

# DIARY

## Captain Adam Eyre

Sunday, 5 September 1653

This day my wife went to Peniston to church, and I rested at home 'til noon; and towards night I went to Eclans, and published my last will and testament, and left it in writing with Reginald Appleyard with the rest of the writings in the box; and Roger Eyr came hither, and I willed him, if occasion was, to come to London, which he promised to do if I sent for him.

6 September 1653

This morn my purpose is for London, God willing, and in the way to pay to Widow Scargell all I owe her but £50, which I purpose to leave 'til Martinmas, and to my sister £20. My wife also goes with me, which accordingly she did, and we went by Sheffield, and so to Hounesfeild that night, where I left the scueball nag, and borrowed my brother's mare to London, but told him not whither I went, but he had spoiled mine before my return, which was within 13 days thither again, so that he would not carry me home on a day, which forced us to stay at Peniston by the way, so that my return home again to Haslehead was on Wednesday, 22 September. In this journey my wife procured a touch from the King for the evil the 13<sup>th</sup> day, and I got an order for Blythman to settle the augmentation to Peniston the 16<sup>th</sup> day, for which I paid £2; and for books, a sword, and other things which I bought in this journey, £19 15s 10d; and in expenses it cost me £6 10s 5d; and paid to my sister of debt £20; and to Widow Scargell, of debt, £34; but they have both the bonds in their hands yet because there is still more in arrear upon them; my disbursements in this were £82 6s 3d; and my travels in all these 15 days were in all 336 miles; whereof the particulars are in a little parchment-covered book, which contains my journals during the time I was in the army; and these briefs were taken this 22 September at my return home again, and the copy of the foresaid order is transcribed into the 52 page in the beginning of this book.

23 September 1653

This morn I received a letter from my cousin Robert Eyre to his wife, dated from Bridlington Key, 1 September; and I sent it again by Bill Milnes to Bill Kenerley, to carry it to Ladybourre, and so send it home. I did purpose to have gone to Gregory Ernshaw's wedding today, but being weary with my journey, I resolved to rest, and in the forenoon I red part of the *Vocal Forest*, and in the afternoon I read Lilly's *Prophecies of the White King, The Dreadful Dead Man*, and some others.

24 September 1653

This last night my wife dreamed that she was overloaded with gold, and was therewith sore troubled; and in the morning I stayed within 'til noon, and read the later end of the *Vocal Forest*; only I went to George Braye's and sent little George to Carlecoytes with a note to request Francis Haigh to come and change some light money, which I had of him; and at noon my wife's father came hither. I also borrowed a horse of James Kenerley, and spoke to William Wainwright for another to go to Sheffield on Tuesday next; and, in the afternoon, John Shaw came hither and I gave him a bad half crown to get of if he could; and in the afternoon I gave my wife 28s to buy necessaries for the house.

25 September 1653

This morning I began to recover somewhat of mine infirmity, praised be God for the same, but did not stir out, but read part of the *World's Catastrophe*; and at noon Francis Haigh came, and I gave him £12 15s 3d of light money again, and he repaid me £5 15s 6d of good money, so that there is but £7 behind, besides the bond which is in the hands of Reginald Appleyard. He stayed diner with me, and I lent him a book of Lilly's called *England's Prophetical Merlin* and *The Starry Messenger*, both in one volume. In the afternoon Ralph Wadsworth's daughter of Waterhall brought hither a pig for a present, and I sent by her a copy of the order for augmentation with it, and a letter to request him help me to some money this week.

26 September 1653

This day I rested at home all day, and in the afternoon I sent George Bray to James Mitchell and to Bulhouse, and when he came again he requested me to be a means to help him to some money, by an ale, or some other course, and I promised to speak to his Captain, Captain Rich, tomorrow.

27 September 1653

This morn I went down to the mill, and in the way I met Reginald Appleyard, who told me I was desired to go with Captain Rich to Mr. Blythman on Thursday. There I met Silvanus, who said his father was not at home; and I spoke to Richard Marsden, who promised to fetch me a load of slate from Hartcliffe on Friday; and so home again, where I stayed all day; and, towards night, little George Bray brought me word that I could not have Kenerley's mare

tomorrow, for the wife was rid on her to day, so thankless and dis-respective has she ever been to me. I also leant Reginald Apyleyand my silver weights for 2 or 3 days. He also said that Ralph Wadsworth had £5 in a readiness for me if I called on him on Thursday next.

