

Dear Kath and Mum

I was very pleased with the Christmas surprise. I think it is lovely of you and your girls, darling, - your happy smiling faces. It is good of you to send us one and Gran is proud of you. It arrived quite safe and was not hurt a bit.

I am up and sitting by the fire writing this, waiting for the nurse to come. I got up yesterday afternoon for 3 hours and looked out of the window at Dolly Clayton wedding. It was a lovely wedding. She was dressed in white satin and the bridesmaid in blue silk. It was well turned out, - they all looked lovely. Auntie Rose saw them go in St Peters on her way to work.

Uncle Fred went to the dentist again on Friday and he has to wait another fortnight before he goes again. The dentist never done nothing, only said his gums are not ready yet for him to do any more yet to them, so that is all we can tell you.

Tell Mum Uncle Fred has had the sweep in both rooms and has painted the room and is now paper hanging the room.

I see in the paper this morning your lovely John Boles and Evelyn Laye are being shown on the film 'One Heavenly Night' (1). I hope you will see them one day.

Now, darling, the days are getting longer and we shall soon be having the lovely sunshine and the garden and flowers will be getting lovely again. How I love the sunshine.

I am feeling a bit better but not right yet. Still, it is nice to sit by the fire once more, which I never thought to. I hope cousin Annie and Stanley liked your house. Please write soon. With much love from everybody to everybody,
Your ever loving

Gran

P.S. Kiss Mum and Dad and tell Mum to kiss you for us.

(1) Daisy knew Evelyn Laye well, as she had worked with Evelyn's father when he was the Manager of the Palace Pier at about the time of the 1st World War, and Evelyn was a fairly young child. Evelyn Laye attained national stardom and fame, both on the stage and in films. I believe that Evelyn attended Daisy's wedding.

Dear Daisy

Your letter safe this morning. I am sorry you could not get a motor bus from Catford. They are running from Brixton, - the South Down - 5s. return. We shall be pleased to see you as soon as you are able to come.

I am sitting up writing this, the Doctor came. He says I have to be careful but I am better then I was. Rose saw him - he told her to take care of me. Rose will get Annie's knickers tomorrow and send them. Perhaps there are cheap trains from Croydon. I think train is the best this cold weather. I was looking for you to come today but, dear, come when you can.

Nellie was pleased with the Bride's Book and is sending for a pattern of the Dutch bonnets for the 2 small bridesmaids made of lace.

I hope you are all got over your busy weekend. Rose will write you a little note in with this. So now give our love to Kath and Will and hope soon to see you when you can come. With love from us all to you all. Kiss Kath for me,

Your ever loving

Mother

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12.2.1931

Dearest Daisy,

Thanks for your letter received this morning. Am sorry not to have seen you this morning but shall still have your visit to look forward to now, hope it won't be long.

Mum has been sitting up more this week, and is going on nicely now. The Dr. Says she must take care & said I was quite right not to let her do anything. I am managing OK without the nurses and mum gets her wash early in the morning now.

Have been trying to do some needlework & of course haven't done half what I wanted to. Sister came to see Mum and then Nell Harriott⁽¹⁾ came, so you can guess how much I have done. Am just going out now for my night off, and don't know where I am going. Next Thursday there is another dance so must finish my frock by then.

Fred has had the lino laid in both rooms now, so things are settling down a bit.

Bill is still working all hours of the day & night & gets tired.

Will get Annie's knicks and send them tomorrow so she will get them Saturday. Really think I have said everything, haven't been doing much except work so there's nothing interesting to tell you. Hope to hear from you & see you soon.

Lots of love to you & Will & Kath & kisses to you all.

Yours

Rose

(1) I don't know where this Nell Harriott fits into the family. She is not the wife of Martha's half brother Albert, as she had died in 1925, but she could be their daughter.

Dear Daisy

Your letter safe, and the patterns. I think the pattern for Kath is ever so nic. It is a nic book for brides to use and we will show it to Nellie tonight.

Dear, I shall be glad to see you and I think Thursday is the best day for you to come, as our Bill is to dinner and Rose is home all day, but Tuesday is my longest day alone. But Thursday Rose does all the cleaning and if you come you might help her with the ironing or to arrange her evening frock, as you could work and talk.

