

## THE BOTELER DIARY – FOOD & HEALTH

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Diary summarised by Diane Shaw, LRM Research Team, July 2012. Version No 1.0

The Boteler Diary is a bound, type-written version of a diary given to Cyril Wanklyn by a Mrs Bacchus in 1923 and subsequently donated to the museum in 1943. Three summaries have been made, one showing the day-to-day life of the couple, one focusing on Henry's Coast Guard work and notes on the weather, and the third looking at food and health of the family. (The document used for these notes was a photocopy which showed that the original had been corrected or expanded by hand, possibly by Wanklyn?)

First part of diary written by Henry Boteler in 1827 (June 25 – Oct 21), and the second & third parts by his wife after their marriage in 1829 (Dec 1-15, 1829 & April 21- Sept 17, 1830). There would appear to be other missing volumes.

### Aug 1827

Sat 11 "Comr. Of Tartar called to say he had remained on shore for the night being too unwell to go on bd."

### September 1827

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> "Capt. Norris and I dined together drunk too much wine, slept on sofa till 12 !!! "

Tue 4<sup>th</sup> "Dined at home, Captain J Halsted tea'd with me."

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> "Capt. Norris breakfasted with me."

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> "Capt. Norris breakfasted with me."

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> "Dined with Capt. Adderley R.N."

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> "Boatman of the Eagle cal'd to receive money to subsist his boat crew left by the Eagle, gave him one pound...."

### October 1827

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> "Lyme Cobb Fair"

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> "Spencer, Halstead and Stocker dined with me."

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> "...drank tea at Mr Billman Kennedy's."

Thur 9<sup>th</sup> "Tea at Bellingham."

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> "Tea at Bellinghams"

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> "Tea Bellingham"

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On Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1829 Henry Boteler married Henrietta Bellingham, daughter of Mrs Bellingham who lived at High Cliff Lodge, now Little Cliff. The next sections of the diary are written by Henrietta.

### Dec 1829

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> (their wedding day?) [visited Exeter with Henry]"Left Lyme for Exeter at ½ past 8 ... reached Exeter at 10 past 8 that evening after a tedious and dismal journey" "We put up at the London Inn an immense establishment." "...ordered tea and chops in preference to dinner."

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> "...got beef-stakes (sic) for breakfast." "...Dined at 5, had a very good dinner. They have very nice beef stakes here." "Took our tea and went to bed."

Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> "Gave us among other good things a very fine woodcock for dinner, had a good basin of vermicilly soup for lunch."

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> (Returned to Lyme Regis)

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> (Alicia, Henry and Henrietta set off for Bath. Stopped at Ilchester for the night.)

"...we had tea and beaf (sic) steaks. Curled our hair and went to bed."

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> (At Bath) "Made an excellent breakfast on beef stakes (sic)."

## April 1830

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> "Had a little gin and water."

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> "Went up and dined with Mama. I went with Monique, Alicia and Minty to Henly's bottom. Came home by the town, had tea walked at Colly-head, then home to bed."

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> "Henry off to Abbotsbury. Went up the hill with Mama and the rest, took a bit of dinner with them. Henry returned at eight, had our dinner, he was very sorry I had waited for him, brought the potatoes from Abbotsbury. St Roe gave him some Chocolates."

Tues 27<sup>th</sup> "Henry gone out in the Ann, hopes to be home by 11. I shall go up and drink tea with them (her family). Got home ½ past ten, went to bed fell asleep about 12. Woke in half an hour's time by Henry returning, he got some bread and cheese and came to bed."

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> "I did not feel well and went to Mr Tucker's who gave me a dose. Went to bed very uncomfortable."

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> "Not able to get up, Mr Tucker came to see me. Feverish and sick. Mama a bad headache and sick. Mr. Tucker gave us doses. I got worse in the night and frightened Alicia. Poor Mama came into me."

## May

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> "Mr Tucker came early to see us. Mama better. Gave me a dose of castor oil."

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> "Alicia remained at home and took care of us. Got up."

