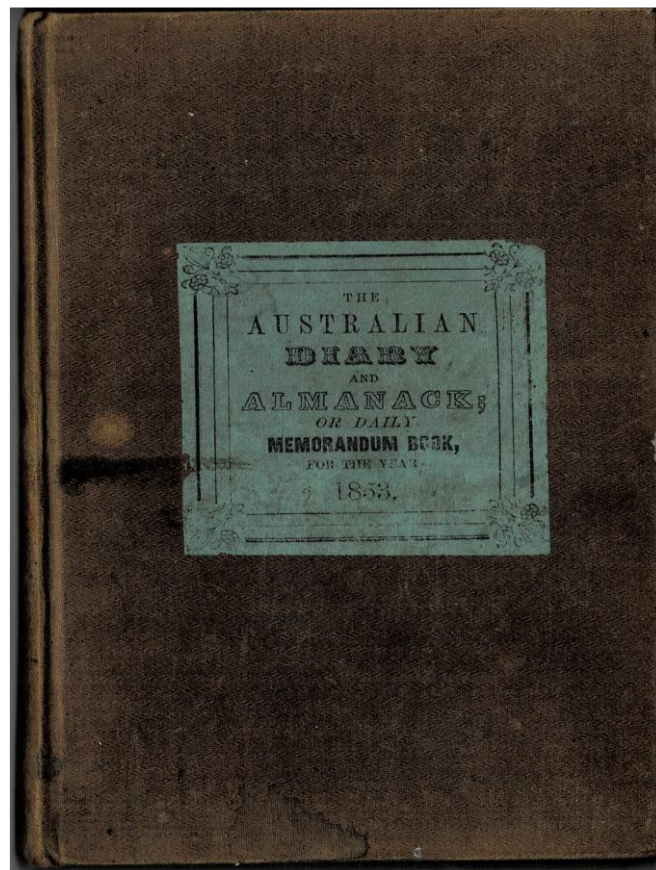

LISE JOUBERT'S DIARY FOR THE YEAR 1853

**Annotated Translation from the French with a
Critical Introduction**

Karin Speedy



Foreword

Beverley Sherry

Critical Introduction and Annotated Translation
Copyright © 2023 by Karin Speedy

Foreword
Copyright © 2023 by Beverley Sherry

Published by Hunters Hill Historical Society, 2023
Hunters Hill Historical Society
PO Box 98, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110

ISBN: 978-0-6454376-3-8



Foreword

By Beverley Sherry

In 2022, a diary written in French was found among the Hunters Hill Historical Society archives, a standard, small hard-cover *Australian Diary and Almanac; or Daily Memorandum Book, for the Year 1853*. Its provenance, who gave it to the Society and when, was unknown, but reading through it, I felt sure that it was Lise Joubert's diary. Sure enough, inside the back cover a faint signature is legible, "L Joubert". It is a daily record of her life on Figtree Farm, the site of today's Figtree House (1 Reibey Road), although extending far beyond that in 1853. What a find – a document written by a woman and the wife of a key player in the history of Hunters Hill, Didier Numa Joubert.

What caught my interest, apart from the rarity, was the early date of the diary. Virtually no one was living in Hunters Hill in 1853. There were plenty of absentee investors, since land was for sale from the 1830s, but it was not until Jules Joubert settled there in late 1854 that the suburb began to take off, through the building projects of Jules and his brother Didier. In 1853 it was a different story. At Figtree Farm, Lise and Didier Joubert and their children had only one close neighbour, the Thompsons in another cottage on the farm. Throughout the year, many visitors came but most were from outside Hunters Hill and they frequently stayed the night or several days. Three familiar identities in Hunters Hill history were Gabriel de Milhau, Léonard Étienne Bordier, and Louis Sentis, but in 1853 they did not actually reside there.

Managing the farm could not have been easy. Whereas farms were thriving in the Gladesville and Ryde area, the peninsula of Hunters Hill was not promising because of the steep and rocky terrain, the poor soil, and the lack of fresh water. Mary Reibey had bought the property, naming it Figtree Farm,

in 1835, but that astute businesswoman soon gave up on it. When the farm did not sell in 1838, she rented it to Joseph Fowles and after three years he gave up too. Then in November 1847 Didier Joubert made a down payment to Mary Reibey and in 1848 his family were settled there. Lise might have begun her farming from that time. For the success of her venture, the weather was crucial and it is recorded every day. On 22 April she writes, "There was not much water in the well. We cleaned it and there was 10 feet of mud"; on 3 May, "Same weather, dry. Sowed some oats"; 29 September: "Everything in the garden has dried up."

The Hunters Hill Historical Society was fortunate to find the New Zealand scholar Karin Speedy, who agreed to make an annotated translation of the diary with scholarly introduction. She brings distinct advantages to the task, being bilingual in French and English and an internationally recognised scholar in the field of nineteenth-century French and Anglo-French traders in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, among them Didier Joubert. While Lise's diary reveals almost nothing about her husband, Speedy's Introduction is an eye-opener. In publications since 2007, she has steadily built up a fuller portrayal of the man known conventionally as a property developer, driving force in the creation of the suburb of Hunters Hill and of the municipality, the first mayor, magnanimous donor to community causes. The Introduction deepens and widens the interest of Lise's diary by placing it in relation to her husband's transnational shipping business. Here was his wife running the family farm, while also fulfilling her hospitality duties as the wife of this high-flyer in shipping and trading. Many of the visitors to the farm were connected with Didier's business. While Lise mentions them all by name, she reveals nothing of her husband's actual connection with them. But Speedy lays it bare in her Introduction, identifying, for example, Didier's collaborators in people trading, Captain Joseph Wilson and Captain Jean D'Allemagne, who were frequent visitors to the farm. In New Caledonia, Didier had strong links with the Marists and an interesting footnote records that he had an illegitimate daughter with a Kanak woman; he left the child in the care of the Marists' Saint-Louis mission in New Caledonia.

In addition to the Introduction, there are meticulous Annotations. Right from the beginning, they provide contextual information for the people and events recorded in the diary. On the First of January, Lise records, “We had dinner with the Thompsons, Mr Soubry and Ben”, and the Note reads: “Mr Soubry was the captain of the French ship, *Vesta*.” On the 26th of January they spend a day on the *Vesta*. On 24 April, “Mr Tondeur and Captain Mériaux visited us”, and the Note explains, “Oscar Tondeur was a partner in the trading firm Tondeur & Lemprière in Melbourne and Hobart and would shortly be appointed Acting Vice-Consul of France in Tasmania. Captain Mériaux arrived on his ship, the French barque Alix, from Port Phillip on 17 April 1853 (“Arrivals”, The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List, 23 April 1853, 118).” Other French visitors, such as Mr and Mrs Pille (7 August) and Mr and Mrs Cafler (10 September) are identified. When a precise identification is impossible, an informed suggestion is offered, as for Mrs Blanchard and Mrs Marsden and the Descroisille family, visitors in July, and the Demestre girls in November.

Thanks to Karin Speedy, we now have a translation of this rare document as well as an original and astute interpretation of it through her Annotations and Critical Introduction.

Dr Beverley Sherry
Honorary Associate, University of Sydney
February 2023

Critical Introduction

By Karin Speedy

The recent discovery of Lise Joubert's 1853 diary in the Hunters Hill Historical Society archives is a significant find for historians and others interested not only in local Hunters Hill histories but in the private sphere of Australian colonial society, women's histories, histories of the home and domestic pursuits, social histories and Franco-Australian connections.¹

Lise Joubert was the wife of French-born, naturalised (from 1849) Australian Didier Numa Joubert, a nineteenth-century merchant, shipping agent, property developer, sugar plantation owner, businessman, mayor and people trader who resided in Hunters Hill. While her husband's transnational, far-flung, high-seas and somewhat slippery business activities have been the subject of scholarly interest, particularly my own, Lise has remained in the background, a shadowy figure, leaving but a scant trace in the colonial archive.² She appears occasionally in shipping movements in the Sydney

¹ I would like to thank Chris Schofield and Beverley Sherry from the Hunters Hill Historical Society for bringing this diary to my attention. It has been a pleasure translating it and I have particularly enjoyed discussing the more thorny and controversial parts of it with Beverley Sherry. This research has been supported by my Marsden Fund grant [MFP-SRC2101].

² For more on Didier Numa Joubert, see, for example: Speedy, Karin. 2007. *Colons, créoles et coolies: L'immigration réunionnaise en Nouvelle-Calédonie (XIXe siècle) et le tayo de Saint-Louis*. Paris: L'Harmattan; Speedy, Karin. 2015. "The Sutton Case: the First Franco-Australian Foray into Blackbirding", *Journal of Pacific History*, 50.3, 344-364 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223344.2015.1073868>; Speedy, Karin. 2015. "Sydney's Global Slavery Scandal of 1857", *Imperial & Global Forum*.

<http://imperialglobalexeter.com/2015/09/21/sydneys-global-slavery-scandal-of-1857/>; Speedy, Karin. 2016. "Constructing Subaltern Silence in the Colonial Archive", *Journal of Australian Colonial History*, 18, 95-114; Speedy, Karin. 2020. "Toppling Joubert: Exposing the colonial routes of island connectedness beneath the apparent French roots of Hunters Hill (Sydney, Australia)", *Shima*, 14.2, 185-213.

<https://www.shimajournal.org/issues/v14n2/13.-Speedy-Shima-v14n2.pdf>;

Cornet, Claude. 1997. "Didier Numa Joubert: pionnier malchanceux de l'agriculture calédonien", *Bulletin Scientifique de la Société d'Études Historiques*, 112: 67-84; Maguire, Roslyn. 2011. "William Weaver in Hunter's Hill", *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, 97.1: 84-99; Maguire, Roslyn. 2012. *The French in Hunters Hill: highlights from an exhibition at the Hunters Hill Town Hall March-July 2012*, Hunters Hill: Hunters Hill Historical Society; Maguire, Roslyn. 2015. "Didier Joubert (1816-1881) the pioneer of French interests

newspapers, in legal documents, and is mentioned in the odd publication but, until now, little was known about her life and personality. Her diary, written in 1853, her thirty-eighth year and the year that France took possession of New Caledonia, opens a fascinating window into the domestic life of the Joubert family and into Lise herself, revealing her mores and attitudes and demonstrating her industriousness and semi-independence as a woman managing her farm and business while her husband built his empire. At the same time, it gives us a tantalising glimpse into early Hunters Hill colonial society.

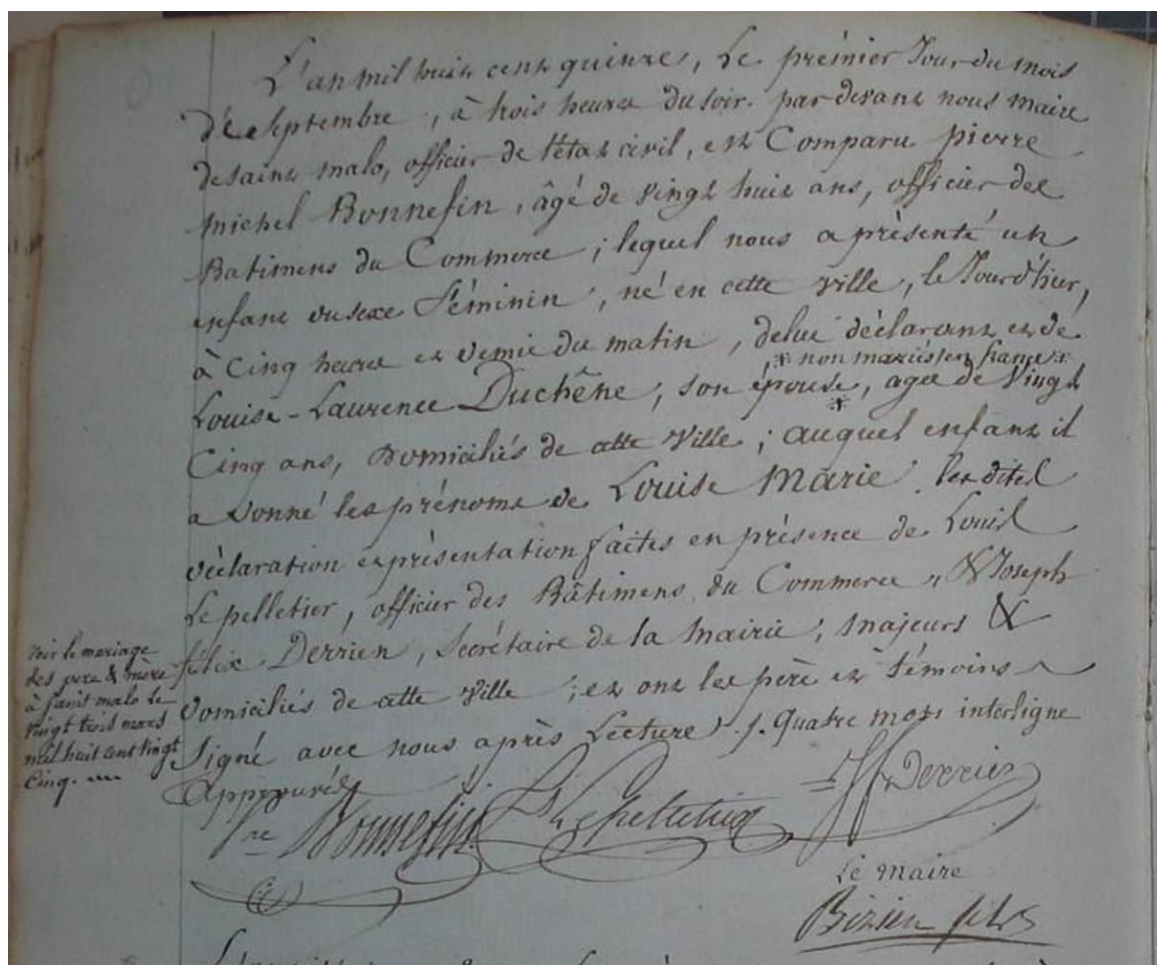


Figure 1: Birth certificate of Louise Marie (Lise) Bonnefin.

in Hunters Hill”, in Eric Berti and Ivan Barko (eds.), *French Lives in Australia*, North Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing: 103-113.