The nurse finished yesterday. I am going on about the same. We are glad you had a nic time altogether in London with Albert and hope you did yesterday. I am glad Kath was happy though the weather must have been bad as it is here. Now this is to catch the post, so much love to you all from us all,

Your ever loving

Mother

Kiss Kath for me

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Dear Daisy,

Your letter safe which we were very glad to get. I am feeling a bit more like myself this morning so I am up and sitting in the chair after feeling so bad since last Thursday. They all did what they could for me, I mean Fred, Nellie and Rose, and Rose Osborne and our Bill. As from last Thursday till Monday I was in such pain and so sick I did not know what to do, or they for me, and if I had not felt better on Monday I should have had the doctor up again. But now I am able to drink a cup of tea and eat a bit. The nurse only comes once a day and on Sunday never came at all. So when the doctor comes on Thursday I shall tell him my hip is better and Rose and I can manage without them, as each day they do not get here till one o'clock and just as it's dinner time and Rose as to rush off to work. They come in and as when they come she sits me in the chair and washes me. She did last Thursday. Takes my night-dress off and I am naked. All the cold get me down after all the washing and rubbing, - it makes me go queer. So since I have felt so bad I have not let her get me out but wash me in bed. I am glad my hip is better, so now I can tell them Rose can get the water and I can wash, and Rose help me and make my bed. So I shall ask the doctor on Thursday about it. That's enough about myself.

I was so sorry about Doll, and, as you say, it is bad for Rose about Doll, and those dear children. But Rose was always a dear kid when young. I do if (*sic*) sorry for her and also Annie and Stanley as it is bad all the way round. It would have grieved their dear mother if she could know and were still here. I can see her dear face now. I was glad you had a nic time and quiet at Annie's, and hope you will have a nic time on Saturday.

Fred as finished is rooms if the handls of the doors he as polished. So it as to be put strait and the rest of the furnite bought. And the wedding is fixed for Easter Saturday, as he as 3 days holaday, - Friday, Saturday and Monday. I think April is a nic time to marry, - yours was a April wedding. He as to go the dentist again on Friday. Rose is sending you a bit of her frock she is making , and for wedding.

I hope Mr and Mrs Scott will like your house if and when they come, and I am sure you must be busy getting ready.

We shall be ever so pleased to see you if you can come down just to have a peep at us all, and we want to see your dear face. So now, darling, cannot write much more now as Rose will tell you all the rest. Only I have been dreaming about you and Will for 2 nights running, and in a muddle. Rose will tell all the rest.

With much love and kisses for you all,

your loving

Mother

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Dear Daisy,

Just a line to you to tell you Rosie Ransom came round to see me yesterday. She said she as been coming all this time She came in the morning so saw our Rose as well. She was glad to see me up. She said Arthur and herself are quite well but Rose said she had been going down to Mrs Richard as she had been ill or was ill. Rose said no one will ever know quite how much she missed you and Kath when you went to Bromley, and how much they still miss you all. She said it was awful when you first went. I said so it was for us, and how much we all still miss you all. And she said Kath is a sweet child and how much she loves her - so do they all, and that was very sweet of her to say that and about you and Kath. She is a dear always.

Rose said Will (1) Dad as still got the old horse and he is frightened if he gets a new one it will pull the carriage to peices, as the carriage is old. But he is very pleased with the new housekeeper. She is ever so clean, Rose says, and nice. She said they do want to get the time to come up and see your house, as Alice said she wants them to see it. Rose went up and looked at our Fred rooms and she thinks he as made his dresser and things very nice, and she fell in love with his bedroom suite. She says she shall be down again before the wedding, and off she went in a rush. She was sorry Kath had been bad, and I told how bad you were before Christmas. It as been snowing here last night but is melting again, but still very cold. I am sure it is up your way.

This is all now darling, only I shall be ever so glad if you can come on the Thursday or so before Easter. Rose is afraid she will not get much time off at all Easter week, - not much even for the wedding. Up till now the wedding (2) is fixed for 2.30 on Easter Saturday, and to have a wedding Breakfast. And Fred is going to ask for the week holaday. If he can get it they will go to Oxford for their honeymoon for the week, but if he cannot get the week he will not go.

So that is all this time. With best love to all from all,
Your loving

mother.

Write soon XXXXXXXX

(1)- Will and Arthur Ransom (Rosie's husband) were brothers, and their father was coachman to Lady de Gex who lived at Offington Hall, Worthing.

(2) Fred and Nellie married on Easter Sunday, 5th April, 1931.

Dear Daisy,

I was glad to get your kind letter and that you got the paper. I told Rose you could not send the letter in the paper, but the girl in the Post Office told her you could so she cannot know her work.

