

TELEPHONE No. 640 GERRARD.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"MUECYL, LONDON."

LYCEUM CLUB,
128, PICCADILLY, W.

September 9th 1912

My dearest Brother

I was very glad
to find your kind letter
as a welcome on my return
here alone. I know you
will like to hear that all
has gone well with the ar-
rangements for the wedding.

Glanhoddu
nr. Abergavenny
September 12th

The wedding was at St. Paul's
Church in which Ethel was
confirmed when at school at

Brighton. The church is 2 miles distant from the house in Ave in which Mrs. Clabburn has her room. A motor brought Ethel for the 8. A. M. service, & she came to breakfast with us at Leo's hotel. The motor brought Mrs. Clabburn in excellent time to take Ethel from my care for going to church. With her came Dorothy & Mr. Pearson. The marriage service was at 9.30. A. M. Some of the sisters who had known Ethel at school were present in the church. Noy came to officiate as best man & was most kind & able.

Ethel & Leo had arranged things very nicely to keep M^{rs} Clabburn happy & interested after their departure. So there was to be a "breakfast" at the "residence of the Bride's Mother" & they sent the wedding cake there on its way to Mornmouth. Motors conveyed the party to the house but even so Ethel & Leo had but a few minutes to stay before leaving for their train as they wished to get through to Wasdale Head the same evening. There was just time for the champagne. Leo & Ethel looked very happy as they drove off. The motor returned to take me to my hotel, & then was to take M^{rs} Clabburn & the young people to Arundel for the day, bringing

them back in time for the theatre in the evening.

It was a lovely day for the wedding. Ethel looked nice in her grey green travelling dress & black hat with large white plume.

Joy drove off from the church for a train to take him to meet Bessie at Newhaven.

They were crossing for a little jaunt to Rouen & Paris.

The happy pair after their arrival at Seascale at 9.20 A.M.

had a 14 mile motor drive up to Wasdale Head. I have

heard of their safe arrival, after adventures. Ethel's letter

this morning says they are very happy. They return to

Wormouth on Sep^r 17th or 18th.

I wish they could have a little longer rest & holiday.

2.

TELEPHONE No. 640 GERRARD.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"MUECYL, LONDON."

LYCEUM CLUB,

128, PICCADILLY, W.

Leo had a little dinner party
& I a little lunch party for the
Claburn family. Hoy arrived
on Sunday in time for my
lunch. Ethel would not come
as she was glad of the free
time with her family away
for packing & her own affairs.
I hope, dear, that your next
letter will tell me that you
are feeling quite well again.
I am so sorry that the Dacca
University Committee things
are being troublesome. I do
hope that the business will
work out better for you & be
satisfactory.

LYCEUM CLUB,
128, PICCADILLY, W.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON.
ALLEGRA PHOTODUPLICATION SERVICE,
4839 MARSH ROAD, GEORGETOWN, VIRGINIA 22426

I am hoping for news of your
little family: but I know
Mary must be very busy.
With much love, dear
Your loving sister
Edith E. Coulson James

I returned here on Tuesday.
Kind regards from Mr. Risher.

Letter from Edith James¹ to Henry Rosher James²

Describing their Brother Lionel James's³ Wedding⁴

to Ethel Clabburn⁵

9th / 12th September 1912

Transcribed and Annotated by John Barnard
(updated 14 July 2014)

Lyceum Club⁶

128, Piccadilly, W.
September 9th 1912

My dearest Brother

I was very glad to find your kind letter as a welcome on my return here alone.⁷ I know that you will like to hear that all has gone well with the arrangements for the wedding.

Glanhonddu⁸

nr Abergavenny
September 12th

The wedding was at St Paul's Church in which Ethel was confirmed when at school at Brighton. The church is 2 miles distant from the house in Hove in which M^{rs} Clabburn⁹ has her room. A motor brought Ethel for the 8. A. M. service, & she came to breakfast with us at Leo's hotel. The motor brought M^{rs} Clabburn in excellent time to take Ethel from my care for going to church. With her came Dorothy¹⁰ and M^r Pearson.¹¹ The marriage service was at 9.30 A. M. Some of the Sisters who had known Ethel at school were present in the church. Noy¹² came to officiate as best man & was most

1 Leo's elder sister, Edith Emily Coulson James (1860-1936), often referred to by Leo and Ethel's children as "Aunt Edie". She was a historian of the art of Bologna, and never married.

2 Leo's elder brother, Henry Rosher James (1862-1931) was an educational administrator in British India. He was often referred to as "Bobby".

