of posting should be obtained.

A certificate of posting an unregistered letter, post card or other packet handed in at any Post Office can be obtained for a fee of ½d.

INLAND TELEGRAMS.—12 words, including name and address, 1s. ; 1d. for each additional word. Minimum charge for Night Telegraph Letter, 36 words, 1s. Charges for Reply Paid and Re-directed Telegrams are increased in proportion.

REGISTRATION AND COMPENSATION.—The fee is 3d. Subject to certain rules, compensation, with the 3d. fee, is given up to £5 ; a 4d. fee, to £20 ; a 5d. fee, to £40 ; up to a fee of 1s. 11d. and £400 compensation. Unregistered letters, etc., containing coin are charged 6d. on delivery, less any amount prepaid in excess of postage : no compensation is payable.

RE-DIRECTION.—Letters, etc., unopened can be re-directed free up to day following delivery ; but parcels only when both addresses are within the same town delivery area ; all London is regarded as one delivery area.

MONEY ORDERS.—Not above £3, 4d. ; £10, 6d. ; £20, 8d. ; £30, 10d. ; £40, 1s.

TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS.—As ordinary, plus supplementary fee of 2d. and cost of telegram (lowest charge, 1s.).

POSTAL ORDERS.—6d. to 2s. 6d., 1d. ; 3s. to 15s., 1½d. ; 15s. 6d. to 21s. 2d. each. British *unperforated* Postage Stamps, not exceeding two, up to 5d. in value, may be affixed.

NOTABLE DAYS for 1933.

Jan.	1	New Year's Day. Commemoration Day,	
"	1	Bank Holiday (Scotland)	[Australia
Feb.	1	Pheasant and Partridge Shooting ends	
"	2	Candlemas—Scotch Quarter Day	
"	8	Half-Quarter Day	
"	28	Shrove Tuesday	
Mar.	1	Ash Wednesday	
"	1	St. David's Day	
"	17	St. Patrick's Day	
"	25	Lady Day	
Apr.	14	Good Friday—Bank Holiday	
"	16	Easter Day	
"	17	Easter Monday—Bank Holiday	
"	23	St. George's Day	Shakespeare's Birthday
May	1	Bank Holiday (Scotland)	Royal Academy
"	6	King George V Accession (1910)	[opens
"	9	Half-Quarter Day	
"	15	Scotch Quarter Day	
"	24	Empire Day (Victoria Day)	
"	25	Ascension Day	
"	26	Queen Mary's Birthday (1867)	
"	31	Union Day (Union of South Africa)	
June	3	King George V Birthday (1865)	
"	4	Whit Sunday	
"	5	Whit Monday—Bank Holiday	
"	11	Trinity Sunday	
"	24	Midsummer	
July	1	Dominion Day	
"	31	Gun and Game Licences expire	
Aug.	1	Lammas—Scotch Quarter Day	
"	7	Bank Holiday	
"	11	Half-Quarter Day	
"	12	Grouse Shooting begins	
Sept.	1	Partridge Shooting begins	
"	21	Jewish Year begins (5694)	
"	29	Michaelmas Day	
Oct.	1	Pheasant Shooting begins	
Nov.	1	Foxhunting begins	
"	11	Armistice Day (1918)	Martinmas—Scotch
"	11	Half-Quarter Day	[Quarter Day
"	30	St. Andrew's Day	
Dec.	25	Christmas Day	
"	26	Boxing Day	