Rose went to the Dance last night. Her frock looked alright. She said 7 of her shop girls went.⁽¹⁾ The weather here is lousy today. Makes you feel glad to see the sunshine. It will make the garden grow now. It makes me think of my dear old Dad and his lovely old garden at the old home ⁽²⁾. How lovely it used to be. I used to tell your Dad I always felt like a bird shut by in a cage here, to what was at home in the old home. It was lovely there. I hope your roses will grow nice over your arch.

Dear, I hope you will be able to come on the Wednesday. It will *(be)* lovely to have you. I am just looking forward for the time to see you. As you say, I must leave the wedding to you all to see to. Nellie is having the week off to see to things and put straight, and Rose will be busy at work. After this week Miss Scott is having to stay at *(home)* this week as her mother is ill and her Gran as died, so it makes them one more short. And Mrs Collier is on holiday with the children at Bournemouth. Though trade is slack really, Rose says Mr Collier is bad tempered this week with some of the girls, but alright to Rose.

Fred is making a stool for the wedding now, as he says there will not be enough chairs.

I expect the hats do look nice. I hope Kath will like her frock I think her hat will look nice when you have done it. Rose as nearly done her frock and as took her last summer hat and re-blocked it, and it goes with her dress nic. So now she as only stockings and gloves to get. She as got Nellie's stockings. Pure Silk they were, 5s 11. She as got them for 3s 11 to match Nellie's shoes which are faun ⁽¹⁾. Tell Kath Gran is just longing to see her. I am sure she must be busy at school and getting a good scholar.

So now we all send our best love to all and we shall soon see you now. Auntie Rose will write on Sunday. So love and kisses to Kath and to yourselves, from us all.

From you ever loving

mother

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(1) Rose worked in the office of a ladies dress shop at 45, Western Road, Brighton, called 'Mary Yorke'. She returned here to work some years later after she was married, in about 1943. I don't doubt she was able to buy knickers for Annie, and stockings for Nellie at some discount.

(2) Arthur, Martha Mary's father, lived at the latter part of his life at South Heighton. He died there in 1883.

Dear Daisy,

Your letter safe this morning which we were both glad to get, but sorry Kath as been bad and had to stay away from school. I am glad she is getting better. Tell her gran will be glad when the time comes to see her dear face again, and your and Wills. I am going on just the same. I cannot do anything, as I cannot get about which is my worry. I have got some more medicine to go on with. And, as you say, this cold weather takes all the money for coal and us with 2 fires going all the time. Like you, it takes a lot of coal. We have not had much snow. It is very cold all the same, but Brighton does get good weather in the winter to some towns. Fred and Nellie put their bands up last night the vicar invited Fred over to have a talk with him Nellie thought he was a very nic man, and he told them he is coming to see me and asked how I was getting on. I told Bill Fred had put his bands up. He said "What bands - Salvation Army bands?"!! He is a Bill! He did not come home all day yesterday till about 9.30. I said were have you been. He said London, it's snowing up there. Rose washing froze day also the WCs froze up

Now dear I shall be ever so glad you will be here to help Fred with this wedding, as he will, I know, be very glad to have your help and advice. Nellie brought a lot of her things round on Saturday, or rather, he went and fetched them. He brought a truck full round. He as painted the stairs down and they look nice and clean. And on Saturday Mr Grey is mate at work came up and saw(?) his rooms and came in and saw me. And (*he*) asked how (*I*) was and said he is glad I am feeling better. And he said he as got a nice little place. Fred was ever so pleased he came round. Fred thinks a lot of his mate. He is invited to the wedding.

I am glad you like the paper. I am sending this week and you will see in it that you have named your house a very old English name (1) as it dates back to the time of the 1512 Henry VIII against Louis III show. Kath, I am glad you had a nic time with Mrs Pye. It makes a change for you all. About you going to Herne Bay, I hope you will like it there.

We have not heard from Doll or Rose, and I think Annie as charged quite enough for the house, but hope it will be alright. But Annie and all of them take after their Dad - they are not like their dear mother. I can talk to you all about that when you are here. Still he was good as well

Tell Kath Gran is ever so sorry she as been bad, and dear, all of you take care of yourself this cold weather, and Will must find it very cold in the mornings. I do think about you all and wish I was near you, yet here I am - can't get about or do anything much, which worries me, but the Doctor says I must not worry. I think it is going to be warmer again soon. Rose will write on Thursday, so now darling, all my love and love from us all to you all.