Lise was born Louise Marie Bonnefin on 1 September 1815 in Saint-Malo, Brittany, on France's western seaboard. Her father, Pierre Michel Bonnefin, an officer on merchant ships, was twenty-eight and her mother, Louise-Laurence Duchêne, was twenty-five when she was born. Although Louise-Laurence is described on Lise's birth certificate as the wife (*épouse*) of Pierre, a note states that they were not married in France and a margin note explains that the couple did not legally marry until 1825.³ This was likely when Louise-Laurence was pregnant with the couple's second child, Pierre, who was born in 1826.

By the 1830s, Lise's father was a settler, with land at Kororāreka in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand.⁴ Lise was living there when she married Didier Numa Joubert on 23 November 1839. They were married by Bishop Jean-Baptiste François Pompallier, Bonnefin's neighbour.⁵ Joubert had arrived in Sydney from Bordeaux as a "settler" on board the *Cora Nelly* on 25 May 1837.⁶ He was an agent for the Barton & Guestier winery, importing into New South Wales the first cuttings of Cabernet Sauvignon that were said to have been requested by local botanist and vigneron, William MacArthur.⁷ He left for New Zealand on 20 September 1839 on the *Currency Lass*⁸ to purchase land in Kororāreka – one tract for himself in town and another tract between the Waikare River and Paroa Bay that he would share with Thomas Draper and his business partner in Sydney, Jeremiah Murphy.⁹ Given the short time frame between his arrival and the wedding, his marriage to Lise had likely

³ Lise's birth certificate can be viewed online at the French archives en ligne, Department of Ille et Vilaine, 10 NUM 35288 606, https://archives-en-ligne.ille-et-vilaine.fr/thot_internet/ark:/49933/tht12jm65g8j/140526/27

⁴ Pierre Bonnefin's land was described in his claim as "[e]ight acres more or less, situated in Kororarika, and bounded on the north by Princes Street; on the west by Victoria Street; on the south by land claimed by Mr Polack; and on the east by land of the Right Rev. Bishop Pompallier" ("Claims Land", *New Zealand Herald and Auckland Gazette*, 8 December 1841, 4).

⁵ "Local", *Australasian Chronicle*, 24 December 1839, 1.

⁶ "Shipping Intelligence. Arrivals", *Sydney Herald*, 29 May 1837, 2.

⁷ Caillard, Andrew. 2020. *Imagining Coonawara. The Story of John Riddoch Cabernet Sauvignon*. Melbourne: Hardie Grant Books, 67.

⁸ "Departures", *Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser*, 23 September 1839, 2.

⁹ Didier Numa Joubert, Macquarie Place, Sydney to the Honourable Colonial Secretary, 10 October 1840, Archives New Zealand, Case Files [Numa Didier Joubert, Kororāreka], OLC 788, Box 39.

also been arranged beforehand. The Joubert and Bonnefin families shared interests in both seafaring and sugar planting¹⁰ and had almost certainly crossed paths prior to Joubert's trip to New Zealand.



Figure 2: Didier Numa Joubert, Joubert File, Hunters Hill Historical Society Museum.¹¹

If Joubert's land claims in the Bay of Islands proved contentious – the authorities in New Zealand dragged their feet issuing the deeds due to Joubert's "alien" and "foreigner" status and it was not until 1859 that he was finally granted 114 acres at Waikare¹² – his sojourn in New Zealand was

¹⁰ Auguste Alexis Joubert, Didier Numa's father, was a naval officer before turning to wine-making. His wife, Rose Elizabeth Civadier, had previously been married to a sugar planter in the Antilles. Some members of the Bonnefin family had sugar plantations in Mauritius (Maguire, "Didier Joubert", 103, 113).

¹¹ This portrait was likely painted by Agnes Beatrice Chettle around 1925 from a photograph. It was later reproduced by Noel Chettle as a Christmas card. The inscription on the back of the (undated) card reads, "Christmas Greetings. Noel Chettle, a friend of ours, produced this card for Xmas, and I obtained two more from him as I thought it would interest you Rock Hounds of Hunters Hill. Our warmest wishes to you for the New Year. Arch and Lyn McBurney, 61 Cross St, Baulkham Hills 2153" (Joubert File, Hunters Hill Historical Society Museum). See Speedy, "Toppling Joubert", 206-207 for a short discussion of this portrait.

¹² D. N. Joubert, claim 329, at the Court of Auckland on Friday 12 August 1859, granted by F. D. Bell, Land Claims Commissioner, Archives New Zealand, Case files [Numa Didier Joubert, Waikare, Bay of Islands], OLC 789, Box 39.

fortuitous. Not only did Joubert gain a wife, but through his meeting and dealings with Bishop Pompallier, he started a life-long, useful, and no doubt lucrative relationship with the Marists. Pompallier soon became indebted to Joubert. He advised the Marist Order to employ his shipping services and he became their close francophone ally in English-speaking Sydney.¹³

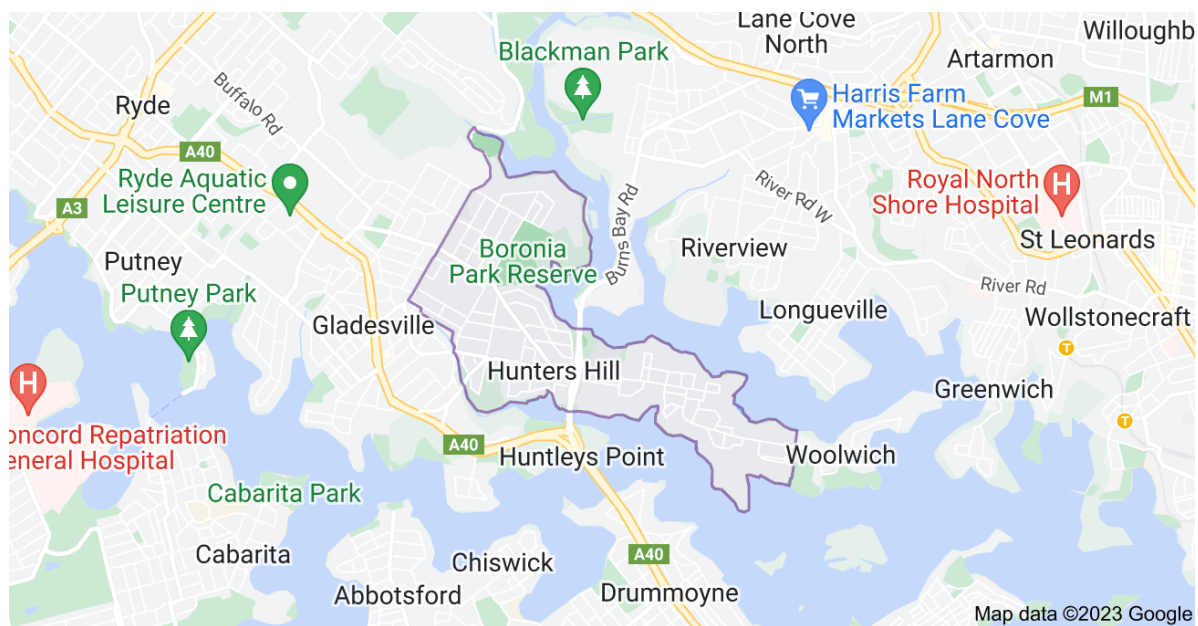


Figure 3: Contemporary Sydney map showing the position of Hunters Hill (with a purple border), Google Maps, 2023.

Returning to New South Wales, Didier Numa and Lise first lived in Macquarie Place in Sydney where he and Jeremiah Murphy traded as Joubert & Murphy, wine and spirit merchants. In 1847, the Jouberts purchased former convict and successful businesswoman Mary Reibey's expansive property, Figtree Farm, on the Lane Cove River in Hunters Hill. This was Wallumedegal land but by the 1830s, when the Hunters Hill peninsula had been bought up by

¹³ See Speedy, "Toppling Joubert", 187. This relationship was solidified when Joubert travelled back to France in 1844 and met Marist Father Dubreul in Paris. Dubreul wrote enthusiastically to Marist founder Jean-Claude Colin about having such a valuable ally in Sydney. See: Hosie, John. 1987. *Challenge: the Marists in Colonial Australia*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 34. Joubert would go on to ship Marists, their converts and provisions around the Pacific and secure land and a house in Hunters Hill for their first "Villa Maria" on Tarban Creek (Hosie, *Challenge*, 116). In New Caledonia, he would obtain land next to the Marist mission at Saint-Louis and consign his own illegitimate daughter, Marie Joubert, whose mother was a Kanak woman named Ondabui, to their care (Speedy, *Colons, créoles et coolies*, 181-182; Cornet, "Didier Numa Joubert", 80-81).

(often absentee) land speculators, they, like most of Sydney's Aboriginal clans, had been driven from the area, victims of smallpox and other European diseases and deliberate genocidal activity to "clear" the land.¹⁴



Figure 4: Figtree Farm in 1838 by Joseph Fowles.¹⁵

In 1853, when Lise wrote her diary, the Jouberts were living in one of the two cottages that Mary Reibey had built on Figtree Farm. Walter S. Campbell, son of Francis Campbell, superintendent of the neighbouring Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum, wrote his personal childhood memories of the land surrounding the asylum and described the Joubert cottages as having "a fair-sized garden" and a "very large area of land". He also reported that "Mr Thompson and his family" lived in the other cottage "built under the shade of

¹⁴ See: Heiss, Anita and Gibson, Melodie-Jane. 2013. "Aboriginal people and place", *Barani Sydney's Aboriginal History*, <https://www.sydneymarani.com.au/sites/aboriginal-people-and-place/>; Sherry, Beverley. 1989. *Hunter's Hill: Australia's Oldest Garden Suburb*. Sydney: David Ell Press, 22-26, 30-31.

¹⁵ From the collections of the State Library of New South Wales [MSS B1310, p 153], (from *Journal of a voyage from London to Sydney in the barque Fortune, April 5 - August 31, 1838*, Mitchell Library). Source: Sherry, Beverley. 2008. "Hunters Hill", *The Dictionary of Sydney*, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/hunters_hill

the large Port Jackson fig-tree, known everywhere as ‘The Fig Tree’” due to its immense dimensions. Joseph Fowles’ painting above (Figure 4) depicts Figtree Farm some fifteen years earlier but it gives us an idea of the lay of the land with the Thompsons’ cottage on the right and the Jouberts’ cottage up the path. The Thompsons were residing there in 1853. Indeed, on New Year’s Day, Lise noted that the Jouberts dined with them. Lise also recorded visits with Mrs Campbell, Walter’s mother, throughout the year.

