

LIST OF AUTHOR INSCRIBED AND ASSOCIATED COPIES OF RICHARD JEFFERIES' BOOKS

Compiled by George Miller and updated to 18/12/2022.

Reporting, Editing and Authorship [1873]

"For my Dear Aunt Ellen | With her affectionate Nephew's love" (MM)

"Geo. North Esq. | With the Author's | Complts." To a Swindon police superintendent. (MM)

"George Stroud Esq. | With the Author's | Complts." To a former school friend. (Maggs)

A Memoir of the Goddards of North Wilts. [1873]

"Aunt Ellen | With the Author's Sincere | Love | August 13th 73." (MM)

"James S. Lang from F. Goddard Aug 26th 1873" From the Rev Francis Goddard (MM see intro)

"Mr Stone | with the Author's Complts." to a landowner mentioned on p.26. (MM)

"C. Jefferies" copy belonging to the author's brother Charles. (MM)

"From the Author" (not RJ's hand) with a letter dated 20 February 1875 to James F Fuller, author of *Omniana: the Autobiography of an Irish Octogenarian*, 1916.

"C.A. Wheeler Esq | With the Author's Compts." To a noted Swindonian (MM)

"A.L. Goddard | 1873" Copy of Ambrose Lethbridge Goddard M.P. of The Lawn, Swindon. (MM)

"T Sotheron Estcourt" Copy of Thomas Sotheron Estcourt, MP for Cricklade, Home Secretary in 1859, with a letter to him from Horatio Nelson Goddard concerning Jefferies. (Maggs)

Jack Brass, Emperor of England

No inscribed copies known.

The Scarlet Shawl: a Novel

Printed dedication to this aunt: ..."In the belief that success in after life chiefly depends on early impressions, I wish to dedicate this book to Ellen Harrild, as an acknowledgement of my early training, and of my esteem for her gracious disposition. R. Jefferies."

"Car Jac Longman | 1891" Bookplate of C.J. Longman, Jefferies' publisher and friend, in a 1991 remainder copy of the second edition. See 'The Story of The Scarlet Shawl', RJS Journal, Winter 2015. (GM)

Restless Human Hearts: a Novel

"Jefferies. Coate" on fly leaf of each vol. (the copy came from a family source'. (Sadleir 1312)

"Harrild, Ellen 1875". (Hodgson)

Suez-Cide!!

Jefferies sent a copy to William Hepworth Dixon, editor of the *Athenaeum*, with a letter dated 4 February 1876, in which he says that Dixon had read the MS. (GM - ALS)

World's End

"E. Jefferies. With the Author's love. July 5th 1877" to his mother (Sadleir 1318 – MM)

"S. Bremner Esq. | With the Author's Complts, | July 13th 1877" (Davis 80 – MM)

"Arthur Locker Esq. | With the Author's Complts, | July 5th 1877." to the editor of the *Graphic*. (CSmH – MM)

"Mr. and Mrs. R.T.Billing | With the Author's Complts, | July 6th 1877" to his sister and brother-in-law. (D. Winter 145)

"F. Harrild Esq. | With the Author's Complts, | July 9 1877" to Frederick Harrild, a cousin. (GM)

"F. Greenwood Esq. With the Author's Complts, July 6th 1877" to editor of PMG (Maggs)

The Gamekeeper at Home

"E. Jefferies, With best love from her son the Author, June 25th 1878" (Davis 22 – MM)

Bookplate of William Algernon Locker, son of Arthur Locker editor of the *Graphic*, with two ALS from Jefferies to Arthur Locker. (Davis 21 – MM)

"Ellen Harrild, with the Author's love, June 25th 1878". (Hodgson)

"F. Greenwood Esq | With the Author's sincere acknowledgements of friendly encouragement | & literary advice | June 26th 1878." (Maggs)

"W.H. ['Mudford' scribbled out] Esq | From the Author | Dec. 10th 1879". (p.c.)

The Gamekeeper at Home, 2nd edition, illustrated.

"F. Greenwood Esq. | With the Author's best wishes | Dec. 10th 1879" (MM)

"Horton Harrild Junr. Esq. | From the Author | Dec 11th 1879" (MM – D. Winter 148)

"R S Chambers" rubber stamped. A copy containing an ALS from Jefferies to R. Chambers, editor of *Chambers's Journal*, 25 January 1884. (GM)

Wild Life in a Southern County

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's Best love | Feb 11 1879" (D. Winter 149)

"Ellen Harrild, with the Author's love, Feb 11 1879" (Wolff 3626)

The book is dedicated to Frederick Greenwood, so he's certain to have been sent a copy.