TABLE OF INCOME OR WAGES

Per Year.	Per Month.	Per Week.	Per Day.	Per Year.	Per Month.	Per Week.	Per Day.	Per Year.	Per Month.	Per Week.	Per Day.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 0 0	0 1 8	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 0 0	1 0 0	0 4 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8	80 0	6 13 4	1 10 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 0 0	0 3 4	0 0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 12	1 1 0	0 4 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 0	7 10 0	1 14 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 0 0	0 5 0	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2	13 0	1 1 8	0 5 0	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 0	8 6 8	1 18 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 3 0	0 5 3	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2	13 13	1 2 9	0 5 3	0 9	200 0	16 13 4	3 16 11	0 10 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 0 0	0 6 8	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 0	1 3 4	0 5 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	300 0	25 0 0	5 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 16 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 4 0	0 7 0	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 14	1 4 6	0 5 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	400 0	33 6 8	7 13 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 11
5 0 0	0 8 4	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 0	1 5 0	0 5 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	500 0	41 13 4	9 12 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 5 0	0 8 9	0 0 2	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 15	1 6 3	0 6 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	600 0	50 0 0	11 10 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 12 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 0 0	0 10 0	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 4	16 0	1 6 8	0 6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	700 0	58 6 8	13 9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 18 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 6 0	0 10 6	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 16	1 8 0	0 6 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11	800 0	66 13 4	15 7 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3 10
7 0 0	0 11 8	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 0	1 8 4	0 6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	900 0	75 0 0	17 6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 9 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 7 0	0 12 3	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 17	1 9 9	0 6 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1000 0	83 6 8	19 4 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 14 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 0 0	0 13 4	0 0 3	0 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 0	1 10 0	0 6 11	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1100 0	91 13 4	21 3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 8 0	0 14 0	0 0 3	0 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 18	1 11 6	0 7 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1200 0	100 0 0	23 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 5 9
9 0 0	0 15 0	0 0 3	0 0 6	19 0	1 11 8	0 7 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1300 0	108 6 8	25 0 0	3 11 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 9 0	0 15 9	0 0 3	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 0	1 13 4	0 7 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1400 0	116 13 4	26 18 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 16 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 0 0	0 16 8	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 0	2 10 0	0 11 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1500 0	125 0 0	28 16 11	4 2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 10 0	0 17 6	0 0 4	0 0 7	40 0	3 6 8	0 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1600 0	133 6 8	30 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 7 8
11 0 0	0 18 4	0 0 4	0 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 0	4 3 4	0 19 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 9	1700 0	141 13 4	32 13 10	4 13 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 11 0	0 19 3	0 0 4	0 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 0	5 0 0	1 3 1	3 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1800 0	150 0 0	34 12 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 18 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 11 11	0 19 3	0 0 4	0 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 0	5 16 8	1 6 11	3 10	1900 0	158 6 8	36 10 9	5 4 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

