

The Diary of a London Quaker Apprentice, 1765-1768

AMONG papers belonging to the late J. J. Green's Collection is a copy of the diary (1765—1768) of Edward Binyon,¹ of Northampton, apprentice in London. It is in the handwriting of J. J. Green. Extracts are given below.

1765

April 16th. Left Burford School in order to come to London, W. Grover² coming with me to town, desiring to go to Brighthelmstone, about 3 o'clock in y^e afternoon.

July 16th. Was bound apprentice to Daniel Vandewall,³ linen draper at the Leg and Star, Cheapside, London, for seven years, at the White Lyon Tavern⁴ in Bishopsgate Street.

November. I fell ill with the small pox.

1766

Feb. 13. Went down to Northampton to spend a few weeks at home.

March 22. Agreed with the barber to comb my Wig 3 Times and to shave me twice p week for 6/- p Quarter.

April 13. [entry in cypher. Read by J. J. Green.]
Went into the new river for the first time this year.

May 2nd. Leonard Ellington⁵ came to Town from Burford. N.B. He brought me 2 letters.

May 16. Went with Master and M[arkes] Vandewall to see the Exhibition of the Society of Artists of G.B. at Spring Gardens. Expenses 1/-.

May 17. Tho^s Huntley⁶ came to town from Burford. I dined and drank tea with him at Fr^d Ellington's & spent the evening with him at the Bull Inn in Bishopsgate Street.

May 24. Our maid Kitty came to town from Northampton. N.B. I went to the Inn to meet her. Went with her and her aunt to see the Waxwork [etc.]

June 14. Agreed with Mary (the cook) to clean me a pair of shoes every day for 2/6 p Quart^r.

August 7th. Nathaniel Sterry and myself lay in this house in the Poultry the first of all the family and for the first time.

August 15. W^m Grover came to town from Burford. Lenny Ellington and myself went to meet him at the Inn.

August 21. Lay in my own room for the first time. N.B. N. Sterry lay with me.

September 6. Went with Fr^d Ellington and son in their chariot to Ponders End to tea.

September 7. Went with them to Enfield Meeting. After Tea Lenny and his Father rode in their Jemmy and I on horseback about 8 miles.

Sept. 8th. Lenny, I & his father took a walk to see the Huntsmen, & the rest of the Time before Dinner we employed in fishing in their Pond. N.B. Wet Weather & no sport. After dinner Lenny & I rowed about in their Boat or Cooler for Beer, and so 2 Garden Chairs put in it back to back till tea ; after tea Fr^d Ellington & I rode in the Jemmy & Lenny on the Mare for about an hour and a half. N.B. I drove.

Sept. 9th. Fr^d Ellington, Lenny & I came to Town in their Jemmy as far as the Turnpike on this side Tottenham. Stayed & breakfasted with them in Broad Street, & came home about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 o'clock. N.B. We had some Water Gruel before we set out Ponders End.

Sept. 27. Went with Master after dinner to Blackwall to see some India ships. Stayed there an Hour & half. Had some Brandy & Water. Master smoak'd. Walked home again by 6 o'clock. N.B. There was one ship building upon the stocks. I remark'd the White Horse at Poplar.

[Entry in cypher—"bathed in the New River" etc.]

Oct. 15. Went to the Young Folks Quarterly Meeting held at Grace-church Street Meeting House.

[Though his master was from home the apprentice seemed to secure plenty of time to go about with his brother from Northampton.]

November 2nd [Sunday] Spent the whole day with my brother, viz. called on him in the morning at his Inn after I had breakfasted, called & breakfasted with Mrs. Valentine ; then went to Gracious St. Meeting : Dinner with Jemmy Freeman ; after dinner went in Co. with Mr. Valentine to the Park. Saw the Elephants and Zebra ; from thence to

Don Saltero's coffee house at Chelsea⁷, stayed there till near 5 o'clock, had some coffee and hot buns. My brother & myself came home in the Chelsea stage: he having a sore toe; got home to Mr. Valentine's about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 o'clock, where we supt: I spent the evening.