The Amateur Poacher

"Frederick Greenwood Esq | With the Author's best wishes | October 13th 1879." (GM)

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | October 13th 1879" (D. Winter 150)

"Captain H.E.P. Thomas / With all good wishes for the New Year. / From the _____ !!! / Dec." 1879."

In Jefferies' handwriting, or very similar, from a copy sold by Alan Hancox and owned by H. Bradfer-Lawrence.

Greene Ferne Farm

"Fanny Baden. From, the Author, Feb 3rd 1880" (Davis 32)

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | Feb 3rd 1880" (D. Winter 151)

"Frederick Greenwood Esq | With the Author's best wishes | Feb 4th 1880" (Maggs)

"To My Daughter Sarah | From her Father | Jas. Luckett Jefferies | Bath | Feb 4th 1880" (HM)

"Geo H Harmer" Copy of George Henry Harmer, editor of the Wilts and Gloucester Standard while Jefferies was associated with it. (SPL)

Hodge and his Masters

"F. Greenwood Esq. | With the Author's best wishes, | March 26th 1880" (MM)

"W.H. ['Mudford' scribbled out] Esq | With the Author's best wishes | March 25th 1880" See 'W.H. -- ----?' RJS Autumn Newsletter 2007-8. (GM)

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | March 26 1880" (D. Winter 152)

"To Sarah Billing | With her Father's Love | James Luckett Jefferies | Bath | April 5th 1880" (D. Winter 153)

Round About a Great Estate

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | Aug 6th 1880" (D. Winter 154)

"Mrs. Billing | With Fathers Love | J.L. Jefferies | Oct 6/80" (D. Winter 173)

"Jas L Jefferies | 48 King Str | Bath " Jefferies' father's copy. (D. Winter 171)

"R.M. Campbell | Kati Kati N.Z. | Jan 1881" With an ALS from Jefferies to Smith Elder regarding a correspondent in New Zealand. (GM)

Wood Magic: a Fable

"Horton Harrild Jnr., Esq | From the Author | May 23rd 81" (p.c.)

"John & Alice Brook | From the Author | May 24th 81." See 'John, Alice and "Squire" Brook', RJS Journal 32, Summer 2017. (GM)

"F.W. Joynes Esq. | From the Author | May 24^t." (GM) Frederick William Joynes, sub editor PMG.

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's love | May 23rd 81" (D. Winter 155)

"Mrs. Rbt. Billing | With her Father's best | Love | Jas. L. Jefferies | June 8th 1881" (D. Winter 156)

Wood Magic 1882

To | Richard Theodosius | With love and good wishes from | the Author's niece, C.E. Billing. | April 1945." (GM)

Bevis: the Story of a Boy

"Ellen Harrild from the author, July 1882" "E.H. from R.J." pencilled on the title of volume III. (Sadleir 1305)

"Walter V. Jones, Esq. From the Author, July 1882." (Auctioned at Sotheby's, 18 July 1921, lot. 77.)

"Geo. H. Harmer" in all three volumes. (SPL)

Nature Near London

"Jessie Jefferies | April 6th 1883" (MM – D. Winter 174)

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | April 6th 1883" (D. Winter 159)

"Ellen Harrild, April 15th 1883. (Hodgson)

Nature Near London, 3rd impression, 1887

"S.E. Billing | In Memory of the | dear Author from | his only Sister. | Oct 1887" (D. Winter 173)

The Story of My Heart

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | November 6th 1883" (Davis 65 – MM)

"Geo. H. Harmer" (SPL)

"C. Jefferies", his brother Charles's copy. (D. Winter 160)

"J.W. North | From the Author | Oct 13th 1883" to his friend, the artist and illustrator. (GM)

"Mrs Richard Jefferies" in pencil on the title. (Bradfer-Lawrence232)

Red Deer

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | January 14th 1884"

"J.W. North | From the Author | Jan 5th 1884" With North's corrections. (GM)

"W.H. ['Mudford' scribbled out] Esq. | From the Author | Jan 5th 1884" (p.c.)

