

**Personal Diary of Luella P. Forman
Jamesburg, New Jersey
1938**

From the Archives of the Jamesburg Historical Association
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This is the diary of Luella P. Forman of Jamesburg. From what is interpreted through her diary entries, Luella came from an upper class family. Many of the entries reference a maid, frequent trips to Asbury Park, frequent dinners at Washington's Crossing and other locations, and trips to the movies. The use of their Pontiac automobile and eventual trade-in for a Buick demonstrates the wealth associated with the family, as does a trip to Florida.

1938

[This is a modern transcription of a document]

January, 1938

Friday 14

Ralph took our Pontiac Car to Highland Park for inspection, he came home, and had the car passed, glad about that

Wednesday 19

A very cold day. Many went to New York, and brought me this Diary. Ralph took Mary to Monmouth Junction. Grace Vice here with us. Sam, Mary and I went over to Joe's for a game of cards this evening. Edna has been miserable, but is some better now. There is a little snow: but the roads are bare.

Thursday 20

A very nice day, not as cold. I went to see Hattie Forman in Freehold. She is quite good, about 97 years old and broke her hip 7 years ago last Dec. Mary and Grace went on to Asbury Park. Sam stayed at the Elks Club. Ada Applegate is housekeeper for Mrs Forman Miss Heron Nurse.

Friday 21

It has snowed this afternoon and turned to rain. Mary and I went to New Brunswick. Ralph took me to do some shopping before we go to Florida. Sam did not go.

Saturday 22

Rainy and very sloppy. We went to dinner this evening with Margie and Barton, they has Jeannette Woolfe with them & Sam, Mary and I, they took us to Red Bank and gave us dinner at the Molly Pitcher Hotel.

Sunday 23

It has cleared, a beautiful day, like spring. We took Joe, Marjory and Edna out for dinner. We went to Fischer's at Washington Crossing, they came here for the evening with us, and helped plan our trip to Florida, with maps etc.

Monday 24

It was clear this morning and rainy this afternoon very rainy and windy this eve. Ralph took Mary auto to Highland Park for inspection, and it has been passed. A quiet day. We have started packing for Florida.

Tuesday 25

It is very windy today, we took Grace home to Long Island and stopped at Asbury Park to shop. Mary and Sam went to supper at the Church for the Odd Fellows Lodge. Carl Johnson here this evening and has my income tax all read for me to take to New Brunswick

Wednesday 26

A very cold day also windy. I went to the bank this morning then Mary & I went to New Brunswick to finish my income tax. Sam kept house, Grace came back, Ralph went to meet her. Vie Couverty called this P.M.

Thursday 27

It is still quite cold today. Ralph took Mary and me up to Highstown to call on Margie & Barton before we leave for Florida. Sam, Mary and I went over to Joes this evening for a game of cards.

Friday 28

A very nice day clear & cold. I went to the bank and got Traveler Checks to take to Florida. This afternoon we packed a box of clothes to send by mail. Mrs Brooks and Mrs Marquis called. Evelyn and Cort came over this eve, and we played cards.

Saturday 29

We had the car oiled and fixed for starting to Florida. Daisy came on 5:30 train, we went over to Joes and played cards awhile, cold and clear.

Sunday 30

Mary & I went to church. Mrs Scott came to call, then Carl Johnson & wife, then Clarence? Perrine & family then Evelyn and Cort & Cort Jr, then Joe's family this eve our suitcases are in the car to start. Clear & cold

Monday 31

We left home at 8 o'clock to go to St Petersburg Florida. Ralph Dow, driving, Sam, Mary, Daisy and myself. We had our lunch in Baltimore, it rained real hard rute? we got to Baltimore. Came through Washington, and reached Richmond VA about 5:30, got nice rooms in Tourist Home called "The Gables" 302 miles from Jamesburg.

February, 1938

Tuesday 1

A nice bright morning quite cold. We drove as far as Laurinburg, N.C. and settled in Tourist Home. Called "The Dutch Colonial," very nice all well and in good spirits.

Wednesday 2

Another good day. We reached Savannah Ga, found a very nice Tourist Home. Had dinner & Breakfast at the same place called Rest Awhile Inn.

Thursday 3

We reached Ocala Fla to day, saw the first orange trees, found a Tourist Home called Cosy Inn, very nice place card this eve with a young couple from Phila. Visited the beautiful Silver Springs. Went out in the boat.

Friday 4

We reached St Petersburg Fla, about 2 oclock, have reservations at the Beverly Hotel a very nice place. Went out to see Jessie and Bertie. Mrs Park is here, and called us on the phone.