While it was no longer the rough and dangerous hideout of bushrangers and escaped convicts, the Hunters Hill of 1853 looked very different from how it would a decade or two later. Lise was writing at a time when there were few neighbours, no more than twenty houses within a mile radius of the Tarban Creek asylum, although there were regular social meetings with the Thompsons, Campbells, Wilsons, and the Marist Father Rocher, all of whom lived in the vicinity. Importantly, Lise’s diary documents the suburb before the sandstone cottages, marine villas and mansions, the landmarks for which it is known, were built. It was written before Didier Numa and his brother Jules began their building projects, before the elegant Passy, future residence of French Consul Louis Sentis, or St Malo, named after Lise’s birthplace, were constructed, before Walshale, Innisfree, The Haven, Windermere, Villa Floridiana, Nemba, Coorabel or Annabel Lea were built, before today’s Villa Maria, the original Gladesville bridge or the Fig-tree iron-truss swing bridge were constructed. It was even before Swiss entrepreneur Léonard Étienne Bordier had erected his pre-fabricated wooden houses on either side of Ferry Street.¹⁶ However, on 6 October Lise wrote, “Mr Bordier came to say his goodbyes. He is leaving for Europe.” He was, in fact, off to the Paris Industrial Exhibition where he would buy and organise the importation of four pre-fabricated timber houses. On 12 October Lise noted, “Jules arrived from Melbourne after four years’ absence” and on 19 December she reported, “the carpenter started work”. This was, therefore, a crucial time in the development

¹⁶ See Sherry, *Australia’s Oldest Garden Suburb*, 39-52 and Maguire, “William Weaver” for more detailed information on the construction of the “French” residences in Hunters Hill and Speedy, “Toppling Joubert” for a more decolonial perspective on these buildings.

of Hunters Hill, the end of an era, a turning point, the very beginning of the period of rampant construction that would radically transform the landscape.



Figure 5: St Malo, demolished 1961, Hunters Hill Historical Society.¹⁷

The diary recounts daily life for Lise – the running of the farm, social events and visits, and family activities and news. With the help of her servants, some of whom were named in the diary (Margaret, Richard and Michael, the gardener), Lise embarked upon both animal husbandry and the cultivation of crops and successfully turned the family farm into a business. She sold the farm produce in Sydney. “I went to Sydney”, she would write in her bare style, making twenty-four trips in the year, many of which were to sell eggs, butter, milk, animal fat for candles, pigs, calves and, once, quinces. At the back of the diary, Lise meticulously recorded the farm accounts, detailing what was sold in Sydney (and to neighbours on occasion), the price she was paid for the items and, in a second column, the poultry (chickens, ducks and turkeys) and

¹⁷ Source: “Creation of a Suburb”, The Heritage of Hunters Hill Green Book, <https://greenbook.huntershilltrust.org.au/creation-of-a-suburb/>

suckling pigs that the family consumed each month (see Figure 6). The income from the farm totalled £91—9—0 in 1853.

OBSERVATIONS IN JANUARY.

<i>£-S-d.</i>		
vente de la ferme		volailles mangées
Geurre et enf	- 10 -	un dindon
à Nancy	- 9 -	2 canards
un veau	- 10 -	2 poulets
un cochon	- 10	1 canard
Nancy	- 8-8	2 poulets
Geurre et enf	- 11 -	2 canards
du du	- 11 8	2 poulets
Nancy	- 12-8	3 poulets
du	- 7 -	2 poulets
un veau	14 -	
<u>£ 5-10 -</u>	<u>11</u>	

Figure 6: January accounts, Lise Joubert's Diary.

Each day, without fail, Lise reported the number of eggs that her hens had laid and commented on the weather. At first blush, this may seem a little monotonous but as we read through the diary, we realise that her interest in the weather was very much tied to her passion for gardening and planting crops to feed the family (potatoes, cabbages, turnips, barley, oats etc.). Yet, in her gardening pursuits, which included planting grass in the bush, “a lot of couch grass”, as she specified in August, she was not only supplying food but was also playing her part in the colonial project, taming the land,

domesticating it, killing the native species in the bush with the invasive couch, and thus preparing the land for the imminent construction projects. Lise, we sense, in her “landedness”, was also putting down her own roots. And the eggs, the number ever-increasing as the months progressed, were a symbol of her burgeoning business.

Aside from selling the farm’s wares in Sydney, Lise also went shopping in town. She purchased bulk foodstuffs for the family and farm animals (flour, sugar, corn, rice, oats and hay), cloth for Numa and Ferdinand’s clothes, household linen (twelve bedsheets, no doubt to accommodate the many visitors, and two table cloths), and luxury goods for herself including “two silk dresses and a velvet coat”. On 10 January, she “made several visits” and “got a tooth filled”. Having a dental procedure in 1853 was surely a painful experience but Lise reported it without drama in her very matter-of-fact manner.

Lise participated in the colony’s social life in Sydney too. On 22 June, with Numa (her husband),¹⁸ she attended the “*bal des célibataires*”, the Singles Ball in Sydney and on 23 December she went to Sydney for the “National Schools’ prizegiving”. On most of her trips, however, she visited individuals, friends such as Mrs Moore, Mrs Smith and Mrs Murphy (wives of her husband’s business associates) and many unspecified others. “I visited several people” or “I made several visits”, she would often state. Lise was not one for descriptions and can be frustratingly vague. Was this just her style or were there political or diplomatic reasons for not divulging everyone’s identities? Whatever the case, the most visited family in town, and one of the most frequent visitors to Hunters Hill, was the Sentis family. Lise mentioned several dinners “at the Consul’s house” in Sydney and Louis Sentis’ youngest daughter, Marie, aged about twelve at the time and the Jouberts’ daughter

¹⁸ Lise often referred to her husband Didier Numa as “Numa”, which can be confusing as their eldest son was also called Numa. Context usually makes it clear as to whether she was talking about her husband or son.

Louise, aged about ten, appeared to be friends, spending the night or several days at each other's houses.¹⁹



Figure 7: Louis Sentis, Consul for France in Sydney.²⁰

The Joubert home, islanded between the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers in Hunters Hill, was like a port of call for visitors, who sometimes got marooned, prisoners to the wild weather, which Lise reported, in a break from her usual no-frills writing, rather sinisterly. When the Sentis family, for instance, spent four nights with the Jouberts in October, having missed the steamer due to heavy rain, Lise declared, “[v]ery heavy rain. The Sentis family are still prisoners”. She had used this same description on 11 July when another visitor, Mr Lambert, was stuck at the Joubert house due to the awful weather, “[t]orrential rain. Mr Lambert was a prisoner”, she wrote.

The Jouberts hosted other members of the French Consulate, such as Alphonse Truy and his wife, and Oscar Tondeur, soon-to-be Acting Vice-

¹⁹ For more information on Louis Sentis, see Barko, Ivan. nd. “Sentis, Louis (1802–1884)”, *The French-Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <https://www.isfar.org.au/bio/sentis-louis-1802-1884/>

²⁰ Source: Barko, “Sentis, Louis”, <https://www.isfar.org.au/bio/sentis-louis-1802-1884/>

Consul of France in Van Dieman's Land.²¹ Like Joubert, Tondeur was a shipping merchant, partner in the firm Tondeur & Lemprière, which imported trade goods, including sugar from Mauritius, into Melbourne and Tasmania. More frequent visitors included close friends like Count Gabriel de Milhau, exiled after the 1848 revolution, and his family, including his wife's sisters Sarah and Rose, who, in 1853, according to Lise's diary, were residing in Ermington. The following year de Milhau would acquire land in Hunters Hill where he too would build houses, including the lavish Paraza.²²

If Lise was not to make any sea journeys herself in 1853, the ocean would come to her in the shape of her husband's shipping and sailor friends, many of whom visited or stayed over in their Hunters Hill home. On 2 January, for instance, Mr d'Adhemar, midshipman on the French ship the *Moselle*, called in. On 26 January, Lise spent the day on board the *Vesta*, the French ship captained by Mr Soubry, who visited the Jouberts eight times in January and February while his ship was in harbour. Captain Smith, miscellaneous unnamed "French officers" and Captain Mériaux of the French barque *Alix* also visited on different occasions.

However, most interesting, were the visits Lise recorded of the participants in the *Sutton* Case, the first known instance of blackbirding or slave trading of Pacific Islanders to Reunion Island in 1857.²³ This "experiment" to provide labourers for Reunionese sugar planters would be organised by Didier Numa Joubert, owner of the *Sutton*. His friend, Louis Sentis, whom we have already noted as a regular visitor, would lend his consular backing for the venture, and his long-time shipping associates and agents, Captains Joseph Wilson

²¹ It was no doubt on this visit to Sydney (Tondeur was at the Joubert house on 24 April) that Sentis named Tondeur Acting Vice-Consul. His appointment was announced in "Government Gazette", *The Hobart Town Advertiser*, 11 May 1853, 4.

²² Sherry, *Australia's Oldest Garden Suburb*, 46-47. Paraza was named after his former home, Château de Paraza, in the Languedoc region of France. Ray Stevens (personal communication, 15 April 2023) was able to identify "Miss Sarah" and "Miss Rose" as Marion de Milhau's (née Adcock) sisters.

²³ I have described the *Sutton* Case extensively in Speedy, "The Sutton Case", Speedy, "Constructing Subaltern Silence", and Speedy, "Sydney's Global Slavery Scandal".

and Jean D'Allemagne,²⁴ would sail the *Sutton* and "recruit" the men in the Solomons and Gilbert Islands. In her diary, Lise noted several visits from Captain Wilson and his family. Wilson lived nearby in a "good sized cottage" built by Thomas Stubbs on the south side of Tarban Creek.²⁵ Captain Jean D'Allemagne, captain of Joubert's ships trading in the Pacific, including those chartered by the Marist mission from the 1840s, also made several appearances at the Joubert house. On 7 January, Lise wrote, "[o]vercast. Mr D'Almagne and Mr Budin came last night." They had arrived that day from the South Sea Islands on board the *Jeune Lucie*, "Captain Dalmaine... Passengers – Rev. Mr Talford, Mr Budin and four natives of the South Sea Islands. Agent D. N. Joubert".²⁶ A few months later, on 14 April, Lise noted nonchalantly, "[p]leasant weather. Mr D'Allemagne and the 4 blacks left". Presumably these men were the same four South Sea Islanders who had arrived with him on the *Jeune Lucie*. Were they servants? Converts? Were they working for the Marists? Where had they been staying while they were in Sydney?

The diary offers no answers to these questions but the way Lise casually mentioned them makes us think that their presence was nothing out of the ordinary, part of everyday life. Indeed, shipping records for Sydney show that alongside trade goods such as wine, sugar and coconut oil, there were many "natives" from the South Sea Islands as passengers on Joubert's trading ships. Sometimes they were accompanied by Marist missionaries. From the late 1840s, groups of Pacific converts (Wallisians, Futunans, Kanak, Samoans, Solomon Islanders etc.) were transported to Sydney, allegedly for religious instruction, but they ended up providing free labour for the Marists (and for Joubert in his garden²⁷ and building projects) in Hunters Hill. They were employed quarrying rock at the Pyrmont quarry for the churches that they would build back in the islands and some of them likely quarried the

²⁴ Jean/John D'Allemagne is spelt variously, Dalmayne, Delmaine and Dumaine in the Sydney newspapers (Speedy, "The Sutton Case", 347). In her diary, Lise Joubert referred to him as "D'Almagne" and "d'Allemagne".

²⁵ Campbell, "The Parramatta River", 250, 254.

²⁶ "Shipping Intelligence. Arrivals", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 January 1853, 4.

²⁷ "Hunters Hill – Proposed Church and School-House", *Empire*, 20 July 1857, 6.

local white sandstone for the second Villa Maria.²⁸ John Hosie mentions that the brothers were “aided by islanders” in the carpentry, joinery and roofing work on Villa Maria.²⁹ And, in 1859, an article on a group of Marist missionaries heading for Wallis Island and Apia in Samoa, “where there is a Catholic church built of stone from our Pymont quarries”, noted, “[o]ld residents in Sydney will remember how, some ten years since, Dr Bataillon and a number of natives whom he had brought up from the islands were for some time employed in quarrying and preparing the stone near Lyndhurst”.³⁰



Figure 8: The second Villa Maria Church, Hunters Hill (1871). Photo by Karin Speedy (2016).

²⁸ For details see Speedy, “Toppling Joubert”; Hosie, *Challenge*, 99-100.

²⁹ Hosie, *Challenge*, 118.