"J. Comyns Carr Esq. | From the Author | Jan 7th 1884" to the editor of the *English Illustrated Magazine*. (MM – D. Winter 163)

"Fred G. Heal, Esq From the Author, Jan 10th 1884" (MM, see introduction)

Jefferies is known to have sent copies to Richard Garnett and T. Hanson-Lewis (see MM introduction)

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | January 14th 1884. (D. Winter 162)

Copy inscribed to T. Hanson Lewis in the New York Public Library, Berg Collection

Red Deer, 2nd edition 1892

"James Luckett Jefferies | Father | of the Author | Aug 1895" in a bold proud hand. (HM)

The Life of the Fields

"Ellen Harrild | From the Author | May 29th 1884", and from her "To Jessie E. Metzner, 15 May 1909". (Jarndyce Summer Miscellany 2018)

"Jessie Jefferies | June 8th '84 | With all the Author's love." (GM)

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's love | June 7th 1884" (MM)

"William Sharp Esq. | From the Author | June 12th 1884" (p.c.)

The Dewy Morn

"J.W. North Esq. | From the Author | Sept. 18th 1884. (With ALS from Jessie Jeffries. Auction of library of Fred W Atkinson at Anderson Galleries, NY, 12 Oct 1925)

"Jessie, August 26th '84, with all the author's love". (Hodgson)

"C. Jefferies" on both title pages. (D. Winter 164)

After London

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's best love | April 1st 1885" (Davis 1)

"John and Alice Brook | From the Author | May 10th 1885". With a pencil sketch signed by Jefferies. (Sotheby – MM – D. Winter 165)

"Ellen Harrild | April 1885" (D. Winter 166)

The Open Air

"Ellen Harrild | With the Author's love | Nov [25th crossed out] 23rd 1885" (MM – D. Winter 167).

Given by the recipient to Jefferies' sister Sarah Billing with the added inscription:

"With Aunt Ellen's | love to dear Mrs. Robert Billing | May 23 / 89".

"E. Jefferies | With the Author's love | 23rd [25th crossed out] 23rd 1885" (MM)

"John & Alice Brook With the Author's Love Feb 10th 1886" (Sotheby – MM – D. Winter 166)

Amaryllis at the Fair

"John and Alice Brook | From the Author | March 22nd '87" (MM)

"Jessie, with all the author's love, March 17 '87". (Hodgson)

To his mother, March 17th 1887 (HM? – Forward Life)

"Sally, with love, March 22nd, '87" (D. Winter 168)

"W.T. Stead Esq. | From the Author | March 17th '87" (GM)

White's Selborne edited by Jefferies

"James L. Jefferies | 10 Sep 1887" (HM)

References:

(MM) Richard Jefferies: a Bibliographical Study, Scolar, 1993.

(Maggs) Agriculture and Country Life, Cata 1395, Maggs Bros. 2006.

(GM): My collection.

(Sadleir) Michael Sadleir, *XIX Fiction*, Constable, 1951.

(Davis) G.M. & R.C. Davis, *Richard Jefferies 1848-1887*, Catalogue of part of Bradfer-Lawrence collection.

(CSmH) Henry E. Huntingdon Library, San Marino, Calif.

(D. Winter) *Children's & Illustrated Books, Modern First Editions*, Dominic Winter, Catalogue of sale 12 December 2013.

(Wolff) Robert Lee Wolff, *Nineteenth Century Fiction*, NY Garland Press, 1981-6.

(SPL) Swindon Public Library.

(Bradfer-Lawrence) Sale catalogue of part of H.L. Bradfer-Lawrence's Jefferies collection.

(HM) Items from Hugoe Matthews collection not in Dominic Winter sale.

(Forward Life) Hugoe Matthews and Phyllis Treitel, *The Forward Life of Richard Jefferies*. Petton Books, 1994.

(Hodgson) Catalogue of Hodgson sale, 12th July 1928. This sale also included the two MSS on choosing a gun at Emory University, MM D46.1 and D46.2, as one item; and an unpublished MS on Ashdown and its Traditions.)

(p.c.) Known or assumed to be in a private collection, with no known published listing.

Comments:

Jefferies' inscribed presentation copies are rare, and the above list represents the tally known or seen as of June 2018, updating Hugoe Matthews' article 'Richard Jefferies. His Mark' in RJSJ 19, 2009. It is not easy to assess the proportion of the whole these examples represent. Smith Elder gave Jefferies six free copies for each of seven publications, including the illustrated *Gamekeeper* as one of them, and 18 of the 42 can be accounted for. Six was probably a standard quota, though publishers could be flexible if sales were sluggish, or stock unsold. C.J. Longman, who could be counted a friend as well as a publisher, gave Jefferies fourteen copies of *The Story of my Heart*, before selling the remainder as waste. The Longman ledgers show bestowals of 9, 6 and "further copies" of *Red Deer* on separate dates, prompting him to write testily to enquire if Jefferies' friends couldn't buy their own. We know of just two (possibly three with Mudford – see below) of *The Story*, and seven on the same basis of *Red Deer*.