Nov. 4. Supt & spent the evening with him at Dicky Chesters.⁸

1767

Jan. 13th. Master gave me leave about 3 o'clock in the afternoon to go to the Park to see the People scate, stay'd there till $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour past 4 o'clock.

21st. Went to Young Folks Quarterly Meeting, held at Grace Church Street. N.B. The meeting held till very near 9 o'clock, which began at 5 in the evening.

May 20. Lost my pocket Hk as I was going to Wood street, between 9 and 10 o'clock at Night.

Agreed with my Barber to find me in Wiggs, shaving, etc. for £4 4. p ann. N.B. He has promised to make me 2 new Wiggs a year, if not more.

May 10th. After tea I went & sat an hour with Dr. J. C. Lettsom⁹ at J. Freeman's as he was alone p himself

15th. I went to Fr^d Ellingtons & L. Ellington & myself went directly to Littlewoods Livery Stables at the Man in the Moon in Chiswell Street & took 2 of their Horses and rode to Barking; got to Barking ab^t 12 o'clock, had some refreshment at the George Inn, stay'd there till L. E. had done his business, return'd home ab^t 2 oclock & got to Fr^d Ellington's again ab^t 4. Stay'd there & had some bread, butter etc & got home ab^t 40 min. past 4 o'clock.

[During a visit to London by the writer's mother and sister from Northampton.]

May 17th. Call'd on them at their lodgings about 10'clock Morn. & went with my sister to Devonshire House Meeting. Dined with them and cousin J. Vastons at my Uncle Vastons.¹⁰ Drank tea with them at their Lodgings. N.B. Miss Sterry and a young gentleman that came with her M. & Mrs. Page drank Tea with us also. After Tea, my sister, Miss Sterry, & 2 young Ladies that lived next door to Mr. Page went in a Coach to the Magdalen.¹¹ Mr. Page, & a young gent. that came with the 2 Ladies & myself walk'd to the Magdalen. The Ladies return'd in a Coach & we 4 gents walk'd home again. Supt with my Mother & Sister

the same evening at my Uncle Vaston's. After supper attended them to their lodgings & got home myself at 15 Min. past 10'clock.

May 23. N.B. My sister went to the Play as Mr. Garrick acted that night.

May 24. Went to them at their Lodgings after Morn: Meeting. Mr. Jacob Jackson call'd upon us in a Coach abt 30 Min. past 1 o'clock. We went with him p way of the new road to dine with the Bishop of Kildare [Charles Jackson] & his Lady in Hollis Street, Cavendish Square. After dinner Mr. Charles Baker & myself took a walk in the Park & got to the Bishop's again abt 6 o'clock to tea.

May 29. N. Sterry went out as soon as shop was shut & did not return till 15 min. past 9 o'clock which detain'd me from going out as soon as I had intended. I did not get home till past 11 o'clock.

May 31. Call'd on them at their Lodgings before Morn. Meeting. Dined with them at my Uncle Vaston's for the last Time, as he behaved very ungentielly to my Mother & she has charged my sister & me never to dine or sup there any more, as not intending to do it herself. We went away as soon as we had dined & I went to Grace Church Meeting on account of speaking to Dr. Fothergill.¹² Drank Tea with them, my cousins S. & J. Vaston at their Lodgings. My mother & sister went to take their Leave of my Uncle Vaston. S. Vaston came after supper to set with us & stay'd till we went away which was about 15 Min. before 11 o'clock in a Coach. The Coach broke down in going along London Wall, one of the Leathers break^d. There was fortunately a gentleman passing by that helped us out of the Coach. There was also another Coach going with a fare a little further, which call'd in coming back & took us up & carried us safe to the George Inn in Smithfield, where I took my Leave & left them abt 20 min. past 11 o'clock. My Mother treated me with the same Coach and I got home by 30 Min. past 11.