IF FOUND, PLEASE RETURN TO

Name Joseph Stevenson
 Address "Holmfild"
Westminster Rd
Chelmsmere Park Eccles

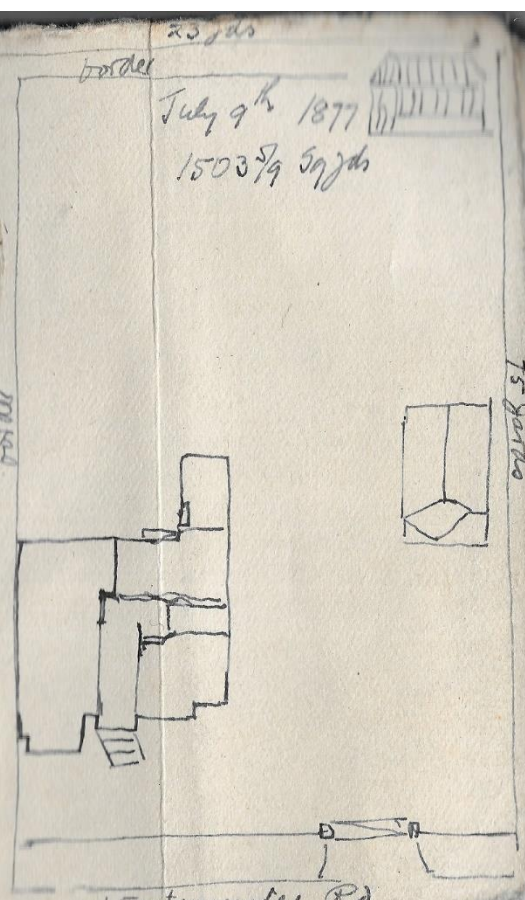
PERSONAL NOTES

TRAIN SERVICE

	WEEK DAYS	
	UP	DOWN
	dep. arr.	dep. arr.
Store Ticket No.	21M	21M
Library Ticket No.	8-0	4-25
Telephone No.	8-18	4-47
Office <u>2275 Central</u>	8-24	5-5
Home	8-28	5-8
Teleg. Address <u>Precedent</u>	8-43	5-10
Season Ticket No.	8-47	5-16
Date	9-7	5-20
Life Policy No. <u>46236 1500</u>	9-30	528
Date <u>pre Aug 2 1908</u>	9-39	5-40
Domestic Policy No. <u>997702</u>	9-55	5-45
Date <u>May 1908</u>		5-53
		6-5
		6-17
		6-25
MOTOR CAR OR BICYCLE —		
Registered No.	UP	DOWN
Driver's Licence No.	dep. arr.	dep. arr.
Size in Gloves <u>7 1/2</u> In Boots <u>7 1/2</u>	10-31	10-40
Size in Collars <u>14 1/2</u> Hats <u>7 1/8</u>	11-3	10-45
Weight.....st.....lbs. Date.....	11-10	11-0
Height <u>5</u> ft. <u>4</u> ins. Date.....	11-19	11-25
	Sum	10-40

MEMORANDA

Joseph Stevenson born July 13th 1881.
 died Nov 4th 1925.
 Marion F. — born Dec 26th 1903.
 Dorothy M. — born June 8th 1909.
 Gladys M. — born Dec 15th 1909.
 Lillian F. — born Sept 1st 1912.
 Gertrude S. — born Aug 27th 1888.
 — — married Oct 14th 1926.
 Marion F. — married June 14th 1930.
 Lillian F. — started Nursing Jan 1st 1930.
 — — Eye Hospital Oct 1931.
 Dorothy H. — Kendall's March 1926.
 Gladys M. — Armistice Rally Mch 21 1932.
 Dad Stevenson — died Oct 15th 1923.
 mother — Oct 15th 1916.
 Alice — July 10th 1919.
 Harry — June 1st 1930.
 Mary — Oct 2 1932.
 Holmfild purchased July 23rd 1930.
 — — moved in April 2nd 1930.
 — — settled in May 16th 1930.
 Left Cong. Choir Height Sept 1930.
 Joined Lodge 3867 West May 1930.
 — Chapter — Salford Sept 14 1925.



2926 Oxen
 2927 Oxen
 2928 Oxen
 2929 Oxen
 2930 Oxen
 2931 Oxen
 2932 Oxen
 2933 Oxen
 2934 Oxen
 2935 Oxen
 2936 Oxen
 2937 Oxen
 2938 Oxen
 2939 Oxen
 2940 Oxen
 2941 Oxen
 2942 Oxen
 2943 Oxen
 2944 Oxen
 2945 Oxen
 2946 Oxen
 2947 Oxen
 2948 Oxen
 2949 Oxen
 2950 Oxen
 2951 Oxen
 2952 Oxen
 2953 Oxen
 2954 Oxen
 2955 Oxen
 2956 Oxen
 2957 Oxen
 2958 Oxen
 2959 Oxen
 2960 Oxen
 2961 Oxen
 2962 Oxen
 2963 Oxen
 2964 Oxen
 2965 Oxen
 2966 Oxen
 2967 Oxen
 2968 Oxen
 2969 Oxen
 2970 Oxen
 2971 Oxen
 2972 Oxen
 2973 Oxen
 2974 Oxen
 2975 Oxen
 2976 Oxen
 2977 Oxen
 2978 Oxen
 2979 Oxen
 2980 Oxen
 2981 Oxen
 2982 Oxen
 2983 Oxen
 2984 Oxen
 2985 Oxen
 2986 Oxen
 2987 Oxen
 2988 Oxen
 2989 Oxen
 2990 Oxen
 2991 Oxen
 2992 Oxen
 2993 Oxen
 2994 Oxen
 2995 Oxen
 2996 Oxen
 2997 Oxen
 2998 Oxen
 2999 Oxen
 3000 Oxen

