

RICHARD JEFFERIES MAN OF THE FIELDS

Samuel J. Looker and Crichton Porteous.
John Baker, 1965. Country Book Club, 1966.

NOTES AND CORRECTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF READERS AND STUDENTS.

Samuel Looker collected a considerable amount of material for this Biography, but before it could be sorted and assembled, he was overtaken by illness, which led to his death in January 1965. The task of compiling the book was undertaken by his friend and fellow-author, Mr. Crichton Porteous, and inevitably some errors, both factual and typographical, went undetected. Some details, inconsistent with known facts, have since come to light. The book appeared towards the middle of 1965.

After a passage of 18 years, a second and revised edition of this valuable work seems due, and this proposal has the full support of the joint holders of the copyright; Mrs. M.H. Jacques representing the Looker family; and Mr. Porteous. Unfortunately, in the present economic climate, publishers are reluctant to undertake it. In the meantime, The Richard Jefferies Society, with the approval of the above, offers this list of notes and corrections, which are the result of careful study by Prof. W.J.Keith; Mr. Cyril Wright; Prof. Alain Delattre; Dr. John Pearson; Mr. George Miller; and Mr. Hugoe Matthews.

The list is confined to factual detail, for which sources of verification are given, unless self-evident) to faulty punctuation, where this leads to confusion; to errors in bibliography and indexing; arid to apparent typographical errors. The compilers have thought it helpful to note some passages which, on the basis of evidence, might be misleading. They make no claim that the list is exhaustive. Some notes on the contributors appear on page 4.

Page references apply to both the 1965 and 1966 Editions. Illustrations in the original edition however are numbered in a different order from those in the Country Book Club issue.

FOREWORD by Crichton Porteous.

p. ix line 5,6. Date of publication of RICHARD JEFFERIES HIS LIFE AND WORK by Edward Thomas was 1909

line 13 Whilst "A Tangle of Autumn," was Looker's first discovery of an unpublished Jefferies' MS, his first collection of Jefferies' essays was JEFFERIES' ENGLAND 1937.

p.xii final par. Samuel J. Looker died on January 11th. Mr. Porteous acknowledges this mistake. See "Samuel J. Looker. A Tribute." Richard Jefferies Society - Talks and Articles, No. 39 1980

ADVENTURES OF DISCOVERY by Samuel J. Looker

p.xv. lines 8,9 "Walks in the Wheatfields," "Summer in Somerset, were two separate essays.

line 10 Correct title is "Nature and Books."

lines 21,22 Correct title is "The Pigeons at the British Museum."

- p. xvi. line 5 This was Walter J. Spencer, Bookseller, as distinct from Herbert Spencer, the philosopher See Index p. 270.
- p.xviii lines 9-11 There is some doubt as to whether Mrs. Jefferies died at Overdale. In The Jefferies Family Tree, Hall/Bott 1925, her address is given as Penlu, Perranporth. She died in 1926 as shown. Both houses still stand. See “Jessie Jefferies. Lest We Forget.” R.J.Soc. Talks and Articles No 42.

GLIMMERINGS.

- p.1 line 4 At the time of, Jefferies’ residence, Eltham was in Kent. Now in Greater London.
- p. 3 footnote James Jefferies’ sister should read daughter (Sarah married Robert Billing.)
- p. 9 lines 30-32 James Luckett went to America when he was sixteen*, not twenty-one. See letter from J.L.Jefferies to Dr. A.T.Rake nov. 21st. 1896. “I been in America -New York State on the Hudson for near two years, when I was about sixteen.” Noted by Prof.A. Delattre. *More recent evidence points to James’ father’s record in his copy of “Companion for the Festivals and Fasts” where he records “James left for America 1835” -making James 18.
- p. 18 lines 15 – 18 “The Forbears of Richard Jefferies” was written by Fanny Catherine Hall , first cousin to Richard Jefferies , under the pseudonym of “Jefferies Luckett.” See R.J.Soc. Talks and Articles No 31 .
- p. 22 line 28. Henry was four years younger than his brother Richard, born 1852. There seems no evidence that he was ever called Harold. His full name was Henry James Jefferies (Harry).

THE VISION

- p. 33 line 32 According to a Notebook kept by Fanny Hall, the cousin who accompanied Richard to France was James Cox, two years his senior, who later emigrated to New Zealand. This was confirmed in a biography of James Cox (taken from his diaries): “Nearly Out of Heart & Hope” by Miles Fairburn.
- pp.39,44,45 There is some confusion with regard to the two Swindon newspapers and their editors. William Morris founded the *Swindon Advertiser*, in 1854. Joshua Henry Piper founded the *North Wilts Herald* in 1861 . They were respectively editors of these papers. Jefferies worked for both of them. There was no paper called the “North Wilts Advertiser.” See *The Eulogy of Richard Jefferies* Besant . p. 86.
- p.47 “History of Malmesbury” by Richard Jefferies. This was not issued in book form, but appeared serially in the *Malmesbury Gazette* April 24th – Sept, 28th, 1867.
- p.54 lines 23, 24 The female cousin was the daughter of his father’s sister Fanny, not Martha. Fanny married William Cox, farmer at Snodshill. Their elder

daughter referred to by Joseph Hall as Jefferies' "erstwhile inamorata," was Mary Cox; her younger sister was Fanny Eliza (Lizzie) / who was engaged for a time to Richard. See "Cupid at / Coate," by Joseph Hall. *Worthing Cavalcade, Concerning Richard Jefferies*. 1944.