My Mother made me a present of a mettal watch in a black shagreen case, String, seal, etc. The Maker's name M. Ransom, London No. 3975. Bought of Tho^s Wagstaffe,¹³ watch & clockmaker in Grace Church Street, London. My Sister also made me a Present of 4 Hearts united work'd in point to wear in the watch for her sake.

[They returned home on June 1. Then the arrival of Mary Huntley is recorded and their meetings on various occasions.]

June 7. Drank Tea with her at Fr^d Ellingtons. There was some comp^y to tea & amongst them Sally Cartwright, but we did not then know one another.

June 14. Drank Tea with her at Fr^d Ellingtons. After Tea walk'd with her and the 2 Miss Ellingtons to the Magdalen where we were refused admittance as being 3 Min. too late ; we stay'd there till 7 o'clock to see if the Dr. would take us in with him, but he did not come out ; so we walked back.

21. After tea we walk'd to the Magdalen where we stay'd in one of the rooms till S. Ellington & a young Lady with her came with a ticket. Lenny had slip'd into the Chapell unobserved among the Croud. After Service was over we walk'd home together.

June 23. Went with her, S. & L. Ellington, at 5 o'clock Morn to the Angell Inn, the back of St. Clements Church in the Strand & saw her go of ab^t 6 oclock in the Henley Stage.

19. Went with J. Zachary¹⁴ & his Father ab^t 30 min. past 5 oclock in a Coach to the British Museum, which we were 1 hour & 45 min. in seeing. . . . were to have went, but they went to see the famous Price perform his various feats of horsemanship. N.B. It was my birthday, which I did not think of till I was coming home.

June 12 (cypher). Bathed in the New River for the first time this year ab^t 7 o'clock morn. : I call'd on L. Zachary who went with me.

Sept. 20. Din'd at J. Vastons at Clapton in Co. with Syl Bevan.¹⁵

Oct. 15 (cypher). Went with N. Sterry ab^t 30 min. past 6 o'clock to Covent Garden theatre, there we got into the 1/^s gallery & sat the 2 last acts of the beggars opera with harlewvin¹⁶ doctor Faustus for the entertainment. N.B. It was the first time that I ever sat at a play in my life.

16 (cypher). Went with N. Sterry ab^t 15 min. past 7 o'clock to Drury Lane theatre. There we got into the 2/^s gallery for $\frac{1}{2}$ price & sat the latter part of Tancred & sigismunda with harlewvins Invasion for the entertainment.

17. Went by myself ab^t 7 o'clock to Covent Garden theatre . . . & sat the latter part of Jane Shore with

the royal chace or harlewvins skeleton for the entertainment.
N.B. Master & Mrs lodged at Clapton.

November 15. Went with L. Ellington after Morn. meeting on one of their horses to dine with Mr. Jackson of Chelsea ; after dinner we went with Jackson & his wife to their Meeting (Moravians). After Meeting we returned to their House & drank Tea & returned to town & L.E. & myself went to the Even^s Meeting.

[On attending another theatrical performance, the diarist writes : " Master gave me leave to go."]

1768

June 22. (cypher) Bathed in the river at talwin & forsters at bromley hall¹⁷ in C^o with N. Sterry for the first time this season.

[On August 8, our apprentice had a holiday, and went to Burford, and on the 29th he reached London again. " I was found the next day in my Business as usual, my agreeable trip to Burford appearing then no more than a pleasant dream."]

NOTES

¹ Edward Binyon () was a son of Edward Binyon (- 1762), and Mary, his wife (c. 1719-1778). With the Diary is a document entitled : " E. Binyon's Cobby of his Freedom of the Town of Northampton," in which he is described as Edward Binyon, Tanner, a Quaker, son of Thomas Binyon, Tanner. Date of admission, 18 April, 1734.