³⁰ “Departure of Catholic Missionaries for the South Seas”, *Freeman’s Journal*, 28 May 1859, 2. Lyndhurst, at 61 Darghan Street, Glebe, was situated adjacent to the Pymont quarries of “Hellhole” and “Purgatory” where Pacific Islanders quarried sandstone for the Marists (Speedy, “Toppling Joubert”, 199-201). Built for Dr James Bowman, John Macarthur’s son-in-law between 1833 and 1837, the lavish villa became, from 1852-1877, the Lyndhurst Benedictine Academy or St Mary’s College that in 1859 was the only “Catholic school in the Sydney archdiocese offering advanced education to university entrance level” (Hosie, *Challenge*, 138).

Lise's use of language here is telling of her attitude towards non-white others. She dehumanised the men, seeing only their skin colour, referring to them as "*noirs*" (blacks). Similarly, on 13 July, she reported in an equally off-hand way, "[q]uite fine weather. On his way to Sydney, Numa picked up a black who had drowned the day before". Again, she gave no further information and we are left wondering who the man was. A South Sea islander? An Aboriginal man? A servant or worker? Someone Joubert knew? And what did her husband do with him? In these brief words we read a disconnect and lack of empathy with people who were racially and socially different from her.

As for her children, Lise registered only a slight interest in them in her diary.³¹ In 1853, there were three Joubert children – thirteen-year-old Numa, twelve-year-old Ferdinand and Louise, aged ten. The youngest, Rose, would be born in 1855. The children appear now and again in the diary but they did not seem to be a focus of Lise's attention. She talked about them taking ill, about Numa catching scarlet fever and Ferdinand being sick, about her ferrying Louise to the Sentis and de Milhau houses to play with her friends, about Miss Wigan coming to teach Louise and about Numa taking the children to school. The "children" also picked up their parents after the Singles Ball in Sydney on 23 June, probably in the gig that, as Campbell noted, Louise drove her father in "almost daily" to Bedlam Ferry.³² Lise described one family outing that ended somewhat disastrously. On 13 February she said, "[q]uite pleasant weather. We all went to the headwaters of Lane Cove [River]. Numa fell and hurt his knee and we all came back somewhat sick, some of us from the heat, others from [eating] the little suckling pig." Otherwise, the children read more like extras than main players in Lise's life. Perhaps this was why, five years later, as teenagers, Numa and Ferdinand were independent enough to be sent to set up and manage their father's sugar plantation and cattle station in New Caledonia and, prior to this, Ferdinand had been sent to Mauritius to learn the finer points of sugar production.³³ Even her husband, Didier Numa,

³¹ This is not to say that she was not more maternal but the diary reveals her primarily as a business woman and a necessary home entertainer for guests.

³² Campbell, "The Parramatta River", 255.

³³ For details see Speedy, *Colons, créoles et coolies*, 43-54.

seemed to have a bit part in Lise's world with a mere six mentions throughout the year, in one, on his birthday no less, Lise referred to him simply by his initials "DNJ". And when her younger brother Pierre Bonnefin, who was then living in Tahiti, came to see her, Lise noted that she hadn't seen him in nearly four years on his first visit on 4 July but then divulged nothing more than "Pierre came" on 23 July and "Pierre left" on 26 July. What is clear in the diary is that Lise was not one to express much emotion, at least not through her writing, although she described her animals, cows and dogs especially, all of them with names (Jenny, Chérie, Nancy, Belle, Toto etc.), with some feeling.

As a final remark, the fact that Lise never missed a day in her diary is striking. This assiduous commitment raises the obvious question as to the potential, or probable, existence of other Lise Joubert diaries for other years. Surely such a diligent writer would not have decided to diarise just one year? We can only imagine the insights other diaries might give us if they were ever to come to light. For now, Lise Joubert's 1853 diary offers us a fascinating, early slice of life in Hunters Hill from a well-off French, colonial woman's perspective and, as such, makes an original contribution to our understanding of the private sphere, the social, domestic and business workings of Lise Joubert in mid-nineteenth century New South Wales. It also provides glimpses of the community and close relationships between merchants, seamen, administrators, Marists and other powerful players that were fostered through social interactions, many of which took place at the Joubert home. While Lise did not comment on politics as such, conversations would certainly have turned to the subject of France's newest colonial possession in the Pacific, New Caledonia, and the increased opportunities (in trade and exploitation) it presented, especially to the bilingual and bicultural Sydney-based merchants.

Associate Professor Karin Speedy

Visiting Research Fellow, The University of Adelaide

Wellington, New Zealand

February 2023 (Revised May 2023)

Lise Joubert's Diary 1853

Saturday 1 January

Fine, pleasant weather.³⁴

We had dinner with the Thompsons, Mr Soubry and Ben.³⁵

Chérie had a calf.

Eggs 7

Sunday 2 January

Same weather.

Mr D'Adhemar came to spend the day.³⁶

Eggs 6

Monday 3 January

Hot wind.

Mrs Walker came to spend some time with us.

Eggs 8

Tuesday 4 January

Overcast.

³⁴ In the following annotated translation I have, wherever possible, included contextual information to help the reader understand more about the people and events recorded in this diary. Please note that in the original, the handwriting is illegible in a few places and, when I have been unable to decipher it, I have signalled its illegibility.

³⁵ Mr Soubry was the captain of the French ship, *Vesta*. The Thompsons were living in the neighbouring cottage on Figtree Farm but I have not been able to determine exactly who they were. Mr Thompson could not have been Joubert's "brother-in-law" as Campbell ("The Parramatta River", 251) claimed. There was a ship captain named Thompson who appeared regularly in the shipping news in the Sydney newspapers in the 1850s. Given the maritime connections with Joubert, it could have been him. However, without a first name, it is difficult to be sure. Ben was perhaps an associate of Soubry, although his lack of title or surname is unusual and perhaps indicates that he was a servant or someone on very familiar terms with the Jouberts.

³⁶ Mr D'Adhemar was a midshipman on the *Moselle*, a French frigate that had been around the Pacific Islands and had called in to Sydney for supplies for the French government at Tahiti before heading on to Tahiti ("Ships' Mails", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 December 1852, 2).

Eggs 9

Wednesday 5 January

Same weather.

Eggs 12

Thursday 6 January

Light rain almost the whole day.

Eggs 16

Friday 7 January

Overcast.

Mr D'Almagne and Mr Budin came last night.³⁷

Eggs 15

Saturday 8 January

Rainy weather.

I sent Mr Delange 3 pigs, 2 sows and a male.³⁸

Eggs 12

Sunday 9 January

Strong westerly wind.

Captain Soubry and two other men came over.

Eggs 14

³⁷ Jean D'Allemagne, ship captain who captained ships for Joubert and the Marists in the Pacific and who would later be involved in the *Sutton* case (Speedy, "The Sutton Case"). He and Mr Budin had arrived on the *Jeune Lucie* earlier that day with "four natives of the South Sea Islands" ("Shipping Intelligence. Arrivals", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 January 1853, 4).

³⁸ Mr Eugène Delange lived in Putney. Campbell mentioned him as having bought the Putney land grant from Nicholas Bayley ("The Parramatta River", 266).

Monday 10 January

Same weather.

I went to Sydney, made several visits, and got a tooth filled.

Eggs 17

Tuesday 11 January

Rained all day and all night.

Eggs 24

Wednesday 12 January

Same weather.

Eggs 20

Thursday 13 January

Same weather.

Eggs 30

Friday 14 January

Strong wind.

8 piglets were born.³⁹

Eggs 12

Saturday 15 January

Squalls.

Eggs 20

Sunday 16 January

Fine weather.

³⁹ Lise recorded the birth of her farm animals. Perhaps one of these piglets was the “suckling pig” that made the family sick on 13 February?

We had several visitors.⁴⁰

Eggs 12

Monday 17 January

Extremely hot.

I went to Sydney.

Eggs 16

Tuesday 18 January

Even hotter.

Eggs 18

Wednesday 19 January

Overcast.

Eggs 12

Thursday 20 January

Same weather.

Eggs 17

Friday 21 January

Very hot.

Eggs 14

Saturday 22 January

Fine weather.

We went to dinner at Nancy's for William's birthday.⁴¹

⁴⁰ An example of Lise's vagueness or perhaps it was her deliberate choice not to say who the visitors were.

⁴¹ William and Nancy must have been close friends as their surname was not mentioned. I wonder whether they might have been the Thompsons who lived next door?

Captain Soubry visited us.

Eggs 14

Sunday 23 January

Very nice weather.

Several visitors.

Eggs 16

Monday 24 January

Very nice weather.

I went to Sydney.

Eggs 14

Tuesday 25 January

Hot weather.

Eggs 18

Wednesday 26 January

Overcast and pleasant weather, we spent the day on board the *Vesta*.⁴²

Eggs 21

Thursday 27 January

Big storm, not much rain.

Mrs Walker came to say her goodbyes to us.

Eggs 18

Friday 28 January

Overcast.

⁴² This was the French ship captained by Soubry.

I went to Sydney.

Dinner at the Consul's house.⁴³

Eggs 21

Saturday 29 January

Overcast.

I returned from Sydney with Marie Sentis and Captain Soubry came over.⁴⁴

Eggs 42

Sunday 30 January

Really hot.

Eggs 22

Monday 31 January

Fine, hot weather.

Eggs 18

Tuesday 1 February

Same dry weather.

Eggs 20

Wednesday 2 February

Same weather.

Eggs 15

⁴³ On 11 January 1853, the Governor General approved Louis François Sentis' appointment as French Consul at Sydney for the French Republic ("Government Gazette", Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser, 15 January 1853, 4). The Sentis family had close relations with the Jouberts as can be seen throughout the diary in their numerous visits and stays at each other's houses.

⁴⁴ Louis Sentis' daughter, Marie Caroline (1841-1920), was a talented amateur singer and friend of Louise Joubert. She was aged twelve in 1853. See Barko, "Sentis, Louis", <https://www.isfar.org.au/bio/sentis-louis-1802-1884/>

Thursday 3 February

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Friday 4 February

I went to Sydney.

Eggs 16

Saturday 5 February

Hot wind.

Mr Soubry came over.

Eggs 20

Sunday 6 February

Fine weather.

We had the company of many people, the entire consulate.

Marie Sentis left.

Mrs Truy has come to stay for a few days.⁴⁵

10 piglets were born.

Eggs 16

Monday 7 February

Overcast and hot.

Eggs 19

Tuesday 8 February

Cool breeze.

⁴⁵ Wife of Adolphe Truy, esq. Chancellor of the French Consulate. Their son, Maurice, died, aged six, later that year ("Died", Sydney Morning Herald, 10 September 1853, 7).

I went to Sydney to see Mrs Moore and Mrs Smith.⁴⁶

Eggs 13

Wednesday 9 February

Very hot and stormy weather.

Eggs 17

Thursday 10 February

Same weather.

Eggs 20

Friday 11 February

Extreme heat.

Everything is burnt in the garden.

Eggs 14

Saturday 12 February

Fine, hot weather.

Mr Soubry came to visit.

Eggs 16

Sunday 13 February

Quite pleasant weather. We all went to the headwaters of Lane Cove [River].

Numa fell and hurt his knee and we all came back somewhat sick, some of us from the heat, others from [eating] the little suckling pig.

⁴⁶ Mrs Moore was the wife of merchant Henry Moore, who was the son of whaling captain, shipowner and merchant Joseph Moore. Henry did his apprenticeship in his father's business before commencing his own merchant company at Miller's Point ("Moore, Henry", *The Dictionary of Sydney*, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/person/moore_henry). Mrs Smith was the wife of shipper and trader Charles Smith with whom Didier Numa would go into business after the *Sutton* affair. According to Maguire, Smith and Joubert shared a wharf at Miller's Point and "they collaborated in plantation investments as well as earning the contract to supply French government forces stationed there [New Caledonia]" (Maguire, "The French in Hunters Hill", np).

Eggs 12

Monday 14 February

Hot weather.

Eggs 14

Tuesday 15 February

Same weather

Eggs 20

Wednesday 16 February

Unbearably hot. Everything is burnt.

Eggs 16

Thursday 17 February

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Friday 18 February

Same weather.

Mr Soubry came to visit.

Eggs 20

Saturday 19 February

Same weather.

Eggs 14

Sunday 20 February

Same weather.

Eggs 15

Monday 21 February

Same weather.

Mr Soubry left. He said his goodbyes to us.⁴⁷

Eggs 18

Tuesday 22 February

Overcast.