- p.84 lines 18,19 The essay is entitled "The Old Newspaper." See HODGE AND HIS MASTERS.
- line 9 "History of Cirencester," Dr. John Pearson located this series of articles, published irregularly, and not "week by week," in the *Wilts and Gloucester Standard*, between March 12th and October 29th. 1870.
- p. 102 lines 6,7 "The Rise of Maximus," should read Maximin.
- p. 103 line 7 This novel was in fact printed in the *New Monthly Magazine*, serially 1876/7, as discovered in the Birmingham Public Library by Mr. Hugoe Matthews in 1975. See the talk by Dr. John Pearson, R.J.Soc. Talks and Articles No. 35.
- p. 109 lines 24,25 The Harrilds lived at Sydenham, not Surbiton.
- p.122 Par. 1. Jefferies' essays appeared in *The Pall Mall Gazette* after the final serialisation of ROUND ABOUT A GREAT ESTATE. After GREENE FERNE FARM, Smith Elder published HODGE AND HIS MASTERS and ROUND ABOUT A GREAT ESTATE, in the same year, 1880.

THE EXPRESSION

- p. 138. line 21 Date should read March 1978 See NOTEBOOKS p. 32
- p. 173 "It needs to be pointed out that, in the transcriptions from the Notebooks, at this point in the book, there are numerous discrepancies from, the readings in the published NOTEBOOKS themselves. Here, entries far apart in the Notebooks are telescoped without any ellipses offered in the text." W.J.Keith .

'GENIUS....DOES IT'

- p. 216 lines 1,2. Hedgerows should read Woodlands. Mr. Porteous acknowledges this in "Samuel Looker. A Tribute." R.J.Soc. Talks and Articles No. 39.

APPENDIX II

- P. 247 Heading 1898 - 1957 should read 1889- 1957.
- p 250 1893 "Richard Jefferies" by G.E.Dartnell,Swindon.- Omit 'Swindon'. Transfer entry to Magazine Articles.
1896 "Idyllist of the Countryside," should read 'Idyllists' Insert Bell, Publisher.
- p 251 1909 Selections by F.W.Jicknor, should be Ticknor. (in Index p.266, transfer to p. 271

1913 "Coate. Birthplace of Jefferies," by J.L.Osborn. Published Malmesbury, Abbey Press.

- p.255 1892 "Homes and Haunts of Richard Jefferies." Published in Pall Mall Budget, not Gazette.
- p 256 1908 "The Forbears of Richard Jefferies." was written by "Jefferies Luckett," (Fanny Catherine Hall.) in INDEX p 263 add references to pages 18 and 256.
- 1948 Arthur Sharp's article was in *Sussex County Mag.* July not January

INDEX (if not referred to above.)

- p. 261 Above Cox, Willie, should appear Cox, James 33. Delete this page reference against Cox Willie.
- p. 263 Harris, Frank. Add 129

"Hodge and his Masters." add 117-118

Horton, Mr. 51. This entry should appear in opposite column, under "Harrild, Horton 51." Horton , Harrild Jr. was nephew to Thomas Harrild, who married Ellen Gyde. As the result of this marriage, Horton was Richard Jefferies' cousin.

- p.270 Spencer, Herbert. Delete xvi. Insert Spencer, Walter J. 171
- p. 272 "Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard". Delete all page refs, except 81-84, 92, 118.
- On p.270 insert "Standard , The." 5, 63, 106, 135, 136, 155, 195, 233, 245, 246, 247, 248. *The Standard* was a London daily newspaper,

ILLUSTRATIONS

Frontispiece. Richard Jefferies at the age of 33. London Stereoscopic Company. A footnote to a reproduction of the photograph in Salt *Richard Jefferies. His Life and Ideals*" 1905 states that the portrait was taken June 16th 1879. Jefferies was then 30.

Country Book Club

Edition, only Photo 3. Hobson Bottom , should read Hodson.

CONTRIBUTORS

PROF. ALAIN DELATTRE M.A., retires in October 1983 from the position of Maitre-assistant at the Faculty of Letters, University of Poitiers. He has carried out extensive research over many years into the life, work, and ancestry of Richard Jefferies, a new Biography of whom will be published in due course. He is a frequent visitor to Britain.

PROF. W.J.KEITH, M.A. (Toronto); PH. D., F.R.S.C. one of the foremost authorities on Richard Jefferies, has been President of The Richard Jefferies Society, since 1974. He is the author of *Richard Jefferies. A Critical Study*, and of *The Rural Tradition*.

MR. HUGOE MATTHEWS F.R.C.S., is an authority on the works of Richard Jefferies, of which he has a fine collection.

MR. GEORGE MILLER, Writer and Bookbinder, has made a study of Richard Jefferies in depth, and is a discerning collector of his writings. In 1981, a hitherto unpublished essay by Richard Jefferies - BY THE BROOK appeared as an artistic production, 20 copies of which were bound in fine leather by Mr. Miller, who also wrote the introduction.

Mr. Matthews and Mr. Miller are currently working on the definitive Bibliography of Richard Jefferies.

DR. JOHN PEARSON is the Editor of LANDSCAPE AND LABOUR, a collection of essays and letters by Richard Jefferies, which he discovered through diligent research in magazines and other sources. He is regarded as a leading authority on Jefferies.

MR. CYRIL WRIGHT has been Hon. Secretary of The Richard Jefferies Society since 1974, and is one of its Vice-Presidents. He is the author of a number of articles and papers on Jefferies.