Your ever loving

mother XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

I thanked you dear for the books in my letter

(1) Will and Daisy's house in Bromley was called 'Helmstone'

Dear Daisy,

Your letter safe this morning. I was glad to get it as I had been dreaming about you and Dad. A nic dream, so thought I should get a letter. I am glad you went and saw Alen all of you, also that it will be nic for you to go with Will to Sheffield when he goes at Whitsun.

Fred and Nellie are going for the week to Oxford for their honeymoon. He as got the week off so that means he will have a week and 3 days altogether. Nellie gave her notice in on Saturday. They have given her a eiderdown at her work & £12 6 Blue and gold. She as 9s 6 left over from what they gave her so she will be????? next week to put straight and will be very glad to have you and Kath to help her. Rose will have to work every day and Friday all day. Fred went down and saw (1) Uncle Walter on Sunday night, and he is going to give them a clock. Him and Auntie Emma are going away on Thursday to Ashurst were they always go for the Easter. He told Fred he shall return the end of the Summer (2). He as got to start on the Palvon (*Pavilion?*) after Easter as it as to be painted outside. It will be work for a few men. What do you think of him - 78 in August.

Tell Kath we are just longing to see her. I know how busy she will be. Nellie says the children are just counting the days for the wedding - I guess they are. I am just the same, my legs are very troublesome. Rose went down and got me some more medicine and saw my doctor last night. He wanted to know how I was and told her I must be careful.

I am sending you the paper this week. In it (*you*) will (*see*) about Nellie's ancestors and Charles 11(3). I will tell Nellie tonight about the children frocks.

Now dear I am counting the days till I see you and Kath, and tell Will I want to hear him sing the song 'The Promised Land' for the wedding. Now darling, much love to all from us all I wish I could do a lot but I cant do anything, not being able to get about

Love and kisses to you all.

Write soon,

Your loving mother

(1) Walter Herriott was Martha Mary's half brother - the son of Arthur and Lucy. He was born in Plumpton in 1852.

(2) Presumably she meant Walter would return to Ashurst at the end of the Summer

(3) Nellie's maiden name was Tetersell, and the Captain Tetersell who captained the boat that took Charles 11 to France, was one of her ancestors.

Dear Daisy,

Just another line till you get here, which I am just longing to see you. Rose as gone to work this morning and I am cooking the potatoes up here. Nellie is not here till tomorrow, but coming up after dinner as she as gone shopping this morning to buy a new Spring coat and skirt, and a jumper for the going away in. They are not sure wether they will go Sunday or Monday yet.

So as Rose told you, Rose Osborne ⁽¹⁾ as let me have the top front room, as you all must be comfortable. I am doing the bottom of our Rose frock this morning. It is nearly finished now. Rose Osborne as really been very good in coming over and seeing to the boys' dinner of a night, and the fires till last week, but she was out to work all the week as People are busy spring cleaning now. But Bill was home earlier last Wednesday so he got it ready for Fred, and my tea, so we managed alright, and Rose was home on Thursday.

Fred is going down Uncle Walter to get his clock tonight. They went out to Shoreham last night to Nellie's Aunt Nell who keeps the Skonner (*sic*) Inn. Nellie's Aunt Nell as just had £200 left her by her sister in law. The will was in the Argus. I am sending you the bit for to see. She left a lot of money. It appears that Nellie's Aunt went their as a servant and her sister in law and her brother were there in service as well. And when the gentleman died he left Nellie's Aunt £500 and the brother. So Nellie's aunt and the brother got married and went into business but the sister (*in law?*) stayed on with the Lady. And the Lady died and left Nellie's Aunt's sister in law her house and all her money. So now she as died and left one neice a £1000 and Nellie's Aunt £200. I am finding the bit of paper for you to see, so I expect they will give Nell a present. It is her father's sister.

They might come to the wedding, and the flowers are to be yellow tulips for the bridemaids and white for herself. Her mother as bought the ham - 13lb, and as ordered the beef. And Nellie as ordered pastries were she is having her wedding cake from. Fred, or rather they, both went and bought the ring on Saturday night. They come and showed me. He said want some hicough (?) powder. I said yes, and then he showed me what they had got - they gave 6 spoons with it. The children said to Nell "Aunt Nell when are we going to be married.?" Nell laughed.

I hope you all had a nic day yesterday and are not to tired today. I shall be so pleased when you get here. Now, much love to all till Wednesday, as Aunt Rose will soon be in to dinner and I can't get it for her. That's the worst of it. How I wish their was no stairs here.