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> "Alicia remained with me. Catherine came for a short time in the evening" "Alicia went up after tea for a few minutes."

Tue 4<sup>th</sup> "All going up to dine at High Cliff, I won't venture so far. Kate came and stayed with me this evening Alicia will be down soon."

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> "Dine at High Cliff" "Alicia and I returned early, had our Arrowroot and went to bed."

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> "John gone to Charmouth, Henry returned about 11, very angry, I did not let him know I had been ill."

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> "Alicia and Monique came down after breakfast and stopped till near 5. We all dined with Mama, rubber and whist in the evening."

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> "After dinner went up to Miss Govis's, returned to tea and a game of whist and home."

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> "went up to breakfast with them. Catherine Rankin there"

Tue 18<sup>th</sup> "Mama came down and made Gooseberry fool for me. As they all dine with me to-day -..."

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> "Henry got a very fine Turbot in the market this morning – about 6 – sent it up to Mama. Went up and dined with Mama. Emily Codrington (Codrington) drank tea there."

"Her brother called for her"

Tue 25<sup>th</sup> "...to dine at High Cliff to-day, and go to the ball in the evening. "Went up to High Cliff, after dinner came down with them and had my tea waited for Henry. Went to the ball long after nine. Played whist with Mama, Mr Belson and Henry, then home to bed."

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> "Mr Stein expects his friend Major Hillier today, we are able to go up and dine provided our friends do not arrive..." "Sent Mr Stein up some fish" "They have just come...." "They would not dine with me to-day, so we sent up a cold pye, chops etc."

## June

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> "John down breakfasting with us ...." "Mr Riley called, he dines with Mama."  
 Tue 8<sup>th</sup> "Minty went up and brought John down for breakfast." "They all came down and eat cockles with me. Sent invitations to the Mayor and Mr Belson to dine with us Friday." "Sent Ann to invite Mr French and Baston to breakfast."  
 Thur 10<sup>th</sup> "John and Henry rode over to see Mr Riley."  
 Fri 11<sup>th</sup> "... prepared for Mama's party. "...did not get to Mama's till past eight. The poor little Major (Hillier?) very sick in bed."  
 Sat 12<sup>th</sup> "Lunch with Monique and Alicia. Mama got one of her nasty headaches, in bed of course. Went down, nobody arrived as yet. ... (after dinner) went down to see Mama. She was a little better."  
 Sun 13<sup>th</sup> "...walked up to see Mama. She was a little better, staid (sic) with her until they returned (from Church). After dinner walked (up to see the Boteler family). Mrs Boteler lying on the bed. John got a bad stiff neck. He walked down with me and took a cup of tea."  
 Wed 16<sup>th</sup> "Mr Stein asked John to dine with him to-day. Gave John Mr. Stein's message, will be happy to accept of it, he has a bad ache made him lie down on the sofa. Got up at half past 4, feeling a little better. Went up in good time to High Cliff. Henry went up to John, returned with a note to Mr Stein, feeling too ill to come. Very sorry for it. The Major not able to walk with his foot."  
 Thur 17<sup>th</sup> "I went to ask how John was, found he was still in bed and not much better. The Major ill all day not able to come down."  
 Sun 20<sup>th</sup> "...the Major not able to come down."  
 Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> "John came down to breakfast, gave him pigs feet."  
 Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> "Henry....talks of going to ask Bertha to ride with him. Bertha got a head ache and would not go, Agnes was nervous and would not go, John had neither headache nor nervous so did go."  
 Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>"Henry is gone to the fish market"  
 Sat 26<sup>th</sup> "Mr Stein not very well. I felt very sick and uncomfortable this morning. Take a dose to-night." ".....Took a dose."  
 Sun 27<sup>th</sup>"Maria wrote down to know if Henry would like to see the dog. He felt sick and had a headache and could not go. (The visiting Boteler family's dog Ranger died.)  
 Mon 28<sup>th</sup> "Henry gone to see his horse shot (should this be shod?)."  
 Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Henrietta has asked the family to dine with her. "Bertha and Agnes will not come to dine but Mrs Boteler, Marie and John will. Sent a note to Mr Stein he would be happy to come, Mama does not dine with me but comes down in the evening with Alicia. Monique dines with us. Diner over, all got on very well. Mama, Alicia, Minty and Agnes down to tea. Mr Brown also with us.  
 Wed 30<sup>th</sup> "Found Capt. Boteler at Mr Stiles, we returned to Mamas together, he took his bread and cheese and we came home.