I went to Sydney.

We got 200 pounds of flour.⁴⁸

Eggs 14

Wednesday 23 February

Same weather.

Mrs Kirk and Mrs Lawson visited us.⁴⁹

Eggs 19

Thursday 24 February

Extreme heat.

Eggs 12

Friday 25 February

Even hotter than yesterday.

⁴⁷ The *Vesta* left for Melbourne and Le Havre on 24 February ("Departures", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 February 1853, 2).

⁴⁸ Lise purchased staples, such as flour for making bread, in Sydney.

⁴⁹ Mrs Lawson was likely Caroline Lawson (née Icely), the wife of William Lawson Jr, son of William Lawson MLC, who with Gregory Blaxland and William Wentworth, had found an important trade route inland through the Blue Mountains from the Sydney coastal plains. He was also a "surveyor, soldier, land owner, squatter, politician and church leader" ("William Lawson MLC (1774 - 1850)", *WikiTree*, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lawson-2032>). William Jr inherited most of his father's vast land holdings. He and Caroline lived at Veteran Hall, Prospect ("William Lawson (1804 - 1861)", *WikiTree*, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lawson-2034>).

Our poor dog Belle died.⁵⁰

Eggs 12

Saturday 26 February

Same weather.

Miss Sarah went to the Christening of the Moore baby.⁵¹

Eggs 10

Sunday 27 February

Weather more pleasant.

Eggs (nothing
noted)

Monday 28 February

Overcast.

Miss R's (Rose's) birthday.⁵²

Eggs 10

Tuesday 1 March

Strong north easterly wind.

We went to the Christening of the Cotton baby.⁵³ On our return we got soaked by the waves.

Eggs 9

⁵⁰ Lise seemed sad at the loss of the family dog.

⁵¹ Miss Sarah was Sarah Adcock, Marion de Milhau's sister (Ray Stevens, personal communication, 15 April 2023).

⁵² Miss R was Miss Rose Adcock, Marion de Milhau's sister (Ray Stevens, personal communication, 15 April 2023).

⁵³ This was likely the child of William Bayes Cotton and wife Rachel née Burrowes ("Henry Bayes Cotton (1818-1906)", WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cotton-2705>). W. B. Cotton died at Figtree, Hunters Hill in 1906. He had arrived in NSW in 1839 and was the manager of the Bank of NSW in Newcastle from 1863-1888 (Di Gravio, Gionni. 2011. "An Interesting Relic", *Hunter Living Histories*, <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2011/01/28/an-interesting-relic/>). The christening was probably that of Charles Vernon Cotton, born on 10 January 1853 at NSW ("Charles Vernon Cotton (1853 - 1918)", WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cotton-2704>).

Wednesday 2 March

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Thursday 3 March

Very hot.

Planted potatoes. We had to wet the soil as it was so dry.⁵⁴

Eggs 20

Friday 3 March

Overcast.

Eggs 14

Saturday 5 March

Hot weather.

Eggs 14

Sunday 6 March

Fine weather.

We didn't have any visitors.

Eggs 18

Monday 7 March

Overcast.

Eggs 16

Tuesday 8 March

⁵⁴ Lise liked to give gardening observations such as this. Perhaps they served as notes to herself for future planting.

Same weather.

Eggs 14

Wednesday 9 March

Rained for some of the day.

Eggs 14

Thursday 10 March

Rained all day.

Eggs 12

Friday 11 March

Quite fine.

Rained in the evening.

We got 200 pounds of flour at £1—3 a bushel.

Eggs 20

Saturday 12 March

Fine weather all day, rain all night.

We sowed and planted grass in the bush.⁵⁵

Eggs 15

Sunday 13 March

Overcast.

No visitors.

Eggs 11

Monday 14 March

⁵⁵ Here Lise was playing her part in the colonial project, colonising the bush, taming it into a domestic space.

Quite nice weather.

I went to Sydney.

I bought cloth for Numa and Ferdinand's clothes. I bought corn [illegible]. I paid 7 shillings per bushel, 8 shillings for oats, £20 for a bale of hay.

Eggs 19

Tuesday 15 March

Same weather.

Eggs 19

Wednesday 16 March

Fine weather.

I sold 9 piglets at 5 shillings each.

Eggs 12

Thursday 17 March

Quite nice weather.

Eggs 12

Friday 18 March

Strong southerly wind, rained in the evening.

Eggs 16

Saturday 19 March

Very nice weather. We went and spent the day at Miss Sentis' house.⁵⁶

Eggs 14

⁵⁶ Miss Sentis was Ernestine, born 1832, who apparently acted as her father's hostess (Barko, "Sentis, Louis", <https://www.isfar.org.au/bio/sentis-louis-1802-1884/>).

Sunday 20 March

Very nice weather. Mr and Mrs Harper, Mr Truy and Mr Malfilatre came to spend the day.⁵⁷

Eggs 12

Monday 21 March

Fine weather.

Margaret went to Sydney.⁵⁸

Eggs 12

Tuesday 22 March

Same weather.

Eggs 14

Wednesday 23 March

Same weather.

I went with Miss Rose to pick up the dogs.

Eggs 10

Thursday 24 March

Fine weather.

Eggs 14

Friday 25 March

⁵⁷ Mr Alphonse Malfilatre left Sydney on the schooner *Mary* for the South Sea Islands on 24 March 1854 ("Clearances", Sydney Morning Herald, 25 March 1854, 4). Originally from Rennes, he had been learning the merchant trade in Sydney. He decided to set up a copra business on Wallis and married a Futunan who he would abandon, pregnant, a few months after and return to France. For details, see Angleviel, Frédéric. 1989. "Wallis 1825-1858. Contacts, mutations, permanences", *Revue française d'histoire d'outre-mer*, 76.284-285, 95-110.

⁵⁸ Margaret was a servant.

Overcast.

Dench visited us.⁵⁹

Tancy/Taney/Fancy? (Illegible)

Eggs 14

Saturday 26 March

Very nice weather, storm in the evening.

Miss Rose left for Europe.

Miss Sarah went to Sydney.

Mr de Milhau came over in the evening.⁶⁰

Eggs (nothing)

Sunday 27 March

Overcast.

Mr Barton visited us.⁶¹

Eggs 18

Monday 28 March

Really hot, overcast.

Planted barley.

Eggs 15

⁵⁹ This may have been William Dench who was listed as a leaseholder of Glebe Road in the 1859 petition to make Glebe a Municipality. "Municipal Institutions Glebe Petition", *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 30 March 1859, 738.

⁶⁰ Count Gabriel de Milhau, exiled from France after the 1848 revolution, who would move to Hunters Hill, building Paraza, the family home, in the following years. The de Milhau family was apparently living in Ermington in 1853.

⁶¹ This was possibly Captain Robert Johnston Barton who had lived in Hunters Hill and Ryde before but at this time was living in Molong, NSW ("Barton, Captain Robert Johnston", *Barton Family Tree*, <http://barton101.com/familytree/getperson.php?personID=I0135&tree=barton>). His wife was the poet Emily Barton who lived in Gladesville after her husband's death in 1863 ("Barton, Emily Mary", *The Dictionary of Sydney*, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/person/barton_emily_mary). Both spouses are buried in St Anne's Cemetery, Ryde.

Tuesday 29 March

Same weather.

Eggs 12

Wednesday 30 March

Same weather.

Eggs 14

Thursday 31 March

Rained almost the whole day.

Eggs 10

Friday 1 April

Same weather.

We got a barrel of hay, we paid £13 for it.

Eggs 14

Saturday 2 April

Fine weather.

Eggs 11

Sunday 3 April

Stormy day. Dr Bernard visited us.

Eggs 9

Monday 4 April

Rainy.

Eggs 12

Tuesday 5 April

Same weather.

Planted cabbages. Sowed turnips.

Eggs 10

Wednesday 6 April

Same weather.

Louise came back from visiting Mrs Perry's house.

Eggs 23

Thursday 7 April

Superb weather.

Eggs 12

Friday 8 April

Same weather.

Eggs 19

Saturday 9 April

Extremely hot.

Miss Sarah came back for two weeks.

Eggs 15

Sunday 10 April

Even hotter.

Dr Bernard and Mr Loquet visited us.

Eggs 10

Monday 11 April

Same weather. Strong westerly wind.

Eggs 12

Tuesday 12 April

Even windier than yesterday.

Sowed barley and oats in the swamp.

Eggs 15

Wednesday 13 April

Same westerly wind.

Eggs 12

Thursday 14 April

Pleasant weather.

Mr d'Allemagne and the 4 blacks left.⁶²

Eggs 12

Friday 15 April

Strong wind.

We got 200 pounds of flour.

Eggs 15

Saturday 16 April

Same weather.

Eggs 12

Sunday 17 April

⁶² Presumably these were the same four South Sea Islanders who had arrived with him on the *Jeune Lucie* on 7 January. Lise Joubert's dehumanising, dismissive language, referring to the men as "blacks" is telling.

Very nice weather.

The Sentis family came to spend the day.

Eggs 18

Monday 18 April

Same weather.

Terrible drought, the plants are burnt.

Eggs 12

Tuesday 19 April

Same weather.

I went to Sydney,

Eggs 24

Wednesday 20 April

Overcast.

Eggs 14

Thursday 21 April

Overcast.

Louise went to Sydney to spend a few days at Miss Sentis' place.

Eggs 15

Friday 22 April

Same weather.

There was not much water in the well. We cleaned it and there was 10 feet of mud.⁶³

Eggs 18

⁶³ This comment gives us some insight into the water supply and living conditions at the time.

Saturday 23 April

Rained part of the day.

Eggs 14

Sunday 24 April

Very nice weather.

Mr Tondeur and Captain Mériaux visited us.⁶⁴

Eggs 12

Monday 25 April

Fine weather.

Eggs 10

Tuesday 26 April

Same weather.

Eggs 14

Wednesday 27 April

Same weather.

Mr and Mrs de Milhau left for Ermington.⁶⁵

Eggs 12

Thursday 28 April

Very nice weather.

⁶⁴ Oscar Tondeur was a partner in the trading firm Tondeur & Lempriere in Melbourne and Hobart and would shortly be appointed Acting Vice-Consul of France in Tasmania. Captain Mériaux arrived on his ship, the French barque *Alix*, from Port Phillip on 17 April 1853 ("Arrivals", *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List*, 23 April 1853, 118).

⁶⁵ According to Anny Stuer, Mrs de Milhau, Marion Adcock, was English and she may have influenced de Milhau's choice to migrate to Australia after the 1848 revolution (Stuer, Anny. 1979. *The French in Australia with Special Emphasis on the Period 1788-1947*. PhD thesis, Australian National University, Canberra, 72).

Eggs 12

Friday 29 April

Very nice weather.

Eggs 13

Saturday 30 April

Same weather.

Eggs 12

Sunday 1 May

Stormy weather and very cold, a bit of rain in the evening.

Several French people visited us.⁶⁶

Eggs 12

Monday 2 April

Same weather.

Eggs 10

Tuesday 3 May

Same weather, dry.

Sowed some oats.

Eggs 13

Wednesday 4 May

Same weather.

Eggs 12

⁶⁶ We wonder who these '[s]everal French people' were and why Lise did not name them in her diary.

Thursday 5 May

Same weather, dry and cold.

Eggs 12

Friday 6 May

Same weather.

I accompanied Miss Rose to Ermington. Mrs de Milhau came back with me in the evening, we struck a strong squall as we returned.

Eggs 10

Saturday 7 May

Quite nice weather.

Planted cabbages.⁶⁷

Eggs 12

Sunday 8 May

Overcast.

Heavy rain in the evening.

Mr Chauffert and Mr Bordier visited us.⁶⁸

Eggs 10

Monday 9 May

Overcast.

⁶⁷ Lise's diary was informative for the planting times of different vegetables throughout the year.

⁶⁸ Léon Emile Chauffert and Léonard Étienne Bordier went into partnership with Count Gabriel de Milhau and travelled with him and his wife to Australia in 1849 (Stuer, *The French in Australia*, 58). The three men initially headed to the Clarence River where they set up a boiling down works that was ultimately unsuccessful and they consequently moved to Sydney (Dutton, Kenneth. 2005. "A Colonial Entrepreneur: François Girard (1792?-1859)", *Explorations*, 39, 23).

Planted cabbages.

Sowed peas.

The children have not returned to school because they have a very bad case of influenza.

Eggs 8

Tuesday 10 May

Very fine weather.

Sowed peas.

