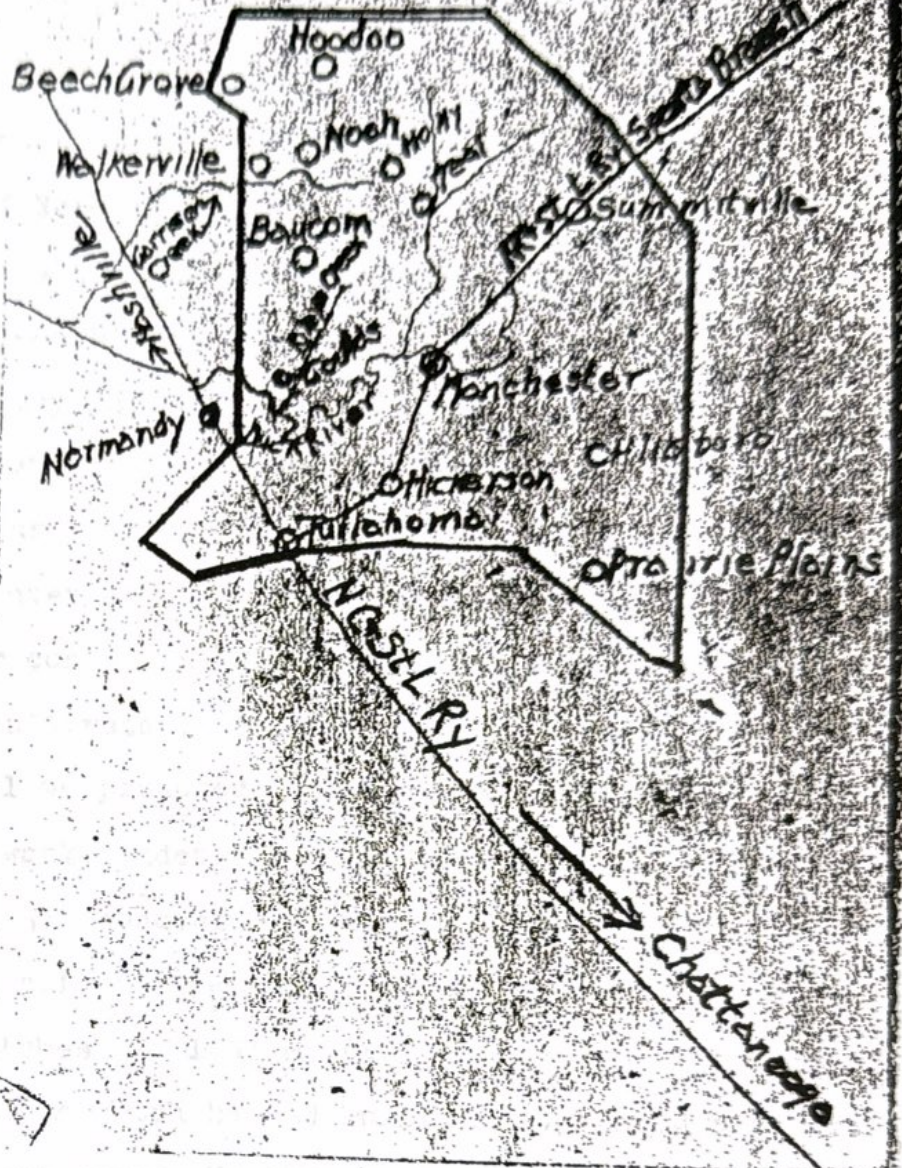


I was born July 5, 1881, near the present residence of Mr. W. R. Hodge, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Reddens Chapel, 2 miles from Duck River, in Coffee County, 7 miles from Manchester, the County Seat, in the State of Tennessee. At the age of one year (1882), with my father, Joseph Jefferson Smith, my mother, Martha Ann Smith, and my two brothers, James Brewer and Samuel Riley, ages 6 and 4 respectively, I moved 6 miles west of my birthplace above mentioned, and four miles northwest of Manchester, to the farm of my grandfather, H. L. Smith, where my youngest brother, John Henry, was born the 11th of September, 1883. Here we lived until the middle of 1884, when my father became afflicted with what was diagnosed as tuberculosis of the bowels. Father lingered in pain from this disease till May 19, 1885, when he died. Funeral and interment was conducted at the Greene Cemetery, near border of Coffee and Bidford Counties, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Hollands Chapel, Coffee County, on the Wartrace road. I insist that I can recall seeing my father's casket resting upon two chairs in the one big room of our home, and also seeing my mother weep at his side while he lay a corpse, but it is possible many frequent conversations overheard have depicted the matters so vividly in my mind that they seem real.