28 September 1653

This morn I went to Birchworth to John Micklethwayte, and thence with him to the burial of Roger Walton, to Peniston, where I spent *6d*, and so home again; *vzt. 2d* at Robuck's and *4d* at Ernshaw's, for Mr. Didsbury and myself. And at Robuck's William Rich of Hornthwayte paid for me. Roland brought my weights again this morn. Also Jane came hither, and William Wainwright should have fetched me a box from Sheffield, and turned again by the way, like a base idle fellow, and therein showed his malignity towards me. This day's travels were 5 miles. *6d*.

29 September 1653

This day I rested at home 'til noon, and, after diner, I went to Bulhouse, and sate down with Captain Rich to diner again, and he promised to lead me a load of slate on Friday, and came with me to the mill and promised to consider on some course for the relief of George Bray and his children; and we promised to meet about Sunneries in the morning to go to Barnsley together. Then I went to Floshouse, and sat with John Milnes 'til night, and John Milnes said that it was not amiss to try whether Edward Mitchell would stand to his motion to make me such another bargain as I had of Francis Haigh; and I told him I need not any more money, yet bade him use his discretion and withal to wish Mitchell not to take any sheep for all winter, for that they should not stay after Candlemass in the grounds; and so I came home at night, and had no great temptation this day, praised be God for the same.

30 September 1653

This morn I went with Captain Rich and his wife to Barnsley, and there I met with Mrs. Lee at Robert Bridge's, where I spent with J. Burges *6d*; and thence with Captain Rich and Richard Greene to Thrift's, where I spent *6d* more; then we went to Susan Thwaytese's, where I was at inn; and after diner went with Captain Rich, R. W., Richard Hawksworth, and William Pasley to Newlathes, and showed Mr. Blythman the order from Goldsmith's Hall and gave him a copy of the same; thence to Barnsley again, where I bestowed on pewter *25s 6d*, on beef *6s*, on apples *2s 8d*, on candles *6s 6d*, and on fustian *5s 3d*, and spent at Susan's *10d*—toto, *£2 6s 9d*; and so came home again at night, in all 16 miles; and I left the candles, 12 lb., behind me.

1 October 1653

This morn I went to Robert Kenerley and entreated him to meet me at the mill with a horse and 2 beasts, which he promised, but did not; thence I carried home Mrs. Rich her wallet; thence with Richard Marsden and Captain Rich's man to Hartcliffe, who brought me 2 loads of slate. Home again; and, after diner, I gave each of their men *6d*, and then went to James Mitchell, who promised me to come to mend the thatch tomorrow; thence to Brichworth, and bought 5 stroke of barley of Roger Walton's wife, and paid her for it *8s 9d*, and so home again; in all 4 miles, and 2 in the morn, 6 miles; and disbursed in all *9s 9d*. This day I had no great cross, praised be God; only at night the unhappy wench refused to be taught her duty to God. I received of my wife this day a light half-crown.

2 October 1653

This morn came James Mitchell, and 5 more with him hither, and laid me the gutter over the kitchen chamber, and put up some other stones on the Wayne house, and I paid them at night for their work, and for 2 loads of slate and nails, *7s 4d*; and do owe William Wainwright *2d*. This night Francis Haigh brought me the £7 which he had in light money the last day, and £27 10s more, and promised to bring me £2 10s more tomorrow; and I gave him a note of the receipt of £30, which is £2 10s more than I have received, in respect he promised to send it me tomorrow. This day was my wife very angry, and I stayed at home all day. Francis Haigh brought me this night a pint of honey, and gave it me.

Sunday, 3 October 1653

This morn I went to Peniston to church, where I heard Mr. Attee preach, and spent in John Ernesshawe's in the morning, *2d*, and came home to diner and went again in the afternoon; and after evening sermon I received £5 of Ralph Wadsworth, and spent with Mr. Attee *4d*, and brought Martyn Trickett home with me, who had dined with me with Francis Haigh at noon, in all 8 miles.