JANUARY—1933

15 Sunday 2nd after Epiphany
Garden work, afternoon train

Church evening

16 Monday Sun rises 7.59, sets 4.21
mall night

17 Tuesday Sun rises 7.58, sets 4.22
Holy Book
John Thorne
mall night Redcliffe
abbey Grove
Sceles

18 Wednesday Sun rises 7.57, sets 4.23
St James Lodge John Crook

JANUARY—1933

19 Thursday Sun rises 7.56, sets 4.25
(6.15 a.m.)
Manned by Mr. Thorne
Blanchard & Howard

20 Friday Sun rises 7.55, sets 4.27
Sceles Operatic Dance Broadway
J.B. Jonesman

21 Saturday Sun rises 7.54, sets 4.29
Swinton Builders July 5-7

Week-end

MARCH—1933

19 Sunday 3rd in Lent

Sender morning
afternoon

20 Monday Sun rises 6.4, sets 6.12

My Rec
25 Venturo 11 at
Walter Estate

in all night

21 Tuesday Sun rises 6.2, sets 6.14

Newton's Operation

22 Wednesday Sun rises 6.0, sets 6.16

Wesleyan Church
Holy City
Row Cookshut Self Hall

MARCH—1933

23 Thursday Sun rises 5.58, sets 6.17

Garden
Bees, Spent

24 Friday Sun rises 5.55, sets 6.19

Granny Bat been with Dad

25 Saturday Sun rises 5.53, sets 6.20
Annunciation Lady Day

Annunciation Lady Day

Cuppie
Barker all day

Week-end

Week-end
 11 Andrews
 18 Carrington
 25 Sutton

Feb 10th. 4-10-3
 - 11 90-0-0
 Bal about 19

July 10th. 4-10-0
- 11 90-0-0
Base about 29

MAY—1933 *Caste*

14 Sunday 4th after Easter

Garden } Mariposa Mrs. Dawson ✓
 ch 9 m } Red-footed Sandy F. Howard ✓
 } Grinnel Hawk } Wm. Lomax ✓
 Jack Fleetwood W. Setchum.

15 Monday Sun rises 4.8, sets 7.44

Burder Kelly Kent
 Debbie Young 1.
 Mrs. S. W. 2.
 Jessie Davies 3
 Mrs. M. 4.
 Mrs. S. 5.

16 Tuesday Sun rises 4.7, sets 7.46

Auditions

Lord Hittlingham	2a Heyden	1
	Def Turbutt	2
	J Howard	3
	J Sanderson	4

17 Wednesday Sun rises 4.6, sets 7.48

Ecce Perse 8 Jm

MAY—1933

18 Thursday Sun rises 4.4, sets 7.49

Gram Bar. 14lb Sulf ammonia
7 - Soc Iron
112 - sand

19 Friday Sun rises 4.3, sets 7.51

mother's birthday.
Garden mowing, laundry

Typing Machine
repaired

20 Saturday, Sun rises 4.2, sets 7.52

Garda Hill 8-45

Week-end

MAY—1933

21 Sunday Rogation Sunday

Garden
Dandelion plants

22 Monday Sun rises 3.59, sets 7.55

Garden in all night

23 Tuesday Sun rises 3.57, sets 7.56

operative conducting
the lanes

24 Wednesday Sun rises 3.56, sets 7.58
Empire (Victoria) Day ● 10.7 a.m.

long meeting Christmas of
J. G. Westwick Cong Dramatic
Society

MAY—1933

25 Thursday Sun rises 3.55, sets 7.59
Ascension Day Holy Thursday

Garden

26 Friday Sun rises 3.54, sets 8.0
Queen Mary born, 1867

Garden mowing machine

27 Saturday Sun rises 3.53, sets 8.1

Garden path A Grove 7/6
Dorsetton 2/6 M Wood 7/6
A Grove 2/6 Johnson 7/6
Week-end Seeds of
J. G. Taylor 7/6
J. G. Farhope Jack Probert