Kiss Kath for me till Wednesday, and she is to kiss you for us all. Let us know what time to expect you.

Much love from all,

Your loving mother

(1) I believe that Rose Osborne was the next door neighbour, and a good friend of Martha's daughter Rose.

Dear Daisy,

Your letter safe, and I was pleased to get it I am glad you have done the frocks and hats and also your own and Kath's. I am sure how busy you are. It will be better to send the frocks on but they will not get crushed, but you know best what to do. I shall be so glad to see you on Wednesday - you cannot think how glad, and Kath.

I think Fred is really getting worried, but not more worried than I am, though I don't let him think I am. He is going out this afternoon to see about the taxes and flowers, so he told Rose, and then he has to arrange the kitchen. He thinks he will get 4 tables in the kitchen but you will see about it before the day. He has written to Ethel and to Edie as he went to their wedding. He has paid for the piano to be tuned, - it wanted doing badly. The tuner said Ireland were Rose bought it. They only charge 8/- a year to do it, so Rose must not let go so long again. He says it is a good piano.

Rose, as she was going into work yesterday afternoon, saw a doctor's carriage standing outside of Mary Yorke. And as she went in, Mrs Collier let him out and who should it be but my doctor! He raised his hat and said good afternoon, and Rose asked him if he was quite well. And it turned out that Mrs Collier and his wife are friends. He had been to see their little boy who is not well. Rose said Mrs Collier looked when he spoke to her, and she expects he wondered as well. Miss Owen told Rose he is their doctor and Mrs Collier and his wife are great friends. This is a very small world

Thursday morning
(This would have been written on the 9th April 1931)

Dear Daisy,

Your letter safe and I am glad you all got home alright, and I am sure you were all very tired. I felt if I could have walked I should have come after you all. I could not sleep all night, but had a better night last night only my legs were very troublesome.

Rose got home about 8.30 and Bill just after 9.30 yesterday. Bill got home in time for tea, so bought it up for me.

I have not seen Rose Osborne yet, as she was at work all day yesterday. Rose as got to work all day today and they are not shutting this Thursday, And after that is going to the Dance so I shall get her to bring the tea pot up here and I can make a cop of tea myself, and tomorrow as well, and after that Fred and Nellie may be home. But I do miss Fred coming in at 5.30. I had a letter from him and he said it is OK, and he is sight seeing. The weather is better here today - I hope it is there.

Now dear I am so sorry about your coat, and if you do not find it Rose will send you on her tweed coat, as she never wears it. So let us know by Sunday and she can pack as she will have time then, and tell Kath Gran will send her book with it.

Now dear, I was so glad you were hear. The time went so quick it seems you were gone in no time and hope you feel alright now. Tell Will I think he will have a nice garden when he as done it all. I shall be glad when I can get down to our little bit. I hope they will soon make it a bit tidy.

Tell Kath I hope she will have a nic time the rest of her holaday. Now please let me know about the coat and have this one of Rose. It will do to run about in, and lighter than your fur one.

With love from us all you to you all,

Your ever loving

Mother

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Dear Kath,

I was so glad of your nic little letter this morning. I really did feel a bit lonely after you had gone. I felt I must come after you if only I could, and then I tried to think how you all loved me, and what dears you are.

And yesterday I got the chair and went in Uncle Bill's room and found a bit of Auntie Rose mending which I am doing today. And after dinner I had a rest but could not sleep and I thought I should have to go without any tea, but about 5.30 and bought me up a cup of tea. About 8 Auntie Rose came home and cooked the dinner for today, as she as got to work all day, and tonight is going to the Dance with Jimmy. It seems so funny without Fred and I missed you all, but he will soon be home and I had a letter and he is OK, and Nellie.

I am so sorry about Auntie's coat (*she means Daisy's*) She must have one of Auntie Rose's if she cannot find it. I do hope she will.

And now, darling, this all the paper I have got. (*It was written on an envelope, opened out*) Lots of more next letter. I will send the book. All our love to you, darling,

Your ever loving
Gran XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Daisy,

Your letter safe and postal order - thank you very much but you need not have worried to have sent it as you were not here long, and were so good to come. I don't know what I should have done if you had not have been here. Fred got home about 8.30 on Saturday. The time seemed long the rest of the week. Rose bought the kettle and teapot up, so I made my own tea each day as it was late each day before she could get home. She enjoyed the Dance alright, and Fred and Nellie had a long time at Oxford and did not want to come home. His mate Mr Gregg came round to see him last night and told him he as to work till seven aclock each night. I said to Rose "That's putting the begger on the gentleman", but it will be more money for them.