4 October 1653

This morn I went, and Martin with me, to Shorehall, and received £12 of money for £12 in dollars in exchange, and thence towards Shephouse, and met with Nicholas Greaves in the way, who went with us to Bradfield, when I met James Wostenholme and his wife, and should have agreed and made straight some reckonings between us; but she, in lieu of allowing me my just disbursements, offered me an unjust reckoning of £57, whereof, to my knowledge, I owe her not a penny; yet nevertheless I offered to pay it all if she would say it was due, so she meddled not with a bond of £30 to my brother, and paid the half of a bond of £20 to Mr. Wentworth; but she refused, and thereupon I

refused to agree with her and parted, after I had spent 2s 6d, with my cousin Joseph Eyre to Spouthouse, where I lay all night. In all 8 miles. This day's disbursements were toto £1 4s. Here I met Robert Ward, and spoke to him for John Milnes. This morn I lent to Anne Bray 20s and paid her 1s 6d for a goose.

5 October 1653

This morn Francis Morten, Joseph Eyre, and I went to Sheffield, 4 miles, where I expected John Milnes to have fetched my books home, but he came not, so I paid for the carriage of them £1 8s 6d, and spent 8d, and left a purse sealed with Bridgett, wife to Thomas Scargell, with £62 in it, which was sealed up in presence of Francis Morten, John Eyre, and Thomas Morton. I likewise exchanged 23s of light money with William Scargell, with whom my books are for 18s 6d good money, which was 4s 6d loss; and after that I stayed on John Micklethwayte an hour, and then, by reason he came not homewards, I came home with Richard Greene, Nicholas Greave's man; and by the way, I came by John Milnes of Flosthouse, and left with his wife 10s for him to bring me some things with the box from Sheffield tomorrow, which she promised he should; and so home, in all 14 miles; and when I came home, the gates were shut and they refused to open them, so that I was forced to break them. In this journey I have been much crossed, by reason of my sister's averseness, who refused to accept of the ground in the woodland, so that I left the £62 at Sheffield, wherewith I did purpose to have paid Widow Scargell, and now purpose to provide money to pay my sister as soon as I can. This day's disbursements were 39s 2d, besides the £62 above said, and my travels 14 miles. I pray God grant me His grace to make the right use of these His merciful chastisements.

6 October 1653

This day I rested at home all day, by reason of the foulness of the weather.

7 October 1653

This day John Milnes brought me home my books from Sheffield, for which he had 2s 6d, and for other things which he bought, 6s 6d, which in all came to 9s, so that I received of him 1s again of what I had given him yesterday. After which I willed him speak to Edward Mitchell upon the discourse I had with him the last day. I also turned my mare to grass this morn again. This day I paid John Wainwright 6d for his day's work, which was only mending.

8 October 1653

This morn I putt Scue to grass, and towards noon Abram Sanderson came to furnish my study with shelves, so that I stayed at home all day.

9 October 1653

This day I stayed at home all day likewise, and in the afternoon I paid Abram 1s for these 2 days' work, after which I furnished the shelves with books, and called upon God, my merciful Father, to be my assistance and to guide me with His Spirit; and began to read part of the preface to Sir Walter Raleigh's *History of the World*. This night I whipped Jane for her foolishness, as yesterday I had done for her slothfulness; and hence am I induced to bewail my sinful life, for my failings in the presence of God Almighty are questionless greater than her's are to me; wherefore, unless You, my most merciful God, be merciful unto me, what shall become of me? Yet, O my God, in mercy I beseech You to chasten me here, and do not cast me out of Your protection, but grant me the assistance of Your Spirit to guide me, so shall I unfainedly serve You; and this I beg only for my Savior Jesus Christ, His sake, to Whom with You and Your Holy Spirit, I commend myself and soul. Amen.

Sunday, 10 October 1653

This day I rested at home all day, and had various thoughts by reason of the variety of men's opinions I find in reading; but still I hope God will be my guide; and, in the afternoon I walked into the fields with my wife.

11 October 1653

This morn Anne Bray came to will me to speak to Captain Rich, and to go to Peniston to a meeting about the poor, and, he coming on hunting, I met him and went with him 'til noon, but found not a hare, albeit we went up over at the Wayres to the Redyshaw Knoll, by Swinden, and below Langsett before we came home; after which I rested in the house all the afternoon.