At the conclusion of his schooldays at Thomas Huntley's at Burford, Oxfordshire, Edward Binyon, the younger, was apprenticed to Daniel Vandewall. The following is a copy of the Articles of Agreement :

" Articles of Agreement between Mary Binyon and Daniel Vandewall concerning Edward Binyon.

" On the day he is bound apprentice M Binyon is to pay the sum of £315 in consideration of which if Ed Binyon shou'd die in the 1st year Danl Vandewall is to return £200, on the same condition at the end of the 2nd year £150, & at the expiration of the 3rd year £75. If the fees of binding do not exceed £3, D.V. is to bear the charge, if more, to be equally divided ; D.V. to defray the expence of washing his Linnen, &c. It's mutually agreed that at the end of 6 years he shall have leave to ride on account of Business, in case he shou'd have the small pox [he had it] he is not to be removed out of the house ; all charges attending that distemper or whenever the attendance of a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary is necessary M Binyon is to defray the same. We do hereby agree & abide by the above & have hereunto interchangeably set our hands, this 11th day of March 1765.

Witness
JAMES VASTON, JUNR.

MARY BINYON
DAN : VANDEWALL."

A memorandum book accompanied the original Diary, in which it is stated " Edwd Binyon, Tottenham, moved to No. 12 Britannia Row, Islington, Oct. 2nd 1781." The Diary is written in a small book with

mottled red and blue cover. J. J. Green's copy, from which we print, was made in 1904 from the original among family papers belonging to Lydia Whitehead.

² William Grover (1752-1825) was a son of William and Elizabeth (Ellis) Grover, of Brighton. Presumably he was at this time a scholar at Burford. He became a prominent Friend and Elder, married Isabel Weatherald (1748-1839) and lived at Stansted Mount-Fitchet, Co. Essex. xiv. ; Smith, *Cata.* ; Penney, *My Ancestors*.

³ Daniel Vandewall (1727-1772). He married his first cousin, Sarah Vandewall, while living at Wellingborough, apparently.

⁴ The White Lyon Tavern, in Bishopsgate Street and Cornhill, was once in Quaker hands, and George Fox and others visited there at times. See *Camb. Jnl. Supp.*, p. 340.

⁵ Ellington, of Wellingborough, was a name known among Friends for many years. Francis Ellington, upholsterer, was one of the first to receive Truth and Friends, being convinced by William Dewsbury at Harborough fair in 1654. Joseph Smith records tracts by him issued 1655 to 1665. (*Cata.*) See i. ii. ; *F.P.T.*

There was also a Leonard Ellington of Hunts. in 1668.

The names Francis and Leonard survived many years in the family. The Index to *The Annual Monitor*, 1813-1892, does not contain the name.

"Friend Ellington" was perhaps *Leonard* Ellington. We read in *Dr. John Fothergill and His Friends*, 1919, that Leonard Ellington was chosen, with others, to act as arbitrator in the matter of *Fothergill v. Leeds*, in 1770.

⁶ Thomas Huntley (1733-1813) lived at Burford, Oxon, all his life. He commenced a school at the age of eighteen and conducted it for over fifty years. He was a clerk of London Y.M. in 1792 and a Minister for many years. He wrote several school books. He was a son of Joseph and Mary Huntley, of Burford, and married Mary Coles, of Henley, in 1770.

xv. xvii. ; Smith, *Cata.*

⁷ Don Saltero's was a famous coffee-tavern in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. It was opened in 1695, by James Salter, a former servant of Sir Hans Sloane, who had in it a collection of Spanish and other "curiosities," and Salter was nicknamed "Don Saltero" therefrom. Steele wrote an account of Salter and his collection in *The Tatler*. The tavern was the resort of the wits and social figures of the district. Many editions were issued of the catalogue of the extraordinary exhibits in the tavern. Don Saltero's flourished for over a century.

