



DIARY

of

Mary Florence Leviny
1890 to 1896

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DIARY OF MARY LEVINY (complete transcript)[start age 21yrs]

P1 **1890 1891** Erne left for Melbourne Nov 17th

Mona and I joined Camp on Friday or Thursday.

Dec 3rd Went to tea to Mrs McIsaac last night and stayed the night

April 22nd Went to Ballarat with Papa and Mama and Katie (excursion) Pioneers enjoyed ourselves very much. After having seen Exhibition (childrens) and had lunch met a vehicle with Mr and Mrs Cornish who beckoned to us and we were then driven round the city, going to Gardens first, by Mrs Oddy. Flight from Pompeii lovely sculptures in white marble. The gardens and Fernery also very beautiful. Visited observatory, picture gallery shown where nuggets found and Eureka stockade. Ballarat nice town but not impressive

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May 3rd Wrote letter to Ernie

Monday May 4th made damson jam

Made during week Quince Jam, Jelly, and Marmalade

Mon 11th Mother Ilma and I went to Melbourne and had teeth attended to of all three Ilma had two drawn and I went with her. Bought Jacket and hat for self and Mother jacket and bonnet also each dress and dress of brown serge for Ilma and Katie terracotta for baby and Dorothy, brown for Gertie.

18th May Erne's birthday

20th Called with Mother at the Parsonage; received letter Kate McInnes.

July 21st Just home from Mrs Gelfillans (?) Spent evening with Lily Miss Threull Rene and Mademoiselle

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Erne also went back to camp after being with us from Friday to today Tuesday

Nov Monday 16th 1891 I commenced painting with Miss Sutherland painted on a ginger jar Miss S thought it was very good and gave me a brown jug to do also arrived at Mrs Langs after visit to McInnes since Tuesday I hope I succeed with painting.

17th Received letter from Katie and Gertie painted part container {?} wrote Papa and Mother

Sat Funny day Mr and Mrs Lang went out to tea and so had it alone with Mr Wallace. I carved and he poured out tea wandered all about in the afternoon returned five oclock worked at bodice and nuns' veiling

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Monday 23rd Painting again today Miss Sutherland say I had a great ability and said before that I had a splendid eye for drawing and so I felt thankful.

Thursday Yesterday I went with Papa and Mother to the students' exhibition of paintings Father and Mother came down her Tuesday evening

Sat Went with Father and Mother to Beaumaris made the circuit and spent several pleasant hours

Wed Nothing much went to Buzzards all out, and went to Mrs Harvies in the evening

On Tuesday Mrs Lang was out to dinner so I took the head of the table and carved the fowl, Mr Crawford on

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one side and Mr Wallace on the other and Mr Lang at the end.

Thursday, have written Baby and Mother finished my first painting today the largest one with vase and curtain.

Friday Went sketching to Heidelberg which I enjoyed although a very hot day received letter from Mother with one from Anna and Ada Myring enclosed

Sat In the evening went with Mrs Lang to Concert in memory of Mozart Town Hall music composed by Mozart, the Messiah, Symphony very beautiful

Sunday very cold and windy went to the cathedral accompanied by Mr Wallis afternoon service. (too funny)

Monday painting and Tuesday painting and went to studio Miss Sutherland considers that

P6 I require a little practice and I will as well and better than the girls who have been practicing a good while

Wed Went to Mrs Hattons to spend the day went to "Seige of Paris" after tea Willie Hatton brought me home

Thursday. Went to Mrs Browne to Dinner went to McGinnis to tea and concert and stayed the night

*Monday 14th Came to the Hollies.

Tuesday Went into town and in the evening went with Walter to speech day at Hawthorne town Hall of Camberwell Grammar School

Thursday wrote Mother and Mrs Carlisle

Friday went into town and painted [crossed out]

When I said goodbye to Mr Crawford

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he took out of his pocket two handkerchiefs pinned together made us laugh

Sat painted the lattice work with Walter in the afternoon went to the zoo with Mrs Browne

Sunday Went in the morning with Walter to church and afternoon to Buzzards to tea and again to church in the evening

Monday, painted with Walter, afternoon went into town, got home and found Walter had tickets to the theatre "Yoemen of the Guard" and had only half an hour to dress and have my tea, managed it, and enjoyed it very much a very pleasant windup to a very pleasant visit to the Hollies

Tuesday Went to Mrs McInnis to stay the night and go

P8 Castlemaine with Sallie luggage did n't arrive to go with Sallie so went home by express (Wednesday)

Wed Home after very pleasant visit of six weeks all pleased to see me, quite festive all the vases filled with fresh flowers and a little bouquet from Grace from her garden

1892

Have had Lindsay Buzzard and Sallie McInnes for seven days Lindsay from Thursday till Monday Sallie from Friday to Wednesday.