12 October 1653

This morn I rid on Scueball to Carlecoates, and spoke to Francis Haigh to lend me £100 more, whereof he promised to give me answer within a week. So I came home again, and rested at home all day; and at night I lent Widow Swallow my mare; to Barnsley tomorrow.

13 October 1653

This day I rested at home all day, and gathered and set some acorns in the garden; and, towards night, I went to John Milnes, who was ditching in the Coyl Road. I this day began to read Sir Walter Raleigh's his history.

14 October 1653

This morn my mare came home, and I paid to Swallow lad, for a cabbage and a halter, 6*d*, which his mother bought me yesterday; and, after that, I rode to Nicholas Hobson, the smith, with an iron pot to mend, 4 miles; and thence to Snodnell, to the saddler, and so to the Shaw, to the cooper, to speak for 4 barrels, 2 miles; and thence home, 3 miles; in all, 9 miles. And after I came home, toward night, my wife went with me, and we swam the Scueball in a pit in the Wayre field. The last night she had a very painful night on her leg which swelled, and was angry quite up to her body.

15 October 1653

This morn her father came hither and brought something, and, in the afternoon, Jane went to Hobson the smith, to whom I gave 2*s* to pay him, but she came not home this night. I myself rested at home all day.

16 October 1653

This morn I paid John Milnes for a pair of shoes for Jane, 2*s* 8*d*, for a bottle of aqua vitæ 2*s* 8*d*, and for a box and tobacco 8*d*; toto, 6*s*; and rested at home all day.

Sunday, 17 October 1653

This day I rested at home all day, save that in the afternoon I walked into the fields, and so to George Braye's; thence I went with William Wordsworth of Softley on to the Bents, who promised to lend me £50 at or before the latter end of November, and more, if it came in; so back to Bray's, and home; after which my wife was very angry all day, 'til night. Yesterday Reginald Appleyard brought my books home from Francis Coldwell and himself, and I lent 3 of Dells again to William Rich of Hornthwayte, Junior, who willed me meet his father at Catchaw tomorrow.

18 October 1653

This morn, after a walk in the fields, I went to Catchaw, thence to Smallshaw, to Mary Greaves, who promised to let me have her money another year, and so back again, with Christophor Greaves to Catchaw, where William Rich passed his accounts. After which I received 5*s* of William Rich, and gave it to Reginald Appleyard again to give it to a poor honest man, at the request of John Shirt and Mat Lynley. I also received my box with the writings in it from Reginald Appleyard, and so came home, where in the way Francis Haigh promised me £50 at Mayday, but not before; after which I washed my horses' mouths for the canker, which were foul eaten therewith by reason of John Shawe's neglect, who promised to have cured me them long ago.

19 October 1653

This morn I went to Sheffield and took the money from Bridgett Scargell, where I spent 8*d*, and went thence to Senaw and paid Widow Scargell all the money I owed her, which was £106, whereof she had in hand before and 12*s* for interest since Michaelmas last, in all £106 12*s*, in presence of Mr. Kay, minister of North Wingfield; and after came back to Chesterfield at night; in all 26 miles; and lay at Smith's house.

20 October 1653

This morn I came to Sheffield, and in the Park I received a very dangerous fall from my mare, she topstailing over me, and so lying on me and her head doubled under her body, so that neither I nor she could have risen but that one John Nodder helped me; nevertheless the Lord delivered me so that I received no hurt, praised be His name therefore. And here I bought things which cost me 2*s*, and spent 1*s* with the saddler, on whom I bespoke a saddle, and received my bridle bit, which I left with him, and a girth, which I have not paid him for; and then came home; in all 18 miles; and my reckoning in the morning was 2*s* 2*d*—£5 5*s* 2*d*.

21 October 1653

This morn I went on foot to the Waterhall, and thence to Peniston, to seek for Ralph Wordsworth, with whom I drunk at William Wordsworth's, and he spent his 6*d*. I asked him to lend me £50 'til Mayday, which he half-promised, but took further time to consider thereof; after that I came home; in all 4 miles.