Bill had row with Mitchell over the work and the money, (1) so Mitchell he came up here to Bill and the Boss is coming down tomorrow. They never paid Bill for working all the hours he worked Good Friday and Easter Monday. He said the hours he worked it never worked out at 3d a hour, so they fell out about it.

It seems so strange oh - Fred going upstairs to have his food. Nellie as done her washing and got dry. She came down the door to say goodbye to him as he went to work. He came in and kissed me and he had a new pair of overalls on, and she seemed so proud to see him off to work. They ...all their shopping in with them on Saturday night for Sunday.

Dear Daisy, Rose is sending on the coat and you will get Wednesday morning. She never wears it, so hope will do you a turn. We are so sorry you have not found your own yet. We hope you will. I do hope your cold will soon be better, all of you.

The weather is very Bleak at this.... of the year. That's how your Poor Dad caught his Death through the wind. (2) I do think of him always as the time of year comes round. He as been gone 26 years in May, and the sun shines just as bright now as it did then, but the wind is just as Bleak. And when I look at the sun, I think about him all the time and wish I could just see him and speak to him. He was a Darling and we loved each other so.

Dear tell Will I hope he will soon be alright to do your house but the light nights are coming and will give you more time to see outside in the garden.

Emma at Scaynes Hill sent me a box of lovely Primroses and Dafs. It was kind of her. Rose Osborne is very busy house cleaning so as hardly time to look. Now dear I am going on about the same. I have had 2 or 3 walks on the chair into the back room to get the morning tea(?). My knee seems a bit better and I hope I shall soon be able to get downstairs, but I must wait a bit yet. I can find. Now we will send the coat tomorrow and Rose will write to you. And we all send our love and kisses.

Ever your loving

Mother
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(1) I believe that Bill, who was crippled, worked as a driver.

(2) Henry, Martha's husband, died of acute pneumonia at the early age of 48 on the 16th May, 1906, after working in bad weather as a painter.

These letters are particularly poignant when one learns that Martha Mary died on Wednesday, the 15th April 1931, only 10 days after Fred and Nellie married. The last letter must have been written only a day or so before she died. On her death certificate it states that she died of Arterio Sclerosis and Myocardial Disease.

Addendum:

This letter was also included in the bundle, which Aunt Daisy had saved. It must have been written when Daisy was quite young, - probably before she was married in 1915. The writer, Barbara, writes from Canada, and calls Daisy 'cousin'. I have no idea where the relationship fits into the family tree. Martha Mary had a number of half brothers and sisters, and they all seem to have kept in close contact, so this cousin must have been one of the Herriott half cousins. Alternatively, Martha's husband Henry had a sister Polly, and in notes which I wrote when Daisy was alive, she had told me that Polly's daughter Polly had gone to Canada. The names Annie and Rose crop up in the letters between Daisy and her mother written in the 1930s.

Maymont Sask
Feb 25

My dear Daisy,

Your photos came all safe and sound. I am delighted with them and wish I could see you not your picture only.

You said you would like to go up to London. Just write and tell father. He would be pleased to have you and you would be able to go and see Rose, she is not far from home 1 1/2d on the bus or car. She will, I believe, be very happy. They all like her husband very much indeed.

I wish you could get something nice to do. How about going as a nurse? You would be able to go as child's nurse or in a fever hospital. Annie would be able to tell you all about it, if you wrote. I believe you would get more and be able to help your mother more by going to something like that, and have a prospect for the future. I know you are a good girl, and will always try to be so, but it is a very dangerous life for a girl, as attractive as you are, to be at a theatre or in tea rooms. I have been about the world a good bit, and know what I am talking about, so don't be offended at my plain speaking.

I think so often of you and the other children, and your mother and feel sorry I am not rich. If I were, you would not be as you are now.

Well, we are having a grand winter. I get out quite a bit here. Once a week I give a music lesson to one of my pupils which makes a nice change. I go there from school, stay to supper and spend a jolly musical evening after the lesson. Do you ever do any eyelet embroidery? I have taken that up lately and like it very much - making d'oilies etc.

Now, write soon to me and tell me how you are getting on, well, I hope. Au revoir for the present,

Your ever loving cousin,

Barbara