Eggs 6

Wednesday 11 May

Fine weather.

Miss Sarah went to Sydney for a few days.

Eggs 6

Thursday 12 May

Same weather.

Eggs 6

Friday 13 May

Strong, cold wind.

Numa came back from Sydney very ill.

We killed a pig. It weighed 114 pounds.

Eggs 8

Saturday 14 May

Same weather.

Eggs 6

Sunday 15 May

Strong westerly wind.

I am sick with influenza.

Margaret and her husband went to Sydney.

Eggs 6

Monday 16 May

Very fine weather.

Eggs 7

Tuesday 17 May

Same weather.

Eggs 6

Wednesday 18 May

Same weather.

Eggs 8

Thursday 19 May

Overcast.

Eggs 6

Friday 20 May

Same weather.

Eggs 8

Saturday 21 May

Fine weather.

Miss Sarah came back.

Miss Rose came too.

Eggs 6

Sunday 22 May

Overcast and cold.

Eggs 10

Monday 23 May

Fine weather.

I went to Sydney with Miss Rose.

Mr and Mrs Taylor came to stay for a week.

Eggs 7

Tuesday 24 May

Overcast.

Sowed oats.

I sold Blacky for £6.⁶⁹

Eggs 8

Wednesday 25 May

Light rain.

Eggs 8

Thursday 26 May

Same weather.

Eggs 10

Friday 27 May

⁶⁹ Blacky was a farm animal, perhaps a calf or pig. Lise noted this sale in her accounts for June.

Strong westerly wind.

Jenny had her calf, a male.

Eggs 8

Saturday 28 May

Same weather.

Eggs 6

Sunday 29 May

Same weather, cold.

Bouton left for no reason.⁷⁰

Eggs 6

Monday 30 May

Very good weather.

I went to Sydney to visit several people.

Mr and Mrs Taylor left.

Miss Sarah went to Ermington.

Eggs 9

Tuesday 31 May

Pleasant weather.

Eggs 3

Wednesday 1 June

Strong westerly wind.

I went to see Mrs Wilson.⁷¹

Eggs 8

⁷⁰ A servant.

⁷¹ Captain Joseph Wilson's wife.

Thursday 2 June

Fine, dry weather.

Big frost at night.

Eggs 7

Friday 3 June

Same weather.

Eggs

(0 recorded)⁷²

Saturday 4 June

Same weather, big frost.

Miss Sarah came back.

Eggs 8

Sunday 5 June

Same weather.

Mr Bordier, Mr Chauffert, Mr Truy and Mr de Milhau came over.

Last night, the ice was an inch thick.

Eggs 7

Monday 6 June

Very nice weather.

Miss Sarah went to Sydney.

Eggs 9

⁷² Lise wrote “eggs” but did not write the number laid. This was the only day that the number of eggs was not recorded. I am unsure whether this meant that there were no eggs that day or if Lise forgot to note them down.

Tuesday 7 June

Same weather.

Miss Rose came over.

Eggs 7

Wednesday 8 June

Very good weather.

Sowed oats.

Eggs 9

Thursday 9 June

Same weather.

I went to Sydney to see the bazaar.

Eggs 7

Friday 10 June

Overcast.

We opened a 40-pound tea chest.⁷³

Eggs 5

Saturday 11 June

Overcast, light rain.

Eggs 6

Sunday 12 June

Rained all night and all day.

⁷³ How we would love to know what the tea chest contained! Unfortunately, Lise did not elaborate further.

Eggs 3

Monday 13 June

Same weather, even worse.

Numa and the children didn't go to Sydney because of the weather.

Torrential rain towards evening.

Eggs 6

Tuesday 14 June

Rained almost the whole day.

Eggs 11

Wednesday 15 June

Quite fine weather.

Miss Sarah came back and Miss Rose was with her.

Eggs 5

Thursday 16 June

Rain for some of the day.

Eggs 11

Friday 17 June

Very good weather.

Numa and Ferdinand left Mr Baly's boarding house.⁷⁴

Eggs 8

⁷⁴ Mr Edward Baly was an "Oxford-educated man turned teacher and one-time lecturer on mesmerism with musical, as well as artistic, interests" (Cameron, Michaela Ann. 2015. "The Private Schools of Roseneath Cottage", *The Dictionary of Sydney*, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/the_private_schools_of_roseneath_cottage#ref-uuid=857e0c19-041d-ffb4-45b9-80f1c1bc4f49). In 1853, his school was in Crown Street, South Head Road ("Advertising", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 July 1853, 1). The following year, he would begin Mr Baly's Boarding Establishment for Young Gentlemen at Roseneath Cottage in Parramatta (Cameron, "The Private Schools").

Saturday 18 June

Superb weather.

Miss Rose left.

The *Cléopatre* left!⁷⁵

Eggs 5

Sunday 19 June

Very nice weather.

The Condelons and Mr Truy visited us.

Eggs 7

Monday 20 June

Very clear and very cold, frost at night.

Eggs 8

Tuesday 21 June

Same weather, even colder.

Eggs 5

Wednesday 22 June

Same weather.

We went to Sydney to the “bal des célibataires” (Singles’ Ball).

Eggs 6

Thursday 23 June

Strong westerly wind.

⁷⁵ The steam ship *Cleopatra* left for Melbourne on this day (“Departures”, *Empire*, 20 June 1853, 2).

The children came to pick us up in Sydney.⁷⁶

1 duck egg for the first time.

Eggs 8

Friday 24 June

Overcast.

Eggs 11

Saturday 25 June

Squalls.

Eggs 10

Sunday 26 June

Squalls.

Eggs 12

Monday 27 June

Rained almost the whole day.

DNJ's birthday.⁷⁷

Eggs 13

Tuesday 28 June

Heavy rain the whole night and the whole day.

Numa wasn't able to go to Sydney.

⁷⁶ Lise and Didier Numa must have spent the night in town. To get to Sydney, their children would have had to drive the gig to Bedlam Ferry then be rowed out by the puntman to meet a steamer mid-stream (see Campbell, "The Parramatta River", 254-255). Numa and Ferdinand were aged thirteen and twelve but they were used to making this trip with their father and in the nineteenth century children had more responsibilities at a younger age, indeed many boys were working by twelve.

⁷⁷ Didier Numa Joubert's birthday.

Eggs 14

Wednesday 29 June

Torrential rain all night.

Eggs 13

Thursday 30 June

Overcast but no rain.

Eggs 12

Friday 1 July

Quite good weather.

Eggs 12

Saturday 2 July

Very good weather.

Eggs 8

Sunday 3 July

Very good weather.

Mr Lambert visited us.⁷⁸

Eggs 8

Monday 4 July

Same cold weather.

I accompanied Miss Sarah to Ermington.⁷⁹

My brother came in the evening.

⁷⁸ This was probably Henry Lambert, spirit merchant of Montefiores, NSW ("Spirit Merchants and Brewers", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 February, 2).

⁷⁹ To the de Milhau's residence.

I hadn't seen him in nearly four years.⁸⁰

Eggs 12

Tuesday 5 July

Same weather.

Eggs 8

Wednesday 6 July

Very nice weather.

The piano was tuned.⁸¹

Eggs 17

Thursday 7 July

Same weather.

Eggs 12

Friday 8 July

Very good weather.

Mrs Blanchard and Mrs Marsden came for a few days.⁸²

Margaret went to Sydney.

Eggs 18

Saturday 6 July

⁸⁰ Her younger brother, Pierre Bonnefin, came to see her. Pierre had been living in Tahiti since 1849 and had married Sydney-born Jane Adelaide Hunter on 3 April 1852 in Pape'ete. He would become a successful coffee planter but would lose his fortune gambling ("Pierre Bonnefin", *Généalogie Tahiti*, <https://genealogietahiti.home.blog/2020/04/14/pierre-bonnefin/>).

⁸¹ Having a piano in the house, something of a settler symbol, indicates that there was music in the house. It was perhaps used when entertaining the many visitors. It is also a material object that signals a certain level of financial ease.

⁸² There was a French Captain Blanchard and a Captain Marsden coming in and out of Sydney in 1853. These women were possibly their wives. See, for example, "Shipping Intelligence. Arrivals", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 November 1853, 2; "Shipping intelligence. Arrivals", *Empire*, 5 April 1853, 2.

Overcast.

Eggs 24

Sunday 10 July

Light rain for part of the day.

Mr Lambert came in the evening.

Eggs 15

Monday 11 July

Awful weather.

Torrential rain.

Mr Lambert was a prisoner.⁸³

Eggs 14

Tuesday 12 July

Squalls.

Mrs M, Mrs B and Mr L left.

Eggs 18

Wednesday 13 July

Quite fine weather.

On his way to Sydney, Numa picked up a black who had drowned the night before.⁸⁴

Eggs 16

Thursday 14 July

⁸³ Dramatic, slightly sinister comment.

⁸⁴ Detached, dehumanising language and without any further context or indication as to what her husband did with this deceased person. Lise uses the verb “ramasser” in the French, which is usually used to talk about objects that are collected or gathered up, including rubbish. The use of this verb for a human conveys judgement and contempt on her part.

Very nice weather.

I went to Sydney to have dinner at the Consul's house.

Eggs 6

Friday 15 July

Superb weather.

Came back from the city.

Miss Sarah came back too.

Eggs 13

Saturday 16 July

Same weather.

Eggs 12

Sunday 17 July

Same weather, very cold.

Eggs 6

Monday 18 July

Very good weather.

Eggs 12

Tuesday 19 July

Same weather.

I went to Sydney.

I learned of Mrs Ramsay's death.⁸⁵

Eggs 12

⁸⁵ "DIED. On the 4th February, 1853, at sea, on board the ship *Vimeira*, Captain Neatby, on the passage from Sydney to London, Sarah, the wife of Deputy Commissiary-General Ramsay" ("Died", *Empire*, 20 July 1853, 2).

Wednesday 20 July

Very fine weather.

Eggs 8

Thursday 21 July

Same weather.

Eggs 15

Friday 22 July

Overcast.

Eggs 12

Saturday 23 July

Same weather.

Mr Cotton came to stay until Monday.

Eggs 14

Sunday 24 July

Very nice weather.

We had several visitors.

Pierre came.

Eggs 15

Monday 25 July

Overcast.

Pierre left.⁸⁶

I wrote to Mrs Adam and to my mother.⁸⁷

I found 16 rotten eggs.

Eggs 34

Tuesday 26 July

Very nice weather.

Eggs 14

Wednesday 27 July

Overcast.

Light rain in the evening.

Eggs 17

Thursday 28 July

Very fine weather.

Eggs 21

Friday 29 July

Overcast.

Eggs 23

Saturday 30 July

Very good weather.

Two of the sows had their piglets.

One had 9, the other had 11.

⁸⁶ Pierre left for Honolulu on the *Orkney Lass* on 25 July 1853 ("Clearances", *Empire*, 26 July 1853, 3).

⁸⁷ This was possibly the wife of Eléonard Adam, associate of Didier Numa Joubert and sugar planter in New Caledonia and Grafton.

Two died.

Eggs 28

Sunday 31 July

Same weather.

The Descroisille family came to spend the day.⁸⁸

Mr D'almagne (D'Allemagne) arrived in the evening.

Eggs 21

Monday 1 August

Overcast.

I went to Sydney and made several visits.

The crows destroyed a nest of hatchlings.

Eggs 21

Tuesday 2 August

Strong westerly wind. Hot.

Eggs 27

Wednesday 3 August

Fine weather.

Miss Sarah went to Sydney for a while.

Eggs 24

Thursday 4 August

Same weather.

⁸⁸ Likely the Decroizilles family. Henri Charles Decroizilles, a shipping agent, and his wife Roseline, both Mauritian-born, were based in Adelaide. Their son, Emile, was born there in 1852 ("Emile Frédéric Vivian DESCROIZILLES", Geneanet, <https://gw.geneanet.org/hmaurel?lang=en&n=descroizilles&oc=0&p=emile+frederic+vivian>). Decroizilles, "Commission Merchant", also had an office in Macquarie Place, Sydney ("Business Directory", *Empire*, 14 September 1853, 3).

I went to Sydney to make several visits including to see Mrs Murphy.

I bought two silk dresses and a velvet coat.⁸⁹

Eggs 24

Friday 5 August

Overcast.

We killed a pig. It weighed 88 pounds.

Eggs 29

Saturday 6 August

Fine weather.

We are planting a lot of couch grass.⁹⁰

Eggs 26

Sunday 7 August

Fine weather, frost in the night.