Jessie McLoud Grace's sister came Tuesday. Received a very nice and affectionate letter from Miss Biggall

Tuesday 12th Last Sat the 9th went with Mr and Mrs

P9 Robertson Katie and Ilma and Mrs Billinghamurst to Fryerstown and from thence to Glenluce the Loddon at Glenluce is very pretty single water lilies floating on the water, saw a diamond [?] sparrow which came eating the grass seeds, quite close to us as we were sitting on the bank under the trees

Sat 16. In the morning made bottled apricots six bottles (put lids on loosely then screwed down tightly when done ten minutes or twelve) in afternoon Ilma and I went with Mrs Robertson and son Horace Mrs McCoy and son Dela Mrs Gilfillen, Mrs Billinghamurst and Mrs Crawford to Expedition Pass to get rushed.

Jan 31st Went to church and Sunday school, wrote Mrs McInnes

P10

Feb 1st Received letter from Walter Browne

Feb 9th Tuesday Mother Papa and Ilma went to Melb, Ilma to school Papa and Mother to Port Albert.

Wed 10th Went Elphinstone to English picnic took gerty, Dorothy and Hilda Came home train leaving Elphinstone 7.15 met Cross who told us the land had been on fire bet. 20 and 30 panels of fence burnt

Thursday, Been three time to land today and twice to town interviewing bobbies at the land. Wrote Ilma and sent eight stamps and paper. Letter from Aunt Anna

13th Called Mrs Best and Mrs Billinghursts letter from Erne also posted one to him

16th received letter from Mother

18th received letter from Mother and Aunt Fannie

20th Since Mother has been away have had rather an anxious time Baby's head has been bad with the Chickenpox and

P11

Gertie has had a very bad sore throat but I am thankful to say I think she is now on the mend

Feb 25th Took all the children Katie Gertie Dorothy and Baby by the excursion to meet mother and father We agree that it is a mistake to take them all at one time These trains were the first to go over the viaduct

March During march I went for a moonlight picnic a most silly affair the sky clouded over and by the time we got to our camping spot and laid the cloth and eaten the tea we could hardly distinguish one another and to make matters worse it commenced to rain, I am not in a hurry to go to any more moonlight picnics. I also went to Kyneton for a week to the Carlises and had a very pleasant visit

P12

April 15th Ernest Ilma and Amy Hornabrook came home for the Easter holidays. (Amy seems a very nice girl)

21st Papa went to Melbourne by 4.10 train and Erne by the eight. Went for a drive around by Harcourt and Golden Point had a row on the reservoir and Amy and I had a run up the bank and Erne had to come to my rescue and pull me up.

22nd Amy had letter from Miss Irving to say she must go back today and went by the 4.10 train

23rd Ilma went by first train

24th Wrote to Kate and Sally

May 9th Went Melb on the 9th, Monday with Mother very pleasant trip returned Thursday Saw opening of parliament. Theatre Mrs Bernard Beere (as in looking glass) gallery British pictures met Marie MacMeihan and May Williamson there.

P13

May 17th Wrote to Ernest.

June 8th Went to hear and see max O'Neill, was just a little disappointed in him.

12th Wrote to Ilma

18th Letter from Lindsay B to mother asking if he could have his little one Dorothy to his party in celebration of Twenty first birthday

19th Wrote to Erne

July 15th made my own dress white and pale blue ribbons Went to ball given by nine ladies of Castlemaine. Mrs Billinghurst, Best, Aither, Robertson, Thompson (2), Ramsey, Reid, and Mother. Nicest ball Ive been to

27th July Making Father's dressing gown

August 2nd Hilda's birthday

August 8 Wrote to Erne finished his two shirts all but pocket

10th Sent Erne letter and shirt

22nd Mother's birthday wrote Aunt Fanny Papa when to Melb by 4 train

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28th Went to lecture, with Mother "Evolution of Music" by Henry John King.

Letter from Ilma and Miss Bigall.

Ilma had been to the Hollies and stayed from Sat till Monday. Invitation for me to stay at the Hollies while in Melbourne.