Note by J. Henry Quinn, Chelsea Borough Librarian, 1925.

⁸ Richard Chester (c. 1735-1810) and Patience Chester (c. 1742-1802) were Friends of Stoke Newington, near London. Rachel Wilson died at their home in 1775. Richard Chester was Y.M. Clerk in 1784 and his wife was clerk of the Women's Meeting, 1788 to 1794. The abbreviated form of the first name (Dickie) was not uncommon at this period ; see Tommy Bland in xx. 77, 86.

x. xii. xvi.

⁹ John Coakley Lettsom (1744-1815) was the well-known London doctor, assisted into fame by Dr. John Fothergill. At this time he was about twenty-three years of age and working in a London hospital. (Jenkins, *Tortola*, 1923, chap. vii.)

vi. vii. ix. x. xiii. xv. xvi. xx.

¹⁰ Little has, so far, been recovered from the ravages of time respecting the Vaston family. In 1780 Sarah Vaston, of Homerton, married Benjamin Soundy (*Gent's. Mag.*). Mary Vaston, of Clapton, died in 1826, aged 87.

v.

¹¹ Magdalen Hospital for the reformation and relief of penitent prostitutes was instituted in 1758, the first house being in Prescott Street, Goodman's Fields. The site was found to be inconvenient, and in 1772 another was obtained in St. George's Fields (the south end of Blackfriars Road). This was thought to be in the country, but a century later was unsuitable, and the institution was removed to Streatham in 1868. From the character of the inmates the institution would not be much open to the public.

Note by J. Henry Quinn, Chelsea Borough Librarian, 1925.

¹² John Fothergill, M.D. (1712-1780). See *Dr. John Fothergill and His Friends*, by R. Hingston Fox, 1919.

i. iii.-ix. xi. xiii. xv. xvi. xviii. xx. ; *Bulletin F. H. S. Phila.* i.-iii. v. ix. x. ; Rancocas *John Woolman ; Tortola.*

¹³ Thomas Wagstaffe (1724-1802) was a noted clockmaker. Friends returning from Europe to America often took his clocks back with them ; hence the many Wagstaffe longcase clocks in U.S.A.

viii.-x. xix.

¹⁴ Thomas Zachary (c. 1622-1686) lived at Beaconsfield, Co. Bucks., and removed later to London. In 1725 there was another of the name, "citizen and skinner of London." In 1769 there was living another of the name. Daniel and Elizabeth Zachary lived at High Wycombe. Deaths of members of the family are reported in *The Annual Monitor*, 1816 to 1870.

i. xiii. xvi.

¹⁵ This would be Silvanus Bevan (1743-1830), son of Timothy and Elizabeth Bevan, of Plough Court, Lombard Street. He was educated at Hackney, probably at the school of Forster and Hodgkin (xx. 85). He was first a chemist and then a banker. He married Isabella Wakefield in 1769 ; she died seven months later, aged seventeen. He remarried. (*History of the Bevan Family*, 1924, chap. iii.)

v. xvi.

¹⁶ In a newspaper, published before Christmas, 1924, we read : "Old-time Harlequinade: A revival of the humours of the harlequinade promises to be a feature of Christmas at the theatres. Preparatory to the visit of the Hippodrome revue, 'Leap Year,' to Manchester next week for the Christmas season, the authors have strengthened it with a seasonable scene built on the tradition of an old-time harlequinade. George Robey as the clown gives a pleasure at once fresh and reminiscent, and Columbine and Harlequin trip themselves into the affections of an enthusiastic audience."

¹⁷ Joseph Talwin (c. 1718-1793) lived at Bromley and Joseph Foster (c. 1761-1835) lived at Bromley Hall. There was also a Thomas Foster, of Bromley Hall, who was disowned for holding unitarian views and supporting Hannah Barnard, 1814 (*London Y.M. during 250 Years*). See xvi. 10 for a description of these beautiful residences.