

**Martha Shaw's diary 1854, first at Box, then Bath, 24/7 in Freshford – notes by MAES  
5.9.2015  
BL Reference F 197/6**

The diary contains Monthly bills, itemised (incl. Pew at Box £2.5s; House agents £2.2s; Repairs to Middlehill £35; expenses of moving, warehousing, repairing and putting it in order at Freshford £144.4s.3 1/2d.; wedding expenses £187.19s.1 1/2d.), total for year £1,484.16s.10d. Mrs Mant and Robertson for Emily and Fanny's marriage settlements £123.15s.4d.

At front of diary:

2 Jan Balance £6.12s.6d. Last year deficient: £2.4s.5d. Remainder £4.8s.1d.

"I dislike not having a place for Sunday and get for accounts it is certainly needless".

- 3 Jan: Dearest Robert's last day before school. He is gone! How strange.
- 8 Feb: Mants party at 9.
- 13 Feb: No answers about the house. 2 ladies came to inspect it for Mrs Sargeant.
- 15 Feb: Hancock and other man taking account of delapidations, they amount to £35. Much less than I expected.
- 16 Feb: Letter from Hancock informing me that the house is let! We must be out by the 11<sup>th</sup> and a week before that empty of the main body.
- 20 Feb: I began our move by packing the great Indian box and having the library carpet up, linen and book chests to air.
- 21 Feb: Mrs Mant and her daughter called. Packed linen and books.
- 23 Feb: Bath happily and signed both lease and release and now I'm absolutely free of Mrs Mant, unless some accident should happen before the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Went to Freshford and Bradford.
- 24 Feb: Packing all day.
- 1 Mar: Pictures packed and the whole house nearly in an uproar. Packer a very quiet civil man.
- 4 Mar: I was all day packing in my room nearly arranging my trinkets and other things.
- 7 Mar: At Bath all day and finished by losing the only good apartment.
- 8 Mar: Bath taken. 36 Henrietta Street. Corsham.

- 9 Mar: Aurelie thrown out of the pony chaise. Our last dinner here, tho' very painful – yet pleasing to see the regret of all for us.
- 10 Mar: Tomorrow we leave Middlehill – great bustle and fatigue. Every one very kind. Emily and I dined at Holworthys, Annie and Clara at Champions.
- 11 Mar: Bath at ½ past 8 train. Grand struggle over. We have now no settled house.
- 12 Mar: All day in chaos.
- 13 Mar: Went to Middlehill to help Fanny see the house cleaned.
- 16 Mar: Good monthly report of dearest Robert.
- 22 Mar: Mrs Mant called. Col Mant. Aurelie went to Middlehill visits.
- 1 Apr: Church at Bathwick.
- 10 Apr: Went in the afternoon to Freshford. Like the house much.
- 24 June: I feel come to a decision to take Manor Cottage. God prosper it for His Mercy's sake.
- 1 July: Mrs Blackley refuses my offer for the Manor Cottage.
- 8 July: Aurelie went to Box.
- 18 July: Settled with and paid Mrs Blackley for 7 years' rent of Manor Cottage, Freshford. [MS Note: Rev Blackley (Rector) is on the Freshford 1854 Directory as living at Manor Cottage. In the 1858, 1860, 1864 Directories, Martha is living at Manor Cottage. No Blackley is recorded, and Rev Rodwell is living at Freshford House]. [July accounts £120 p/a. Rent for Bath apartments £11.14s].
- 24 July: Fanny, Robert, Laura and myself came to Freshford. [they move in]
- 8 Aug: We now visit. Young husbands.
- 26 Aug: F did both services very well indeed. I sent a note to Mrs Mant.
- 31 Aug: Dear Emily married to Mr Hicks.
- 16 Sept: Robert has the measles. Annie and I started for Marlborough. Arrived at 2.20. Found him better. [At another entry, Martha writes that Robert is doing very well at the "modern" school].
- 26 Sept: Fanny wedding. "E Shaw gave Fanny away".

18 Nov: Fanny played charmingly on the Harmonium.