Saturday 5

We went out to see the Paxton girls again met Mrs Park, and Miss Van Nuis out there. it is real warm here.

Sunday 6

We called on Mrs Park and enjoyed the Hotel

Monday 7

We went to Tarpon Springs and took the boat trip and saw the Diver go under and bring up the sponges.

Tuesday 8

Mary bought a new white straw hat, also Daisy. We visited the beautiful Indian Rock orange groves.

Wednesday 9

Mrs Park entertained us for 4 o'clock tea at this beautiful Hotel Vinoy. Jessie & Bertie there. Mary dressed in white suit with new white straw hat.

Thursday 10

Another warm day. We drove to see Book Tower and heard the chimes beautiful. Stopped at the Cypress Gardens it was beautiful, went over the Gandy Bridge,¹ came in hot and tired.

Friday 11

This morning we went to the Shuffle boards and chopped some after lunch. Miss Heavey called to see us.

Saturday 12

We went out on the Pier awhile. Then Ralph took Daisy, Mary and myself out to Jessies. Mrs Park was there, for tea. Sam came out after us with Ralph.

Sunday 13

We went out to the Community Church and sat outside on benches, and heard the sermon through an amplifier. Beautiful warm day. Barton & Margie surprised us this eve.

Monday 14

A nice sunshine day. quite warm here. Margie and Barton stopped to see us and then went on to Miami.

¹ Gandy Bridge built to reduce distance between Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg, Florida. Original bridge first constructed in 1922.

Tuesday 15

We went to Sarasota today. Went by Ferry, saw the Ringling Circus in training.

Wednesday 16

We went to see the Dog races to day. Jessie and Bertie came to dinner at the Hotel with us. We all went to the New Jersey meeting this eve.

Friday 18

We went to the Orange Grooves this A.M. Mary had a bad cold. Mr & Mrs Voorhees called this A.M., and came again this eve & we played cards.

Saturday 19

Mary cold some better. we started to pack for going home.

Sunday 20

A nice warm day. Mr & Mrs Voorhees took us for dinner at the Flororton? Hotel.

Monday 21

Quite a cool morning for Florida. We left the Beverly Hotel St Petersburg about nine o'clock, and reached Jacksonville about 3:30 where we spent the night at a Tourist home called Lantana.

Tuesday 22

We spent the night at Waterboro S.C. with a Mrs Black Tourist Home

Wednesday 23

To-night we got as far as Henderson N.C. It rained, we had supper at Mrs Fox Tourist home too much to eat.

Thursday 24

It rained as we started to-day. We got home to night about 10:30. drove over 400 miles to-day. Found every thing fine at home. Have had a very nice trip, all in good shape. A little tired.

Friday 25

We are glad to be home. Feel tired. Joe and Marjory called at noon to see us. Carl Johnson here this eve also Mr Layman?.

Saturday 26

We went to Asbury Park. A beautiful day. Marjory went to New Orleans to bring Edna back from a visit with Virginia.

Sunday 27

A nice day. Mary and Joe went to Mrs Baremore's funeral. We did not go to church. Joe here for supper.

Monday 28

A very windy day. we took Daisy home, but did not get out of the car. Mary and I called on Mr & Mrs David Smith, its very cold.

March, 1938

Tuesday 1

Another nice day quite cold. Mary and Ralph took Grace home for a couple of days. Phyllis and Joe here and we played cards this eve.

Wednesday 2

We are quite alone to day and glad to get rest. Grace did not come back yet.

Thursday 3

We have been home all day. Grace came back this eve. Sam went to Freehold and came back with a cold.

Friday 4

Sam quite sick to day a bad cold, and distress in his side. We had Dr Miller to see him, and he said he must stay in bed. Margie and Barton came down this eve.

Saturday 5

A rainy slushy morning. Mary and Ralph did the errands. Dr came to see Sam. He feels better, no fever to day, got dressed and came downstairs this P.M.

Sunday 6

A windy day. Grace & I went to church. Sam feels better. Ralph took Mary and I over to see Evelyn at Bound Brook. Cort Jr sick. Marjory and Edna came home from New Orleans to day.

Monday 7

We went to New Brunswick this afternoon. Mary got a check from the Middlesex Title Co.

Tuesday 8

Another nice day. Ralph took Mary and I to Trenton. We went out to Fishers along the river to plan for a D.A.R. meeting April 2nd.

Wednesday 9

Ralph took Sam to Freehold this P.M. I have quite a bad cold and went to bed early.

Thursday 10

It snowed hard this A.M. but only made a bad mess. Ralph drove Mary to Asbury Park to have lunch with Edd. Rockafellow. My cold is still on. Dr Miller came and said stay in bed, so I did.