(Revised June 2022, with contributions from Peter Robins)

The inscriptions follow a consistent pattern. From *World's End* onwards they are all dated and none have his signature. They are decidedly formal, his mother being "E. Jefferies" and his cousin and childhood playmate "Horton Harrild Junr. Esq" rather than "Horty" as referred to in letters to Aunt Ellen. The one exception is the copy of *Amaryllis* to "Sally, with love". Apart from this to his sister the expression of love is reserved for his mother, aunt, wife, and his friends John and Alice Brook. For all others it's "With the Author's complts.", or more minimally "from the Author" ("author" always capitalised). There are no messages beyond these wordings, apart from first impression of *The Gamekeeper at Home* given to Frederick Greenwood in which Jefferies pays tribute to Greenwood's encouragement and advice.

From the outset Jefferies sent copies to people who might advance his fortunes as a writer. With the first two titles he appears to be thinking of his profile in Swindon, though curiously the Goddards themselves, (A.L., H.N. and the Rev. Francis) were not on the list. Perhaps that was thought unnecessary. No inscribed copies of the first two novels have turned up. His father reports a neighbour's opinion that *The Scarlet shawl* was immoral. Jefferies was now angling for a London audience, or at least a less provincial one, and given the book's dedication to his aunt he couldn't have thought she would have found it offensive. He must have been very upset by the deflating typo in the dedication, followed by the misspelling of his name on the spine when a cancel was inserted, and this may account for the absence of an inscribed copy to her. But as she doesn't appear in the list until *Wild Life in a Southern County* comes to her "with the Author's love" it is safe to assume that some copies to her are lost or out of sight.

By contrast to its predecessors *World's End* has no less than six inscribed recipients. They include his mother, and according to Matthews he sent all his subsequent books to her with the exception of *The Dewy Morn*. I've not traced Bevis, but I'm sure he would have seen it to make this claim. Again the "morality" problem (which so bedevilled Hardy) might be the reason why *The Dewy Morn* was withheld. Other family members were given copies of *World's End*, *Harrilds*, and *Billings* and a close associate of the Harrild empire, Samuel Bremner, but the wider family doesn't re-surface. The future trend is set by the appearance of two London editors: Arthur Locker, editor of the *Graphic*, and the most important of them, Frederick Greenwood, editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* published by Smith Elder.

Greenwood's role in Jefferies' development and success has been widely recognised, and is reflected in the dedication to him of *Wild Life* and the inscriptions in the other Smith Elder titles except *Round About a Great Estate*. After three with "best wishes" this is surely just another mislaid rather than omitted. Nevertheless Greenwood does not reappear. In 1880 he left the *Pall Mall* to found and edit *St. James Gazette*, but in itself this is unlikely to have affected their relationship. Jefferies was an equally prolific contributor to *St. James*, quite possibly by invitation, while continuing to place work

in the PMG. His persistence in plying an indifferent editor with complimentary copies is illustrated by the case of W.H. Mudford, editor of the *Standard*, a newspaper he contributed to throughout his career. The bookseller Walter T. Spenser recalled buying a cache of nine Jefferies first editions uncut and unread, all with the same inscription to a W.H. followed by a name scribbled over.(1) The *Gamekeeper* and *Hodge* listed above are two of these, and close examination reveals the name Mudford. In reminiscences (2) Greenwood spoke of feeling some “shame and sorrow” on reading Besant’s life of Jefferies. Like Besant he thought the country books and nature writings Jefferies true sphere, the novels a failure and the “religio-philosophical speculation” in no way comparable with *The Gamekeeper at Home*. Perhaps he had communicated these views to Jefferies with regard to his later books, and the gift of inscribed copies to him, while pleased to continue publishing his descriptive country pieces.