Eugénie and her children, Mr and Mrs Pille,⁹¹ Father Rocher and all the

Wilson family came to visit.⁹²

Eggs 26

Monday 8 August

Light rain throughout the night and day.

I put 12 duck eggs into incubation.

Eggs 27

⁸⁹ Lise Joubert was able to afford luxury items.

⁹⁰ The planting of invasive species to colonise the environment.

⁹¹ On 17 July 1853, the French ship, *Cinq Frères de Nantes*, Captain C. Pille arrived in Sydney from Cadiz. Mrs Pille was a passenger ("Shipping Intelligence. Arrivals", *Empire*, 18 July 1853, 2).

⁹² Father Jean-Louis Rocher was one of the three founding Marists of the Sydney mission along with Father Antoine Freydier Dubreul (who Joubert had met in Paris in 1844) and Brother Auguste Leblanc (Hosie, *Challenge*, 34). The entire Wilson family was also there.

Tuesday 9 August

Torrential rain.

Numa and the children were not able to go to Sydney.

Eggs 23

Wednesday 10 August

Almost the same weather.

Numa and the children stayed home.

Eggs 37

Thursday 11 August

Overcast and squalls.

Bethsy had her calf, a male.

Eggs 25

Friday 12 August

Same weather.

Miss Rose and Miss Sarah came.

Eggs 20

Saturday 13 August

Very fine weather.

Eggs 18

Sunday 14 August

Very fine.

Mr and Mrs Cotton came for several days.

Eggs 24

Monday 15 August

Overcast.

Eggs 12

Tuesday 16 August

Quite good weather.

Miss R (Rose) left.

Eggs 25

Wednesday 17 August

Overcast.

Eggs 15

Thursday 18 August

Very nice weather.

Eggs 18

Friday 19 August

Same weather.

Mr Lemeilleur visited us.

Eggs 12

Saturday 20 August

Very fine.

Mr Cotton and Mr Lovegrove came to stay until Monday.

Eggs 19

Sunday 21 August

Superb weather.

We had several visitors.

Paid Margaret and M. up until today £45.⁹³

Eggs 18

Monday 22 August

Same weather.

Eggs 22

Tuesday 23 August

Very fine.

Eggs 21

Wednesday 24 August

Same weather. Mrs Cotton left.

Eggs 18

Thursday 25 August

Fine weather.

Eggs 15

Friday 26 August

Overcast.

Eggs 18

Saturday 27 August

Overcast.

Eggs 18

Sunday 28 August

Fine weather.

⁹³ M was Michael the gardener.

The Wilson family came to visit.

Eggs 19

Monday 29 August

Overcast.

I stayed home, or was obliged stay home, because of the weather.

Eggs 21

Tuesday 30 August

Fine weather.

I made several visits.

I received a letter from Mrs Walker.

Eggs 20

Wednesday 31 August

Very nice weather.

Eggs 20

Thursday September

Overcast.

Miss Sarah went to Sydney for a while.

Eggs 20

Friday 2 September

Very fine weather.

Sowed potatoes that we bought for £1—1 for a hundred.

Expensive potatoes!

Eggs 19

Saturday 3 September

Overcast, storm and light rain.

We got corn for the hens. Nine bushels.

A bag of sugar for cooking.

Eggs 28

Sunday 4 September

Very fine weather, cold.

We went to visit Woodford with Mrs Lawson.

My first hatch of 9 little chicks.

Eggs 20

Monday 5 September

Same weather.

I went with Nancy to Ermington.⁹⁴

Eggs 36

Tuesday 6 September

Same weather.

Eggs 26

Wednesday 7 September

Strong westerly wind.

I spent the day at Mrs W's.

Miss Rose came to say her goodbyes.

⁹⁴ We note in the diary that there appear to have been two Nancys – one was a cow, the other was a person. Sometimes, as in here, it is difficult to know whether Lise meant Nancy the cow or Nancy the human.

Eggs 30

Thursday 8 September

Same westerly wind.

Eggs 30

Friday 9 September

Still a strong westerly wind.

We killed Bethsy's calf. He was 4 weeks old weighing 60 pounds.

Eggs 18

Saturday 10 September

Same wind only stronger, light rain in the evening.

Mr and Mrs Cafler visited us.⁹⁵

Margaret and her husband went to Sydney.

Eggs 19

Sunday 11 September

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Monday 12 September

Southerly wind, overcast.

Eggs 19

⁹⁵ Edouard Eugène Cafler had land next to Joubert's in the Bay of Islands and he acted as Joubert's agent in his battle with the Land Commission (Statement by Edouard Eugène Cafler, Kororāreka, 22 November 1842, Claim 329, Archives New Zealand, Case files [Numa Didier Joubert, Waikare, Bay of Islands], OLC 789, Box 39.

Tuesday 13 September

Overcast and hot.

Mrs W's cow is nearly dead.

Eggs 24

Wednesday 14 September

Same weather.

Sowed lots of Giraumon pumpkins.

Eggs 30

Thursday 15 September

Overcast.

Eggs 22

Friday 16 September

Stormy weather.

I went to Sydney to say my goodbyes to Miss Rose who is leaving on the *Victoria*.

Mrs Walker's cow died.⁹⁶

Eggs 23

Saturday 17 September

Strong southerly wind, very cold.

Eggs 24

Sunday 18 September

Cold weather.

We had several visitors.

⁹⁶ This Mrs Walker was presumably a neighbour, rather than the Mrs Walker who had visited and then left in January.

Eggs 16

Monday 19 September

Same weather.

Eggs 20

Tuesday 20 September

Very fine weather.

Numa has caught scarlet fever.

Eggs 20

Wednesday 21 September

Strong westerly wind.

Eggs 24

Thursday 22 September

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Friday 23 September

Same weather.

Eggs 22

Saturday 24 September

Fine weather.

I bought a black heifer from K. Dunn for £ 1-5 shillings.

Nancy had her calf, a male.

Eggs 20

Sunday 25 September

Very pleasant weather.

Eggs 30

Monday 26 September

Overcast.

Mrs Kirk had dinner with us.

I bought a little red and white cow from Mary McMahon for £2—".

Eggs 28

Tuesday 27 September

Very hot.

Ferdinand is sick.⁹⁷

Eggs 20

Wednesday 28 September

Same dry weather.

Eggs 18

Thursday 29 September

Strong westerly wind.

Everything in the garden has dried up.

Eggs 20

Friday 30 September

Same dry weather.

We got a pound of rice for the hens for £6—10.

⁹⁷ Ferdinand, the second son.

Eggs 18

Saturday 1 October

Same dry weather.

The children are very well.⁹⁸

Eggs 15

Sunday 2 October

Fine weather, hot and dry.

We didn't have any visitors.

Jeny⁹⁹ has the flu.

Eggs 22

Monday 3 October

Pleasant weather.

I went to Sydney to visit several people.

The children returned to school for the first time since their illness.

Bouton has returned to our service.

Numa got a new sail for his boat.

Eggs 24

Tuesday 4 October

Stormy day, light rain in the evening.

Eggs 18

Wednesday 5 October

Same weather

⁹⁸ This was the only time Lise commented on the good health of her children.

⁹⁹ This name is illegible. It looks like Jeny but it may be something else.

Eggs 24

Thursday 6 October

Overcast.

I went to Ermington.

Mr Bordier came to say his goodbyes.

He is leaving for Europe.¹⁰⁰

Eggs 18

Friday 7 October

Cold and overcast.

George Torpp gave me £1—13 to keep for him.¹⁰¹

Mrs de Milhau came to spend a few days.

Eggs 20

Saturday 8 October

Strong westerly wind.

Eggs 24

Sunday 9 October

Strong northerly wind.

Miss Sarah came back.

Eggs 18

Monday 10 October

Overcast.

¹⁰⁰ Etienne Bordier was on his way to get the pre-fabricated timber houses he would bring back to Hunters Hill and have put up on Ferry Street.

¹⁰¹ This name is illegible. It may be Toppe or possibly a French spelling of Thorpe.

Mrs de Milhau left.

Eggs 24

Tuesday 11 October

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Wednesday 12 October

Same overcast weather.

Jules arrived from Melbourne after four years' absence.¹⁰²

Eggs 20

Thursday 13 October

Rained some of the day.

Eggs 16

Friday 14 October

Rained almost the whole night and day.

We killed a pig. It weighed 87 pounds.

Eggs 16

¹⁰² The arrival of her brother-in-law for a visit elicited little emotion from Lise. Jules François de Sales Joubert, Didier's younger brother, had left Melbourne where he had run a store at Sawpit Gully, to stay with his brother in Hunters Hill. He then became a supplier for the French in New Caledonia, who had "annexed" the territory in 1853. Jules and Didier, who had been buying land in Hunters Hill from 1847, would soon begin their building projects (Rutledge, Martha. 1972. "Joubert, Jules François de Sales (1824–1907)", *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/joubert-jules-francois-de-sales-3874/text6169>). On 5 October 1853, Jules wrote to his fiancée Adelaide Levi that he was sailing for Sydney the next day and that she could write to him "care of D. N. Joubert, George St., Sydney". In a letter dated 27 June 1854, he advised Adelaide that he was leaving that day on a trip to the Malay Islands, through Torres Straits, from there to Mauritius and back, returning to Sydney at the beginning of November (Letters from Jules Joubert, in English, to Adelaide Levi, Collection of Beverley Sherry). By late 1854, the wooden cottage he was building for his soon-to-be new wife was almost complete. After marrying in Adelaide, the pair would settle in Hunters Hill in 1855.

Saturday 15 October

Very pleasant weather.

Eggs 24

Sunday 16 October

Very fine weather.

Eggs 18

Monday 17 October

Rained part of the day.

Mrs Marsden and Mimi came for the week.

Eggs 15

Tuesday 18 October

Rained all night and all day.

Eggs 15

Wednesday 19 October

Strong wind.

Eggs 24

Thursday 20 October

Overcast and muggy.

Eggs 18

Friday 21 October

Same weather.

Eggs 20

Saturday 22 October

Overcast.

Eggs 24

Sunday 23 October

Rained all day and all night.

The Sentis family came.

Eggs 18

Monday 24 October

Rained some of the day.

The Sentis family missed the steamer.

Eggs 20

Tuesday 25 October

Very heavy rain all day.

Eggs 15

Wednesday 26 October

Very heavy rain.

The Sentis family are still prisoners.

Eggs 30

Thursday 27 October

Quite fine weather.

The Sentis family left.

Eggs 18

Friday 28 October

Very hot weather.

I went to Sydney.

Eggs 24

Saturday 29 October

Very fine weather.

Eggs 30

Sunday 30 October

Light rain in the morning. Very fine the rest of the day.

Mrs Taylor came to visit.

Mr and Mrs Truy came to stay for a few days.

Eggs 24

Monday 31 October

Overcast.

Eggs 16

Tuesday 1 November

Very overcast and squalls.

I went to see Mrs de Milhau.

Eggs 24

Wednesday 2 November

Heavy rain all day.

Eggs 20

Thursday 3 November

Quite fine and very hot.

Miss Sarah went to Sydney.

Eggs 15

Friday 4 November

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Saturday 5 November

Same muggy weather.

Eggs 24

Sunday 6 November

Very fine weather.

We had visits from French officers, Mr Lambert, Denis, C. Smith and his son.

Eggs 20

Monday 7 November

Squalls.

Mr and Mrs Truy left.

Eggs 30

Tuesday 8 November

Rained all day and all night.

Miss Wigan came back and recommenced Louise's lessons.

Eggs 30

Wednesday 9 November

Rained all day and all night.

Miss Wigan gave lessons to Louise.

Eggs 24

Thursday 10 November

Overcast.

Eggs 26

Friday 11 November

Overcast.

Eggs 24

Saturday 12 November

Very hot.

The young Demestre girls came for a few days.¹⁰³

Eggs 18

Sunday 13 November

Very fine weather.

Eggs 15

Monday 14 November

Big storm, torrential rain in the evening.

We learned with much sadness of the deaths of Mrs H. Moore's two children!!¹⁰⁴

Eggs 22

¹⁰³ The girls may have been the daughters of the well-known Sydney merchant, shipper and businessman Prosper de Mestre, who would certainly have known Didier. Prosper, who had lived or spent time in France, Martinique, the USA, China, India and Mauritius before settling in New South Wales, had extensive transnational contacts. He died in 1844. (Walsh, G. P. 1966. "de Mestre, Jean Charles Prosper (1789–1844)", *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/de-mestre-jean-charles-prosper-1976/text2393>).