Friday 11

I feel better to day and got up. Ralph cleaned the car and polished it. we did not go out.

Saturday 12

A nice day Mary and Ralph did the errands at the store this A.M. we did not go out. Evelyn and Cort came over from Bound Brook this P.M. Mary has a bad cold. Cough quite a lot.

Sunday 13

Mary still has a cold. It rained this afternoon and Mary went to bed with a cold. Mrs Davison came over to hear about our trip.

Monday 14

A nice day. Mary feels better this morning. She got up at noon and came down stairs. Marjory came in to see us a little while.

Tuesday 15

We took Grace to Long Branch and came back by Red Bank. Mary did not get out. Sam stayed in Freehold. Carl came up this evening to look after the Cresinese.

Wednesday 16

It is rather rainy to-day. Grace came back. Ralph went to meet her. Vi Covierty was here this evening.

Thursday 17

Another rainy day. Very damp and foggy. We have been in all day. I went to the bank and to do some errands this morning.

Monday 21

A very nice day. Ralph took Mary, Sam and myself over to East Orange to shop at Altman's Store.² Mary bought a three piece blue suit & hat. I got a blue hat and shoes.

Tuesday 22

Chas Hoffman died this A.M. Barton Margie and Jeanette here this eve.

Friday 25

A very nice day. Ralph took Mary, Mrs C.M. Davison and myself to Charlie Hoffmans funeral. Bess Conover and Mrs Cherry called after we got home.

April, 1938

Sunday 17

Easter Sunday. Ed & Florence Rockafellow also Daisy Murray here. We all went to Princeton for our dinner. We went to Church and Cemetery this A.M. Edd went back this eve.

² Altman's Store, known as B. Altman and Company, was a New York City-based department store founded in 1865 by Benjamin Altman.

Monday 18

We took Florence back to New York and went to Wanamakers³ awhile. Alice came to visit Joe and Edna, Mary, Sam and I went over and played cards awhile this eve.

May, 1938

Thursday 5

A nice day. Grant Everett came this morning and started to paint the house.

Saturday 7

Mary and I attended the meeting of the D.A.R. in the Chapel. Miss Roome Hostess. About 25 there.

Sunday 8

Mothers day. I walked to the Cemetery. Mary and Grace went to Church.

Tuesday 24

Mary & I entertained Mrs Park, Jessie, and 18 ladies at Nassau Tavern Princeton.

Monday 30

Cool to-day.

June, 1938

Wednesday 1

A real cold day. Frost this morning.

Wednesday 8

We had the house painted by Grant Everett and the porch screened by Ernest Reid.

Monday 13

Mary and I went to Trenton to Miss Frome's to have our permanent wave, also took Barrie to be plucked or clipped to-day.

Thursday 16

Mary and I went to High School Commencement. Robert Johnson graduated. Evelyn & Cort Jr here for supper and say good-bye. Leaving tomorrow for Emporia, VA

Saturday 18

I was invited to Wilber Applegate's wedding at York Pa but did not go. We saw the notice in the paper of Mr. Coal's? death. Jessie Dixon also died this A.M. Daisy came down for over Sunday.

³ Wanamaker's was one of the first American department stores founded in 1861. It was built in New York around the 1920's and burned down in the 1950s.

Saturday 25

Joe's family here this eve and we played cards. Mary and I went to Asbury Park to movie and left Sam in Freehold this P.M. a real warm day. The first part of June and mitel [middle?] this week it has been very cold.

Sunday 26

A very hot day and showery this afternoon we have been home, and quiet all day. Clarence Perrine & family called this P.M. we have cut up peaches for supper the first of this season.

Monday 27

A very rainy day. Mary and I went to Asbury Park and Mary got her light coat. Perry Rockafellow and new wife here for supper. It rained very hard all day, and is cold and damp.

Tuesday 28

Another rainy day. We had fire in the fire place this P.M. Margie and Barton here to call with their friend from Jacksonville. I finished at the Dentist. Carl Johnson here this eve.

Wednesday 29

Joe, Edna, Marjory here this eve to play cards. We had watermelon.

Tuesday 30

Mary and I went to Trenton to have our hair washed and cut. Hallie & Perry Gill called this P.M. Daisy came to day to stay a while Mary goes to Maine.

July, 1938

Friday 1

Ralph drove the car and Sam, Daisy and I drove Mary to New York to take the evening train to Maine. Quite warm, and not very clear. We played cards at Joe's this evening.

Saturday 2

We received a Telegram from Mary. She arrived safely. Ralph took us to Asbury Park to movie. We left Sam in Freehold, quite warm to day. Daisy here with us.