Nov 12th Ilma's birthday Came home Nov 4 after thoroughly enjoying my visit to the Hollies, stayed 2 days. And a half at the McGinnis' and one night at Coffee palace with mother who came to take Ilma home from school, stayed three days and we did how shopping Mother bought for herself pretty grey bonnet and dress and for me pretty green (pale). Went to theatre twice, the day I arrived Walter took Lydia Biggall from Gippsland and I to see "A village priest" Mr Githerage was the priest

P15

The acting was very good but did not care much for the piece. The other piece we saw was Walker, London very laughable, Miss Biggall took Jenny Lydia and I with Walter and Arthur Ingle, the performance commenced with an act entitled "In honour bound".

Jenny went home just a week before I did Went to an Exhibition Concert and to the Town Hall to hear the "Creation", also to the Queen's Fund Bazaar. Miss Biggall took Lydia and I to the Flower Show at Brighton which was very interesting there were not only flowers but poultry, bees, vehicles, pottery, a potter's wheel with man working at it bath heaters etc it was all very interesting, there were also the nicest looking vegetables.

I made Walter learn the counties of Victoria and say them all off to me, which he did, It was fun

P16

Jenny and I had our photos taken and did a good deal of shopping together. Went together to get a pr of riding boots (a present from Willie Browne to Jenny) don't think I had a really solemn face the whole time it was so funny Jenny trying them on. Had several games of tennis Jenny and I called on Mrs Bussell. We also went with Walter and Arthur Ingle to a Rose ball at Camberwell Shire Hall had program full all but the one dance spent an evening at the Gosmans' and Buzzards'

This time met Willie Browne. Aunt Anna has now returned to Berlin. Hilda has the last week had mumps which are now on the mend.

Ilma and Dorothy went for a drive to Fryerstown with Mrs Robertson and I went yesterday with her to Yandoit the country was lovely

P17 Nov 22 Mother had a letter from Erne and Mrs Myring Erne Expects to be with us Wed (tomorrow) evening and Mrs Myring wishes to come down for a week mother and I spent the evening at the Halford yesterday was taken into supper by Mr Pebbles Wed Ernest and I went to a dance to the Halfords.

Thurs **Dec** 1st We had an evening, had the new room decorated and lit with candles and every one seemed to enjoy it. I think they were surprised to see it all decorated and the floor prepared for dancing. Father looked very nice. Those who came were Renie McCay, Charlotte Gilfillen, Miss Evans (Dr Woolley's sister in law) Maud and Bessie Halford, Winnie Brotherton, Lily could n't come not being able to go out until she is stronger, Messers McGee, Mitchell, Jim and Robert Thompson, Langlands and Mr and Mrs Billinghamurst

P18

Dec 2nd Ern went back to Melbourne boarding with Mrs Lang.

Jessie went home as her father wanted her and Mary Ann Lacy from Chewton came in her place.

20th Ernest came home, rubbing with Acetic every night, I think it is doing him good.

Went down and helped decorate the church Erne and I did the sconces

31st Arranged the vases in the church I have promised to do them three months in the year

1893 1 January,

Louis' birthday went to Sunday school when I returned found Victor Burnett and Joe Myring here

9th Monday Got up at six and Katie and I went with Ernest to the station to see him off to Melbourne

P18A

Janry Ernest stayed about a fortnight in Melbourne a few days after he returned I took Katie and Gertie down to Melbourne with Father, by the A.N.A. excursion we stayed from the Thursday to the following Thursday. Father went home on Monday we had most enjoyable time excepting time at dentists when Dr Merrill stopped Gertie's front teeth, and then afterwards O'Neill took three teeth out Gert having ether and chloroform. I went out to Camberwell while the other's went in to Uncle Charley's, there was no one at home the Hollies' except Arthur Ingle who sauntered around while I was at the door

P19

and then walked down with me as far as McGinnes' They were in with exception of Kate then went to Uncle's and then had tea

Ernest came down Wed day before we came home and returned with us made up his mind to go to Mr Summerville as an assistant surveyor and went.

March Sunday have stayed home all day on account swollen face from cold

1893

May 24th Queen's birthday Father went to the doctor about his hand which he had hurt previously by the cemented basin, under pump, slipping from Cross' hold and grazing Father's hand. A week after (Wednesday May 31st) Drs Dobson Reid and Wooley

P20

had a consultation about Father's hand and decided to cut a piece out. Father took chloroform had no bad effects

June 30th The doctor grafted his hand about a week ago taking skin from my arm, some have taken but not all and he may want some more of my skin tomorrow.

Mr and Mrs Robertson came to tea and said goodbye as they are leaving Castlemaine Monday.

June 1st The doctor cut another piece of my skin off my arm is painful **July** 14th

Bachelors' ball the best that they have had, I reconstructed my white dress, by putting pale blue velveteen sleeves and trimming lace and two bands net round skirt, it looked quite like a new one .