¹⁰⁴ The death of her friend's children elicited some emotion from Lise. The death notice of the two Moore children reads, "Died. At the residence of his father, Victoria Terrace, on the morning of the 13th instant, Ernest Walsh, eldest son of Mr Henry Moore, aged 12 years and 10 months. Also, on the afternoon of the same day, Emily Maria, eldest daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Sules Moore, aged 8 years and 9 months ("Family Notices", *Empire*, 15 November 1853, 2). There was no indication of the cause of death for either child.

Tuesday 15 November

Rained some of the day.

Eggs 20

Wednesday 16 November

Same weather.

Eggs 18

Thursday 17 November

Very fine weather.

Mrs Marsden and Mimi came.

Punch visited us.¹⁰⁵

Eggs 24

Friday 18 November

Fine weather.

... Nancy... (illegible)

Eggs 24

Saturday 19 November

Overcast.

I went to Sydney.

We learned of the death of Mr Faramond.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ Lise's sentence does not make sense in French. She wrote, "Nous avons eu la visite à Punch". The grammatically correct construction would be, "Nous avons eu la visite **de** Punch". I have translated it as if it were grammatically correct.

¹⁰⁶ Jean Antoine Marie Faramond was the first French Consul in Australia. His arrival was reported in 1842. "M. Faramond has arrived by the *Kelso*, in the capacity of French Consul for Australia and the Polynesian Islands. Seventeen French emigrants arrived by the same vessel" ("French Consul", *The Colonial Observer*, 11 May 1842, 250). Note: his name was misspelt as "Taramond" in this report. His death on board the *General Hewett* on his journey home to France was reported in the newspaper on 29 November ("The Late French Consul",

Eggs 24

Sunday 20 November

Very fine weather.

The French officers and Mr Lambert visited us.

Eggs 18

Monday 21 November

Same weather.

Intense heat.

Eggs 24

Tuesday 22 November

Same heat.

Eggs 18

Wednesday 23 November

Overcast.

I went to Ermington to pick up Miss Sarah.

Eggs 16

Thursday 24 November

Very hot.

My dog Toto died!!

15 minutes after killing a big black and red snake.¹⁰⁷

Eggs 18

Sydney Morning Herald, 29 November 1853, 4). Interestingly, Lise Joubert had already heard this news ten days before.

¹⁰⁷ Here is an example of the local fauna (the red-bellied black snake) fighting back, demonstrating the lethal danger that snakes posed to dogs.

Friday 25 November

Hot weather.

Eggs 24

Saturday 26 November

Same hot weather, squalls.

Eugénie came with her son.

Eggs 14

Sunday 27 November

Stormy weather.

Mr Lambert and Mr Wagers came to visit.

Eggs 16

Monday 28 November

Hot wind.

Eggs 14

Tuesday 29 November

Intense heat.

I went to Sydney to do some shopping.

I bought 12 bed sheets, 2 table cloths, 1 dress.

Eggs 16

Wednesday 30 November

Stormy weather.

I went to see Mrs Campbell.¹⁰⁸

Mr de Milhau came to visit.

Eggs 20

Thursday 1 December

Overcast.

Eggs 14

Friday 2 December

Very hot.

Eggs 18

Saturday 3 December

Same hot weather.

Mr Lovegrove came to stay for two days.

Eggs 18

Sunday 4 December

Very fine weather.

Eggs 15

Monday 5 December

Stormy weather

I went to spend the day with Mrs Campbell.

Eggs 14

¹⁰⁸ Selina Campbell, the wife of Francis Campbell, superintendent of the Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum, and mother of W. S. Campbell ("Campbell, Selina (1806–1896)", *Obituaries Australia*, <https://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/campbell-selina-15458/text26673>).

Tuesday 6 December

Overcast.

I went to Prospect with Nancy.¹⁰⁹

Eggs 17

Wednesday 7 December

Overcast.

I returned home from Prospect.

Mrs de Milhau came to stay for a few days.

Eggs 14

Thursday 8 December

Hot weather.

Michael is sick.¹¹⁰

Eggs 12

Friday 9 December

Overcast.

The gardener is still sick.

Eggs 14

Saturday 10 December

Same weather.

M is even sicker.

Eggs 16

¹⁰⁹ The Lawsons had an estate at Prospect so it is likely that Lise was visiting them. Again, it is unclear which Nancy (cow or person) accompanied Lise.

¹¹⁰ The gardener.

Sunday 11 December

Fine weather.

Mr Sentis and two of Mr de Milhau's daughters came to visit.

Eggs 15

Monday 12 December

Pleasant weather.

I went to Sydney with Miss Sarah to see her future house.

Eggs 11

Tuesday 13 December

Intense heat.

Eggs 20

Wednesday 14 December

Stormy weather.

Eggs 18

Thursday 15 December

Overcast.

Eggs 20

Friday 16 December

Same weather.

I took Louise and Marie to Ermington.¹¹¹

The gardener is still sick.

Eggs 9

¹¹¹ Her daughter Louise and Marie Sentis.

Saturday 17 December

Rainstorm.

Jenny is pregnant.¹¹²

Eggs 12

Sunday 18 December

Light rain in the evening.

Eggs 24

Monday 19 December

Overcast.

Sowed some corn.

The carpenter started work.¹¹³

The gardener is still sick.

Eggs 20

Tuesday 20 December

Extremely hot.

We got a barrel of flour.

Eggs 24

Wednesday 21 December

Hot and stormy weather.

Rain in the evening.

Eggs 18

Thursday 22 December

Same weather.

Eggs 24

¹¹² Jenny the cow. Lise used the word “pleine”, a term indicating pregnancy in animals.

¹¹³ This may have been the start of building work on St Malo.

Friday 23 December

Same stormy weather.

Rained in the day.

I went to Sydney to see the National Schools' prizegiving.

Eggs 16

Saturday 24 December

The hottest wind we have had this year.

Eggs 14

Sunday 25 December

Hot and pleasant weather.

We all dined at Nancy's house.¹¹⁴

Eggs 18

Monday 26 December

Intense heat.

We got a sack of sugar for cooking, 166 pounds.

Eggs 20

Tuesday 27 December

Overcast.

Eggs 24

Wednesday 28 December

Same weather.

Eggs 14

¹¹⁴ This was clearly Nancy the person.

Thursday 29 December

Intense heat.

Eggs 20

Friday 30 December

Overcast.

Eggs 18

Saturday 31 December

Same weather.

Eggs 15

Observations in January

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Butter and eggs	-	10	-	a turkey
? Nancy ¹¹⁵	-	9	-	2 ducks
A calf	-	10	-	2 chickens
A pig	-	10	-	1 duck
Nancy	-	8	8	2 chickens
Butter and eggs	-	17	-	2 ducks
Animal fat ¹¹⁶	-	11	8	2 chickens
Nancy	-	12	8	3 chickens
Du	-	7	-	2 chickens
A calf	-	14	-	
<hr/>				
	£5—10—	“		17 -----

February

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Animal fat	“	-	“	2 chickens
Nancy	-	5	-	1 turkey
Butter and eggs	-	17	-	2 ducks
Nancy	-	8	-	2 chickens
2 piglets	-	10	-	1 suckling pig
Animal fat	-	18	-	2 chickens
Nancy	-	6	6	2 ducks
Butter and eggs	-	10	-	3 chickens
				1 chicken
<hr/>				
	£3—14—6			16 -----

Observations in March

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Butter and eggs	2	-	-	1 chicken
Animal fat	-	10	-	2 chickens
Nancy	-	6	-	2 chickens
Nancy	-	5	8	1 chicken
Butter and eggs	1	5	6	2 ducks

¹¹⁵ The is an illegible squiggle before Nancy. Nancy, here, was most likely a cow that Lise hired out to locals for milking or other purposes.

¹¹⁶ This is almost illegible in the diary but appears to be “do du”. In French, “dodu” is an adjective meaning “fat” or chubby”. My best guess is that it is animal fat for tallow to make candles. Lise would have got this from the farm animals that were being killed for the family’s meals.

9 piglets	2	5	-	2 chickens
Nancy	-	5	4	2 chickens
Butter and eggs	-	9	-	
Animal fat	-	8	-	
Nancy	-	5	10	
<hr/>				
	£8—11—8			12 -----

April

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Butter and eggs	-	7	-	2 chickens
Quinces	2	17	-	2 ducks
2 pigs	-	12	-	1 chicken
Nancy 2 weeks	-	12	7	1 chicken
Quinces	1	4	-	2 ducks
Eggs and butter	-	9	-	2 chickens
Nancy 2 weeks	-	19	-	
Nancy	-	6	-	
Eggs and butter	-	11	-	
<hr/>				
	£7—17—7			10 -----

Observations in May

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Eggs and butter	-	7	-	1 duck
Nancy	-	5	10	1 calf
Calf/veal	-	9	6	3 chickens
Eggs and butter	-	16	6	2 chickens
Nancy	-	11	10	
Animal fat	-	10	6	
Eggs and butter	-	7	-	
<hr/>				
	£ 3—8—2			7 -----

June

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Butter and eggs	-	7	-	1 chicken
Nancy	-	6	-	1 chicken
Butter and eggs	-	10	6	2 chickens
Nancy 2 weeks	-	14	6	1 turkey

Sold Blacky	6	-	-
Eggs and butter	-	18	-
Nancy	-	6	-
Butter and eggs	2	-	-
Animal fat	-	11	9
Nancy	-	6	3

£11—6

5 -----

Observations in July

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Butter and eggs	-	13	6	2 ducks
Nancy	-	8	3	1 turkey
Butter and eggs	-	14	-	1 chicken
Nancy	-	12	3	1 turkey
Eggs	1	2	-	
Butter and eggs	-	14	6	
Nancy	-	7	-	
Nancy	-	7	-	
Nancy	-	7	4	
Eggs and milk	-	7	6	

£5—13—4

5 -----

August

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Nancy	-	6	10	1 chicken
Butter and eggs	-	8	11	1 turkey
Nancy	-	7	10	1 chicken
Eggs	-	6	-	2 chickens
Animal fat	-	8	6	2 ducks
Nancy	-	7	-	2 ducks
Nancy	-	8	12	2 ducks
Eggs and milk	-	14	11	2 chickens
6 pigs	1	16	-	

£5—2—3

13 -----

Observations in September

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
---------------------------	---	----	----	----------------------

7 piglets	2	2	-	2 chickens
Eggs, milk, butter	-	8	9	2 chickens
Nancy	-	8	2	2 hens
1 calf	1	3	6	1 turkey (female)
Nancy	-	9	9	
4 pigs	1	5	-	
Eggs, butter	1	10	-	
Nancy	-	7	-	
Nancy	-	8	2	

£7—18—4

7 -----

Up until today £58—5—4

October

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Eggs, butter	1	3	9	a hen
Nancy	-	8	-	2 ducks
Eggs 20 dozen	2	-	-	2 chickens
Butter, milk, eggs	2	-	-	2 ducks
Nancy	-	6	10	1 chicken
2 pigs	-	14	-	1 hen
4 pigs	1	8	-	1 turkey
Nancy	-	6	9	
Animal fat	-	8	4	
Butter, eggs, suckling pig	2	-	-	
Nancy	-	9	3	

£11—6—11

10 -----

Observations in November

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Nancy	-	4	6	1 chicken
Animal fat	-	7	9	1 chicken
Butter, eggs	1	10	-	1 turkey
Milk and butter	3	6	-	
26 dozen eggs	2	12	-	
Nancy	-	6	7	
Animal fat	-	8	10	
Milk, eggs, butter	3	16	-	

£12—11—8

3 -----

December

<i>Sold from the farm</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Poultry eaten</i>
Milk, butter, eggs	2	-	-	1 chicken
Animal fat	2	-	-	2 chickens
Animal fat	2	15	-	2 ducks
Animal fat	2	10	-	
<hr/>				
	£9—5			5 -----

Income for the year £91—9—0 Ate 110 poultry items in the year

The carpenter worked

2 days from 4-5 January

From 11-15 February, 5 days

Richard worked 14 weeks at 12 shillings per week
making a total of:

Total paid out to him on several occasions

Remainder to be paid to him

Paid Richard for everything

Paid to the carpenter

6 January £1
23 January £1

25 February £1

£8—8

£6—15

£1—13

10 - 17 - 6
6

16 - 17 - 6

(Signature)
L Joubert