Sunday 3

A very nice day. I went to Church. Mrs Scott stopped and I went with her, it was Communion, Ori? Applegate and Joe called this P.M. Daisy took Sam, Grace, and myself for a nice ride this evening. Joe's family went to Atlantic City for over night.

Monday 4

Another beautiful day. Ralph took us out for dinner: Sam, Daisy and I. we went to Washington Crossing Inn, and had a good dinner and nice ride.

Tuesday 5

I make Jelly raspberry and currant also blackberry.

Saturday 9

We took Barrie to Dr Parker in Red Bank, he put him on a strict diet and gave him a needle and some obutund to put on him. We went to movies this P.M. and played cards at Joe's this eve.

Sunday 10

I went to Spring Lake with Edna, Marjory and Lelia McCain, and watched the girls bath. A very warm day. We ate at the Bite Stop.

Monday 11

Daisy and I went to New Brunswick and I bought blue & white cotton dress. another warm day.

Tuesday 12

Warm to day. Daisy and I went to New Brunswick to movie. We saw Toy Wife. It was very good.

Wednesday 13

We took Sam to Freehold and went on to Point Pleasant and watched the bathers.

Thursday 14

I took Carl Johnson and wife to N.B. to see Houeyats?, a bad shower this P.M. a man killed on the golf course by lightning.

Friday 15

Daisy went to Trenton for the day. Quite warm.

Saturday 16

We went to Asbury Park to the movies. Real warm. Sam stayed in Freehold. the Perrine's here this eve to play cards and saw Shopworn Angel this P.M.

Sunday 17

A warm showery day. We were home all day. Daisy went to church.

Monday 18

We met Mary in New Brunswick. She returned from Maine, after a nice time. its warm and showery.

Tuesday 19

We took Grace home and it rained as we came back. Carl here this eve and we went over to Joe's to play cards. Virginia came to day.

Wednesday 20

We went out to "dinner" to Lumberton near Mt Holly. It rained very hard and there seems to be lot of floods. Grace came back this P.M.

Thursday 21

It rained to-day and is very warm. Joe & Edna, Marjory and Virginia started for Nova Scotia this A.M.

Friday 22

Daisy went to Trenton today. It has been very rainy. Ralph took Mary and myself to New Brunswick this P.M. every one complaining of too much rain.

Saturday 23

Another terrible rainy day. Sam went to Freehold. Mary, Daisy and I went to Asbury Park to movies. We saw Algeries.

Sunday 24

We did not go to Church. Ralph took Sam, Mary, Daisy and myself to Toms River to see Cort Jr. in camp there. we came back by Point Pleasant and ate supper at the Bite Shop.

Monday 25

We went over to New Brunswick this P.M. Mary had an errand and I stopped to collect from Mrs Molnar the Perrine's here to play cards this eve.

Tuesday 26

Daisy went home this A.M. we miss her. Mary and I called on Mrs Shultz this P.M.

Wednesday 27

We went to New Brunswick this A.M. to look at a house to put out money but did not like it and told Carl to let Judge Kirkpatrick know we did not want it.

Thursday 28

A very warm day. Mary went to New Brunswick and met Ed Rockafellow he stayed all night, it has been a terrible hot day. I made more blackberry jelly this A.M.

August, 1938

Thursday 4

We entertained Joe's family at the Berkeley Carteret Asbury Park. Virginia is here, we had a nice time.

Saturday 6

Daisy came back this A.M. Sam went fishing and sailing with the Perrine & Buckelew employes. Mary, Daisy and I went to movies.

Monday 8

Mr Eckels moved from Mary's house to day to Milltown.

Saturday 13

Daisy came again today. We went to movies. Real warm, yesterday cool.

Sunday 14

We took Mr & Mrs Carl Johnson to dinner at the Berkeley Carteret, Asbury Park had a nice day. When we got home Mary had some people looking at her house. they think they will take it. people from Cranford N.J.

Monday 15

A very hot day. Daisy here, we took a ride this evening in Daisy car. A very very hot night hard to get sleep.

Tuesday 16

Another hot day. Mary and Daisy and Ralph took Grace home this morning. We took a little ride in Daisy's car, another hot night.

Wednesday 17

A little cooler this A.M. Mary got the payment on her house. Ralph took Daisy, Mary and myself to Point Pleasant. Sam stayed in Freehold. We went over to watch the boats from the Inlet. Grace

came back and told me she must leave soon. Sam went to Dr Leif for Piles.⁴

Thursday 18

Cooler to day. Daisy went home. The Perrines here to play cards this evening.