P21

July 1st Saturday 1893 Ernest went to Melb to start at the Observatory on Monday.

August 1st A lovely day if all August is bright like this I shall be. The inside of the Greenhouse finished ready for the plants.

Aug 2nd Hilda's birthday

Aug 14th Dorothy's birthday

Aug 22nd Mother's birthday

Aug 26 Ilma and I went to Melb with Miss Binns and Charlotte Gilfillan to hear a Concert conducted by Marshall Hall, Mr King asked Charlotte to ask us and we actually even stayed at the Hollies Sat 26th until Wednesday, met Ingle for the first time. Concert in Town Hall enjoyed it very much indeed after the concert Mr Y.E. took

P22

us to Gunslers to have afternoon tea (Miss Nomens (two), Charlotte, Mr Hasell, secretary, Ilma, Ernest and I), very tame afternoon tea Mr King also introduced a Mr Forsyth to us who went with us to the Concert. In the evening Miss Biggall took me to another concert in the Town Hall accompanied by Arthur Ingle and Ingle Browne It was Madar Antoinette Stirling's Concert and was not good. Sunday went twice to Church and Miss B and I went to Home and Foreign (?) Bible Society meeting in afternoon
Monday Ingle took us to the Circus and Tuesday we went to a smoke night Concert the first according to Mr H J King that ladies have been to for 25 years, we the 2 Miss Nomens and Ilma and I and Ernest

P23

sat behind a screen on the stage which we reached by going down underground it was very funny, I liked hearing all the men's voices the first man that came up the stairs to come on the stage simply stared his eyes looked so round and he looked altogether horrified, I felt rather much inclined to laugh. Soon a funny wind up to a funny birthday, it being my birthday I treated myself to having three teeth stopped at the dentist it gave me a great deal of pleasure to have it all done although it took all the money I had drawn out of the Bank.

Wed 30 We returned home Mr King coming with us.

1894**P24**

Took Kate, Dorothy to Melbourne by excursion to have their teeth seen to and Gertie came down for day & night I think this was March

June 25 Monday. Marion came last Tuesday.

I think last Monday it was that the little zebra finch was in the Aviary on the ground looking ill and the birds having no seed I got their box and when I returned the little finch was waiting at the door for me I knelt down & it nestled up under my apron and so I took it up in my hand and brought it into the dining room near the fire a little while afterward it died just as I was putting it into a warm nest.

P25

25 Erne has been home seven days, went to Melb Thursday expect him home tomorrow Aug 2 Hilda's birthday.

Aug 3 Day of Bachelors' ball

Walter & Frank Panamore came up for it

6th Marion & I are going to Melb to Hollies accompanied by Walter. arrived safely went to Melb Leidertafll (?) Concert in the evening

12th Have just written to Father

Sunday last Friday we Marion Walter & I went to the ball too crushed to enjoy one's self

21 Will took Marion & I to sheep show had lunch in town met Mrs Merryon (?) Fred & John

Walter took us to see Aunt Jack.

22 Mother birthday, have just written to her.

26

My birthday. Went to the Agricultural Show with Marion & mr Will, very wet, Father came down to Melb saw him & gave me several birthday letters from Mother & others & Nellie Cowderoy.

Tues 4 Sept Ernest sailed in the *Innaminka* for W Australia Father Mother & Ilma to see him off beside myself.

Mon 10th On Sat went with Mrs Browne Mr Will Miss Biggall and Marion

To hear Mrs Bessant glad I went.

Sat 15th Came home from the Hollies after a delightful visit.

Mon 17th Went for a walk with Katie to Gee Bung Hill got very pretty wildflowers, cowslips waxflower blue orchid etc.

P27

10th Last Friday Mother & I went to Melb to do a little shopping for her went to the Hollies for tea saw Lydia Page for the first time Will's betrothed Mrs B & Miss Biggall & Arthur Ingle at home Walter at Green Hills Marion at the Buzzard did not see her at all, Sat we went to concert in Town Hall conducted by Mr H.J. King, very good concert but I never saw the Town Hall so empty, went home by the last train pouring with rain when we arrived home.

Yesterday Ilma Mother & I brought parcel down to station gong etc a wind up of affairs I hope it's not final for a good two years at least. Today I cut out blouse for Hilda & went for wildflowers this afternoon. While I was in Melb I had my hand photographed & sent to Wyvera who says I have strong good P28

ability & could make a way (?) for myself anywhere & am to be married somewhere about 30, if I do get married I wonder who it will be I am half inclined to think someone is rather in love with me now & I sometimes think I am half way there too O. dear I think it would be funny to be in love but I would take to it rather naturally, but to me just the one I never thought of would be, if it is so, Ah it is all in the future & the future we can leave to God for is He not our Father.