## July

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> "Henry went up to John – not able to come up to dinner being sick."  
 Tue 13<sup>th</sup> "Took a nice walk...came home to Mama's and lunched. Dine at Mama's.  
 Wed 14<sup>th</sup> "Propose going to the Picnics to-morrow  
 Thur 15<sup>th</sup> "Went up to Mama's after 10, could not take courage to go before breakfast. All ready to set out, we were to join the Botelers in the fields. Sent a little boy with our basket of provisions, had a delightful walk and enjoyed ourselves much."  
 Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> "Mama and Monique and Minty came up in the eve<sup>g</sup>. Alicia's foot too bad."  
 Wed 28<sup>th</sup> "Henry beating up recruits for the Pic-nic. There is to be a Ball on Tuesday, Pic-nic Wednesday."

## August

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> "Mr Stein gives a Pic-nic sort of party to-morrow, at least a dinner of cold meat."

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> "Went up to Mr Stein, got my hair done by Kate on the way. Had a very nice dinner if I could but have enjoyed it – plenty of champaign (sic) etc" ". .... till near tea time. Afterwards I played at cards, the rest danced, and all home in good time leaving the gentlemen to take a glass of brandy and water."

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> "Busy sending off things to the Pic-nics, we went about 2. The day very fine, we expected Mrs. Donne would give us tea but she did not. Mama asked some of the party to come and drink tea with her, which they did."

Thur 12<sup>th</sup> "Alicia tormented with headache."

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> [The Boteler and Bellingham families set out for Exeter soon after nine, travelling along the Sidmouth Road, changing horses at Sidmouth.] "Reached Exeter about 3, the hotel so full they could not give us very good rooms." Went out walking immediately, got some very bad soup at a Pastry Cook's, returned home to dinner."

Thur 19<sup>th</sup> "Mama complained of a little headache and she would not go to the races. The races very poor." "Came home about 6, much surprised and disappointed at seeing Mama lying on the bed very sick...Mama lying on the bed very sick. Of course could not go to the ball at the Clarence (sic) this eveg as intended."

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> "Ordered the carriage at twelve. Dressed Mama and got her some arrowroot. Came home (to Lyme Regis about 6. The girls dined with Mama. Mama went to bed after dinner."

No diary entries Sat 21<sup>st</sup> to Thur 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> "Got a little cold so took a dose last night, felt very sick."

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> "We all went to the ball in the evening. Edward (Henry's brother) had such a headache he could not go."

## September

Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> "Asked them all to come down and dine. Mama making me a Charlotte. Alicia shelling peas. Had a very nice dinner. Mr Stein returned. Mr Brown dined along with Lt. Symons of the Sprightly, called after dinner he was shown into the parlour along with the gentlemen. Afterwards came upstairs to tea, finished the eveg. with cards."

Sep 5<sup>th</sup> Edwd. down breakfasting with me and Henry. Dined with Mama. Mr Codrington breakfasts with us to-morrow."

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> "Alicia and I played battledore and shuttlecock." "When Henry returned with Mr Codrington, well wet through and only killed 2 rabbits." "John shot a bumble bee"

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> "Alicia so hoarse scarcely able to speak."

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> "went to Mrs Holland's in the evening." "Kate sung ... Mr Holland and Miss Raywood played. Alicia did not go to Mrs Holland's as her cold was not gone, and for a party of that kind it was not worth while to run the chance of increasing it."

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> "Henry out hunting with Mr Stein, returned sooner than I expected being overtaken in a very heavy shower, took shelter and then thought it too late to go on."

This is the last entry.  
followed by  
"Missed a week from this to the other vol."