JULY—1933

9 Sunday 4th after Trinity

Church as in
Tennis afternoon Gladys + Dot
Rain evening
where 9-45

10 Monday Sun rises 3.54, sets 8.15

11 Tuesday Sun rises 3.55, sets 8.14

operative Stanton 7.30
Mr Tattersall

12 Wednesday Sun rises 3.56, sets 8.14

Tennis 1st round

JULY—1933

13 Thursday Sun rises 3.57, sets 8.13

Tennis Mr. Andrews

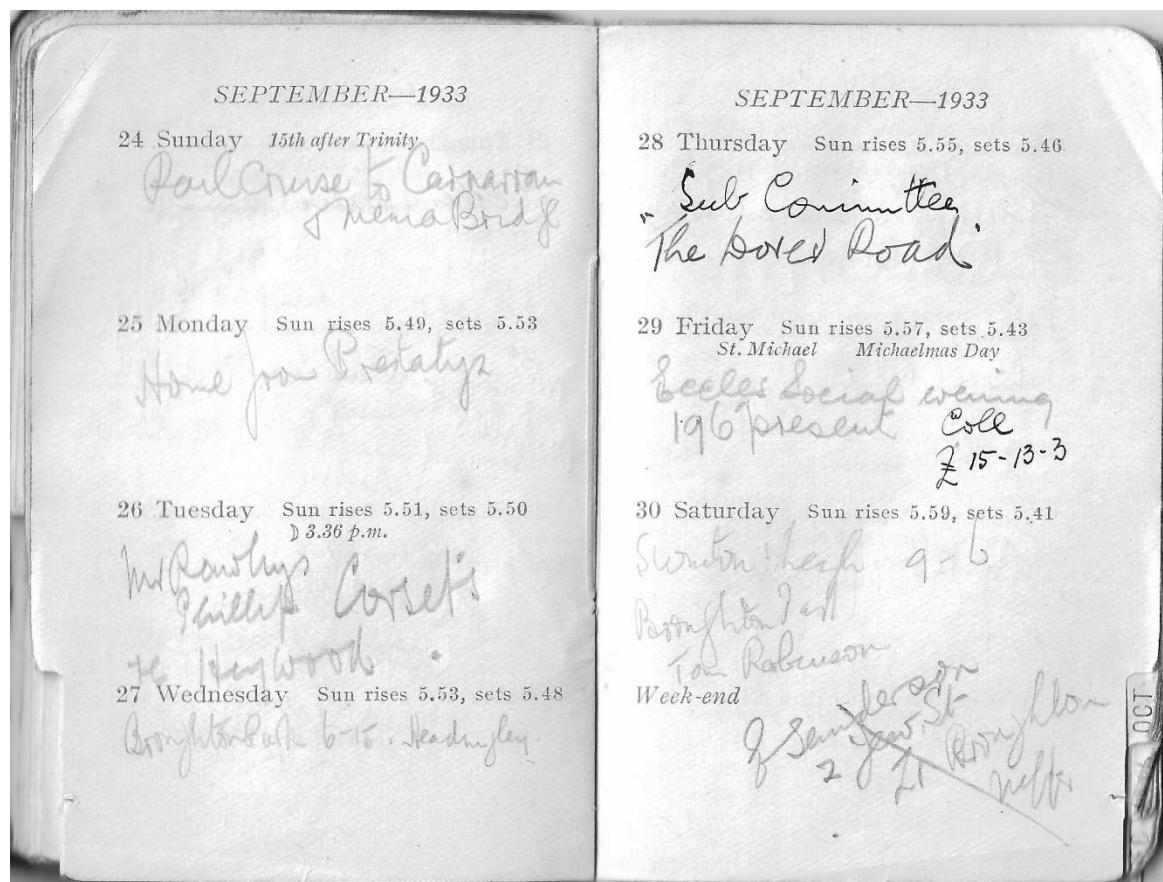
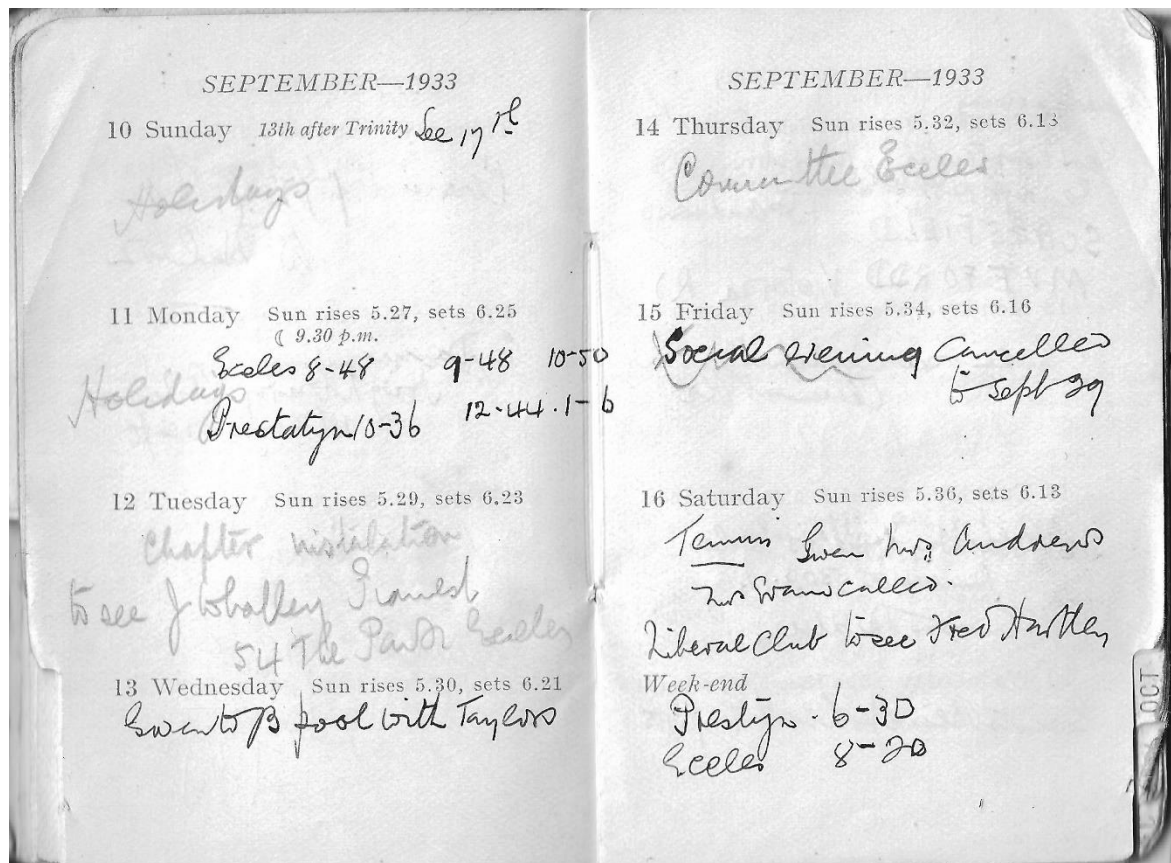
14 Friday Sun rises 3.58, sets 8.12
(12.24 p.m.)

Garden

15 Saturday Sun rises 3.59, sets 8.11
St. Swithin

Tennis 1st round
Mr Andrews

Week-end



---- End of Article ----