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Sunday afternoon Oct 21st 1894

During last week the dining room was turned out to be kalsomined & is not finished yet Oct 22 Ilma Katie & I went to Melb by excursion train arrived about 6.30pm went out to Charlton to see Ida but she was not at home, next day principally at the dentist for Katie to have teeth re crowned came home by last train pleasant little time in town although rather hot.

25th Wed Will was married at green Hills, Marion went up to the wedding.

Nov 1st Went with Mother to get looking glass for Gertie Neibuhrs

P30

Janry 1895. Katie & I went down to the Sheriff's Bridge to see the procession we were too late to see it in Doveton Street came home & were all busy as Grace had a holiday. Hilda [aged 12] made a funny remark the ham we had at Christmas & so had to be thrown away and so she said Mother what a pity the ham was thrown away because I saw in cookery book how to cure hams. 8th had tea at Alice's.

9th We have been very busy during the past week getting Mother & Ilma ready to go to Tasmania

9th packed Ilma's trunk (tin) and Mother's small portmanteau & so feel somewhat tired

P31

Thurs

10th Mother & Ilma started off by the one o'clock train

11th Had letter so say had arrived in Melb safely so far

12th Saw their names in list of passengers. They were to sail at 4pm on Friday eleventh.

Cont Saturday Gert went with Ramblers to Expedition Pass for Bull rushes. Mrs Smith & I about finished my dress trimmed with black ribbon.

13 Gert & I went to Church.

22nd of January Papa & Katie went to Tasmania in *Pateena*, only knew Sunday afternoon that K was going, tore down Monday to get stuff & Mrs Smith & I had her dress made by five o'clock packed up after tea & Finished Papa's cap Katie went off by first train next morning & met Papa who went the day before by one train.

P32

Feb 1st 1895 Clocks put on twenty minutes, went in afternoon to Winnie Brotherton's to afternoon tea. Last Thursday week had children's party, twenty children Alice came in to help me & stayed until Monday. Tuesday Sarah McInnes came & stayed until Thursday. Last Tuesday Dorothy went for first time to Grammar School

Sat 9th Mother & Papa came home by express. Papa brought me a very pretty opal brooch & Mother brought me a butterfly very pretty (moonstone) from the Hobart Exhibition, they also brought bande for gert pearl brooch for Dorothy & bar brooch for Hilda.

Sat 23rd Went with Mrs McCay, Rene, Bessie halford, Jim Waterhouse, Dum M.. (?) Win & Bea Best, Aitherns (?) & Murial Hasler to Trentham Falls & enjoyed myself altho very little water

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Runs over the Falls which are a hundred feet high still they are pretty & splendid country good chocolate soil.

March 23rd Saturday Ilma & Katie arrived safely at home with Papa and on 21st the day they left Launceston Mrs Gibson arrived in Castlemaine & stayed with us until today, March 28th Thursday when I went with her to the Coffee where she has taken a room.

Mon 22nd April Mother & I went to Melbourne by Eight Hours excursion train twelve shillings & sixpence first class returnable a month came home on Thursday by last train. Mother had a tooth out by French (five shillings) hurt very little. Went to tea to the Hollies' saw Mrs Browne Miss Biggall, who looked

P34

very poorly Waler & Arthur Ingle also went to see Edie Ogg but she was out saw the baby a very fine big boy. Mother got herself a hat at George & Georges & I got a rain cloak at Crawford & Co.

June 27 Thursday Went to the Sewing Guild, had letter from Ernest from W. Australia. The Land (by Mr Leechs') sold to Mr J.S.M. Thompson it is to date from July 1st all so far settled.

Went to see the Halfords yesterday Mr Halford died towards the beginning of this month July 4th Ilma & I went to Melbourne stayed with Mrs Hyland had very pleasant holiday stayed a week at Hollies' & three weeks Mrs Hyland. Ilma had two teeth out while at the Hollies'

P35

August 29th My birthday today, went to Sewing Guild letter from Nellie & present pin trays

June 28th 1896 Sunday

Last Friday week, we girls, Father & Mother each planted a tree, it was fun. During the week father had letter from Ernest from W. Australia saying he had had a rise 300 Pounds and asking for myself & one other of us to go over rather asking if he would let us go.