It was a desolate home our family returned to after father's interment, as during the eleven months of his illness no crops had been made, so that we had to depend upon the charity of grandfather's family for a livelihood. And such charity. After in an attempt failing to take the two oldest boys from mother, saying she was too young and inexperienced to understand the rearing of children, the



whole family made conditions as disagreeable as possible for mother by administering unmerciful beatings upon the older boys resulting in blisters and blood in profusion. In the Autumn of 1886, however, timely relief was afforded us by J. M. Jernigan, a farmer on Rileys Creek, 4 miles north of Normondy, whose wife was a sister of Mother's father, my great uncle by his marriage. Mr. Jernigan gave us a two room, log house on a steep bluff on his farm, rent free, and in addition gave us necessary supplies to live upon, in return for what little work the two older boys could do. In 1883 our Uncle built a small two room frame house for us, 1 mile east of his home, and we lived there till the winter of 1891. The two older boys and myself were now able to render considerable service, and our uncle allowed us a certain field to cultivate in corn, furnishing seed, stock and implements giving us all we produced. Later however, as all four of became large enough to work, under the same conditions as above he gave us one half of all we produced, and after 1891 he gave us one third of all corn, and half the wheat we produced, as well as the live stock and truck patches. In 1891 my uncle exchanged that farm for another a mile south on which he had built and operated a general merchandise store for some years. He then in November 1891, moved us to a very large roomy house 100 yards north of his store.

During all this time we boys were sent to the district public schools about three months of the four-month terms per year, the remainder of the time being necessarily spent at work. During the autumn of 1899, I attended the last two months of that years term of the Fairfield Academy, at Fairfield, Bidford County, Tennessee, living with my aunt (fathers sister) Mrs. Mary Gould, whose husband, S. Gould, owned a farm, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the school.

During the winter of 1899-1900, (December, January, February and March) I was employed by John I. Jernigan who owned the farm first south of ours, most of this time being spent at his saw mill, on Jim Neill's place, (Owl hollow) where I "off bore" lumber-(really a 200 lb. Mans' Job). The remainder of this period I plowed, grubbed sassafras and trimmed cedar trees. In the latter part of March 1900, I "resigned" this position to join my next older brother (Sam) in the Sale of Portraits. Some how I never made good at this, and in part I attribute my failure of loathing, to my inability to withstand rough talk from aprosed customer. So I came home in September or October 1900, and helped gather the years crop of corn. Our uncles' adopted daughter, Henrietta Belle Daniel, having previously married to Wm. Greene, her distant cousin, my uncle cajoled into turning the farm bodily over to Greene, and as we had had control and supervision for so long a time, we could not consistently remain on the farm subject to his orders, as considerable ill feeling had already been engendered between Greene and our family. In November 1900, MothermJohnie and I moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee, where in December I secured work as assistant on one of W. R. Campbell's two wagons, the driver being one John Hudson. The work on this wagon consisted of hauling hub and spoke timber from cars on side tracks of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway to the factory a distance of some 6 blocks. When material was being shipped, we hauled shipping from factory to cars and rough timber from cars to factory. On July 10, 1901, our house was burned, but mother and some neighbors carried everything to safety? The 1st of February 1902, Sgt. Stevena, of the Nashville Army Rectg. Station, established a temporary station at Tullahoma, so on February 12th, I signified my intention of enlisting, and resigned my place at W. R. Campbells, visited February 13th, at Rileys Creek, and on the 14th was sworn in by Captain A.H. Mackin, of the

Fifth Infantry, the Rectg Officer who came up from Nashville at noon (Train No. 1) for that purpose. There were seven of us, five who had enlisted in Infantry, one in Cavalry, and I enlisted for the Coast Artillery. We left Tullahoma on No.5 that evening, made immediate connections at Nashville and started right off for St. Louis, where we arrived about 10 A. M., Saturday February 15, 1902. Here the Infantry recruits left us, going direct to San Francisco, while the Cavalry recruit and myself went at 1 P. . to Jefferson Barracks, seven or eight miles down the Mississippi River, arriving there about 2.30 P. . M. We went to the headquarters building where they took our record, etc. Then they sent us to the Recruit Barracks, extreme west end of Campos. My first pay was received March 5, 1902, Amount \$6.56. Five dollars I sent to mother. On March 23rd, Sunday, 112 of us left on tourist special, of two sections for San Francisco, via, Wabash from St. Louis to Kansas City, and Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railway to San Francisco. None of us knew where we were destined, but had a very pleasant trip across continent. We had set up a field range in the baggage car where-in we made coffee, warmed canned beans, etc. I was selected to take charge of the commissary and quartermaster of the leading train, and here I experienced my first and every military authority. We arrived at Oakland Hole just before noon Thursday March 27th, . I slept in a tent that night and contracted slight case of tonsillitis, which has been more or less chronic with me ever since. The next morning, recruits Powlly, Stevens, (both Kentuckians), and myself were assigned to the 29th, Company Coast Artillery, 1st St. (Now Captain) John B. Murphy, commanding. The 2nd. St. name was Frank T. Hines. I was drilled, with the other recruits, till June 1st, when they "turned" us for duty. The first guard I mounted I was selected as orderly to the commanding Officer of the Post, Col. J. B. Bowles. I did straight duty till