Like others who knew him Greenwood speaks of Jefferies as a reserved and solitary character, but his correspondence shows openness to interested enquiry and readiness to engage and form friendships with kindred spirits. The surviving documentation is probably an incomplete picture of his social and intellectual life and the inscriptions an even paler reflection. Nevertheless there are some interesting names: William Hepworth Dixon, John and Alice Brook (3), J.W. North (4), J. “W” (should be L) Joynes, Fred G Heal (5), William Sharp (6), Richard Garnett, T. Hanson-Lewis and W.T. Stead.

But against this his background and family seem to have receded. As we have seen he sent all but one of his books to his mother, and perhaps to the aunt who meant so much to him from tutelage to maturity. But Ellen has only four to her name, and there is a curious pattern to the inscriptions themselves, progressing from “with the Author’s love” (*Wild Life* 1879) to “from the Author” (*Bevis*, 1883) to just “Ellen Harrild” and the date (*After London*, 1885), and finally back to “with the Author’s love” (*The Open Air*, 1885). Does this indicate some estrangement, and reconciliation as the end approaches? The family ethos was devout and prosperous and the Church central. It’s hard to imagine a sympathetic reading of *The Story of My Heart* in Shanklin Villa, or much common ground between the impoverished, visionary artist and the successful men of business that his cousins and brother in law became.

According to Robin Harrild who has researched his family’s history, Ellen and Thomas Harrild treated Richard, who came to live with the aged four “as if he were their own son”. Thomas died in 1867, but Jefferies continued to write to Ellen and visit “throughout his life.” (7) And yet the last letter preserved is dated 1873 and no later visits are known of or recorded. Also it appears that Jefferies never returned to Coate or visited his parents in Bath, and it is strange that he did not include his father in the dedications. James Luckett Jefferies was certainly a complex character, irascible, masterful, yet thoughtful and sensitive. And his relationship was difficult with his complex son, especially during Richard’s last days at Coate when he was desperately struggling to succeed as a writer while his father was desperately failing as a farmer. One of only two known letters to his mother was written in February 1886 from ‘The Downs’, Crowborough (8). He has wanted to write for sometime but too weak and in pain. The cold is intense – see (‘Winds of Heaven’ (9)). He is concerned for his mother’s health and asks after his father, still “the governor”, whom he has not heard of for a long time, and then goes on to talk lovingly about his children and their activities. He ends: “With much love to yourself and the governor always your affectionate son, Richard.” The letter is a moving witness to a suspension, not cessation, of close family ties, in deep winter when Jefferies is brooding on his final masterpiece which he will recreate Coate in its summer glory and celebrate its people in all their complexity, with his father, Iden, presiding like a disgruntled Prospero.

It is unfortunate that the enquiries of a well-wisher resulted in sentiments of bitterness and scorn in letters written by James Luckett in old age. Coate was the worst place in England and his son's writings hardly less contemptible. The biographers Looker and Porteous use this material to diminish James's character and his influence on his son (10), but his latest and most thorough biographer does not fall into this error. The reminiscences of a lady who knew the couple at this time (11) shows an inner strength and a close bond between them, and inscribed copies also tell a different tale. It seems that while Richard was sending copies to his mother James was buying them (and books were not cheap) to send to his daughter, Richard's sister. The dedications in *Round About a Great Estate*, *Greene Ferne Farm*, *Wood Magic* and *Red Deer* (and perhaps there were others) from the "father of the author" show nothing but pride in his son's achievement. James also bought copies for himself, which included RGE, the book to which his own stories and knowledge of country life had contributed, and White's Selborne, edited by Richard Jefferies - his final appearance in book form.

References:

1. 'W.H. -----?' in RJS Autumn Newsletter 2007-8.
2. 'Richard Jefferies' by Frederick Greenwood, Scots Observer 2 Aug 1890, v.4 pp.275-277
3. 'John, Alice and 'Squire' Brook', RJS Journal 32, Summer 2013, pp117-124
4. 'Richard Jefferies and John William North' by Steve P. Milton, RJSJ 32 pp.132-149
5. *Richard Jefferies: a Bibliographical Study*, Scolar, 1993. pp.375-381.
6. 'Jefferies, Whitman and William Sharp'. RJSJ 33, pp. 58-68
7. 'Fame and Fortune: Robert Harrild (1780-1853)' by Robin Harrild, p.17
8. 'Jefferies' letter to his mother'. RJSJ 26, p.29
9. *Field and Hedgerow*
10. *Richard Jefferies: Man of the Fields*, by Samuel J. Looker and Crichton Porteous, John Baker, 1964, pp.3-5
11. *Country Life*, 21 March, 1908