Friday 19

We went to New Brunswick to see about getting a new maid and stopped to see Lillian Casey. she said she would come the day after Labor day.

Saturday 20

A nice day. Edgar Paxton was buried this P.M. Ralph took Sam, Mary and myself to Asbury Park to meet Joe's family for dinner at the Berkeley Carteret. Virginia and Edmund there too, we played cards here after we got back.

Sunday 21

A very nice day. I went to Church and heard a very fine sermon the preacher from Matawan. Daisy came down for dinner. We took a little ride with Daisy this eve. Virginia and Edmund went back to New Orleans.

Monday 22

We went to Asbury Park this P.M. and Sam stayed in Freehold. I got a blue coat. Went over to Joe's to play cards this eve.

Tuesday 23

Daisy went home this A.M. Mary has been making arrangements to have her home. Papered for the Osterman's.

⁴ Piles is another name for hemorrhoids

Wednesday 24

Mary and Grace did some cleaning at her house to-day.

Thursday 25

The Osterman family moved to-day. Mr George Forman is there doing the papering. Ralph, Mary, Sam, Grace and myself went to Sand Hook this P.M. and saw a nice parade. We ate supper at Harry's.

Friday 26

Daisy came back for over Sunday.

Saturday 27

Mary went to New York and Ed came out with her. Daisy and I went to Asbury Park to movies. Sam stayed at Freehold. We met Mary and Ed at Monmouth Junction.

Sunday 28

I went to Church. Grace went with me. Daisy went to her church. We went to dinner at the Bite Shop and then the Bay Head to see Perry Rockafellow and wife Dorothy. Ed went back this eve.

Monday 29

Daisy drove me to Freehold to see Hattie Forman. Mary and Daisy went out to see Bess Conover. The Perrines were here and we played cards this eve. Margie and Barton came in this eve. They had Helen, Bartons niece with them.

Tuesday 30

We took Grace home this P.M. Daisy went back this A.M. and Mary went to New Brunswick to see about the Metuchen house. Carl Johnson was here this eve.

Wednesday 31

Grace came back this P.M. Perry Rockafellow and Dorothy were here for supper, a nice cool day.

September, 1938

Thursday 1

A nice cool day. Mary and I did our spiced peaches this A.M. she also did a few brandied peaches.

Friday 2

A nice cool day. Daisy came this P.M. Ralph took Mary and me to New Brunswick

Saturday 3

A nice day. We met Ed Rockafellow in New Brunswick this P.M. he came to spend Labor Day.

Sunday 4

A very nice cool day. Ralph took Ed, Sam, Mary and myself to Atlantic City. Joe and family there at the Brighton, we had "dinner" with them and came home this P.M.

Monday 5

We went to Trenton this P.M. to movie. and stayed with Marjory and Edna for supper there. Ed went back. Daisy with us.

Tuesday 6

A nice cool day. Grace Vice went back to Long Branch for good. She has been here since last November. Lillian Casey came to take her place.

Wednesday 7

Daisy went home this A.M. she has been here of [off?] and on all summer.

Tuesday 13

Ralph took Mary and myself to Newark. We got new winter hats. Sam home. Lillian here with him.

Wednesday 14

Mr Forman started to paper for us this A.M. he started in Marys room to put blue paper on.

Thursday 15

Ralph and I took Margie Walker a basket of grapes. Carl Johnson here this eve. It has been very warm.

Friday 16

Cooler to-day. Mary went to Perth Amboy and Lillian Casey left us to-day. Mrs Roller helped us put Mary's room to rights. Holmes came to see us this P.M.

Sunday 18

We had dinner at Washington Crossing to day. A nice day. I called Daisy to put an advertisement in the Trenton Paper for maid.

Monday 19

We tore up my room and Sam's for papering. I slept in attic. Sam slept in Grace's room.

Tuesday 20

Mary and I went to Trenton to see about a maid. We interviewed Edith, she will come next Monday.

Wednesday 21

A terrible rainy day, very high wind this afternoon.

Monday 26

Edith Persing came to work for us to day.

October, 1938

Tuesday 4

We started for Williamsburg VA this morning. Stayed over night in Washington D.C. Ed Rockafellow met us there at Hotel Po[w]hatan. Florence, Mary and myself, Ralph Dow driving the Pontiac car for us. Grace and Edith Persing keeping house with Sam.

Tuesday 25

Edith Persing left this A.M. we got Leona Davis from Marlboro this P.M.

December, 1938

Thursday 22

We got our new Buick car, in Freehold to-day traded the Pontiac. Joe, Edna, Marjory, Virginia and Edmund here this eve.

Sunday 25

Sam, Mary and I spent a very nice day with Joe and all his family.