3 Lionel James (1868-1948), known as Leo, was Headmaster of Monmouth Grammar School

4 The wedding took place on Monday 9th September 1912 at St Paul's Church, Brighton

5 Ethel de Pearsall Clabburn (1879-1960) had been matron at Monmouth Grammar School

6 Edith was a member of this club, for women interested in the arts and literature. Its Piccadilly premises now house the RAF Club.

7 Edith seems to have returned to stay at her club in London after the wedding in Brighton, and proceeded next day to Monmouthshire

8 Glan Honddu was the home of Mrs Lucia Anne Maria Rosher (circa 1830-1927), née Morgan, the widow of Lionel and Edith's maternal great-uncle Jeremiah Burch Rosher (1792-1874). It is (or was) situated on the east side of the Honddu river in the village of Pandy, north of Abergavenny; there is a Glan Honddu Close shown on local maps, which may be the site of the house. Following her husband's death Mrs Rosher lost a legal battle with her step-son Jeremiah Lilburn Rosher over the sale of the nearby Rosher estate of Trewyn Manor, on the west side of the Honddu river (*The Times*, 29 May 1884) and returned to Glan Honddu, the home of her father, Rev Theophilus Morgan (1803-1886), who was the local vicar. See also note 18.

9 Ethel's mother, Rosey, née de Pearsall (c. 1861-1922); her father, Arthur Edward Clabburn, had died in 1901

10 Ethel's sister, Dorothy De Pearsall Clabburn (1892-1970)

11 Cyril Herne Pearson (1886-1946), an assistant master at Monmouth School, who married Dorothy in 1916.

12 Thomas Noy Leah (1876-1937), Leo's first cousin

kind and able.

Ethel & Leo had arranged things very nicely to keep M^{rs} Clabburn happy & interested after their departure. So there was to be a "breakfast" at the "residence of the Bride's Mother" & they sent the wedding cake there on its way to Monmouth. Motors conveyed the party to the house, but even so Ethel and Leo had but a few minutes to stay before leaving for their train as they wished to get through to Wasdale Head the same evening. There was just time for the champagne. Leo and Ethel looked very happy as they drove off.

The motor returned to take me to my hotel, & then was to take M^{rs} Clabburn and the young people to Arundel for the day, bringing them back in time for the theatre in the evening. It was a lovely day for the wedding. Ethel looked nice in her grey green travelling dress & black hat with large white plume.

Noy drove off from the church for a train to take him to meet Cassie¹³ at Newhaven. They were crossing for a little jaunt to Rouen & Paris.

The happy pair after their arrival at Seascale¹⁴ at 9.20 P. M. had a 14 mile motor drive up to Wasdale Head. I have heard of their safe arrival, after adventures.¹⁵ Ethel's letter this morning says they are very happy. They return to Monmouth on Sep^r 17th or 18th. I wish they could have a little longer rest & holiday.

Leo had a little dinner party & I a little lunch party for the Clabburn family. Noy arrived on Sunday¹⁶ in time for my lunch. Ethel would not come as she was glad of the free time with her family away for packing & her own affairs.

I hope, dear, that your next letter will tell me that you are feeling quite well again. I am so sorry that Dacca University Committee things are being troublesome. I do hope that the business will work out better for you & be satisfactory.

I am hoping for news of your little family: but I know Mary¹⁷ must be very busy.

With much love, dear

Your loving sister

Edith E. Coulson James

I returned here on Tuesday. Kind regards from M^{rs} Rosher.¹⁸

13 Katherine Louisa Mullins, née Leah (1872-1962), Noy's sister, was known as Cassie

14 The closest railway station to Wasdale Head

15 Leo and Ethel's daughter, Pascha, told a story about how the wheel fell of the car on the final stage of the journey to Burnthwaite Farm, where the honeymoon was spent (the farm track remains unsurfaced to this day), and the luggage had to be stored in the porch of the tiny church overnight. The driver was a Mr Postlethwaite, and the garage in Seascale is still named Postlethwaite's.

16 Presumably Sunday 8th September 1912, the day before the wedding

17 H. R. James's wife, Mary Edith James, née Hindle (1864-1947) who had stayed with their children in Kent, after Henry had returned to India from a period of leave

18 This is presumably Lucia Anne Maria Rosher, née Morgan (c. 1830-1927), mentioned in note 8, with whom Edith was staying when she wrote the letter. Mrs Rosher was a most interesting woman, who probably had a lot in common with Edith. She had lived an independent life in London in the mid 19th century, making academic studies in art and music, before marrying Edith and Lionel's great-uncle Jeremiah Burch Rosher. After his death she lived as a recluse, interspersed by adventurous travel as far afield as Japan and the Northwest Frontier of India (*The Times*, 25 May 1927).