(5)

November 10, 1902, when I was appointed a teacher of the Post literary school, being assigned to teach the primary grades, composed of men from 19 to 35 years old. This school consisted of one two hour session five days per week, for which I received Fifty cents per day in addition to my regular pay of Thirteen Dollars per month. The school closed March 31, 1903, and after that I returned to straight duty. Up to this time I had paid close attention to the study of the question of gunnery, which I continued, until May 6-7, 1903, I stood an examination with all the non-commission Officers and several other privates, before a board of officers appointed by the Department Commander, General MacArthur. So 19th of May 1903, showed I had passed as a first class gunner, a percentage of 86.50, 85 being necessary. On May 10, 1903 I was detailed as laborer in the Quartermaster's store, at 35 cents per day in addition to regular pay. On July 1, 1903, I started to business college at night, taking course Stenographer as I now had no military duty to perform, and would have completed December 31st, had my funds not become exhausted, necessitating my missing November 1903. However I did complete in January 1904. I devoted considerable time to practice and kept in good speed and filed an application at Army Headquarters for detailed service. I took a three days leave of absence, July 1, 1904 and went to St. Helena, Napa County, to the Rampendohls and returning July 5th, 1904, came by Army Headquarters, and asked if they had any need of my services yet, and was advised they had wired for me already. On July 6th, I commenced active duties as a stenographer. I shall never forget the struggle I had the first week here, as the chief clerk seems to consider I must know all about everything from the way he threw matters in my basket for action without any direction whatever. However, Mr. Holzheid and I soon became good friends, and after the first month we

(6)

little trouble. On June 3rd 1905 he sent me as one member of a guard with a detachment of insane to the Government hospital for the insane at Washington allowing me 20 days stop over on return. We arrived at Washington at noon June 8th, and I left there over the Southern Railway the evening of June 9th, Friday, arrived at Chattanooga the afternoon of Saturday, the 10th, too late to catch the last that would connect with the last train over Sunday at Decherd on Columbia Branch. I spent Saturday the 10th, at the Southern Hotel, in Chattanooga, and left on No. one for Decherd, Sunday the 11th. Stayed at Decherd that night, left for Bidwell at 10'clock the next day the 12th, arriving at about 4 or 5 P. M. I left home the 23rd of June and arrived at San Francisco, June 29, 1905 and reported for work June 30th. I remained at Army Headquarters till February 7, 1906, the date I entered the service of the Southern Pacific Company.

little trouble. On June 3rd 1905 he sent me as one member of a guard with a detachment of insane to the Government hospital for the insane at Washington allowing me 20 days stop over on return. We arrived at Washington at noon June 8th, and I left there over the Southern Railway the evening of June 9th, Friday, arrived at Chattanooga the afternoon of Saturday, the 10th, too late to catch the last train that would connect with the last train of the week at Decherd on Columbia Branch. I spent Saturday the 10th, at the Southern Hotel, in Chattanooga, and left on No. One for Decherd, Sunday the 11th. Stayed at Decherd that night, left for Bidwell at 10'clock the next day the 12th, arriving at about 4 or 5 P.M. I intended remaining some time, but I could not stand the extreme heat, so I left for the West June 23rd. I arrived at Chattanooga that evening and spent the night there. The next morning at 5-30 I started for New Orleans over the Queen and Crescent Route. I reached New Orleans at 8-30 the 24th, where I spent the night, at 11-55 June 25th, (Sunday) I left New Orleans on No. 9, reached San Francisco at 11-40 June 29th. I went to work at my desk June 30th, but as my eyes had become infected by the alkali dust, I was in poor condition for work. On August I was sent to the General Hospital at the Presidio, for treatment, being discharged ~~from the~~ when I returned to duty at my desk. My case was diagnosed "Chronic granular conjunctivitis".

On February 7, 1906, I secured employment with the Southern Pacific Company as stenographer at \$75.00 per month for Mr. W. A. Crimmell of the Auditor's office. Now Auditor's Secretary, and applied for and received my discharge from the Army on that same date. I secured my discharge under the "Purchase Account" in the Army Regulations, but General Frederick Dunston, then commanding the Department of California resitted the purchase price, \$90.00. On April 2, 1906, Crimmell

(7)

and I were removed from the Merchants Exchange Building to Fourth and Townsend Streets, where we were still located at the time of the earthquake, April 18th, after the fire, our offices were reestablished at 18th Street and Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, where I reported April 25th, and received orders to return Monday the 30th. On September 1st, 1906 the Auditor's Office was moved to the Albany Hotel Building. On October 1st, A. D. McDonald, (now Auditor) then Chief Clerk to Auditor, was assigned the duty of organizing an accounting system for a number of small railroad, steamship and commercial companies, and he took me over as file clerk. In October Mr. McDonald gave me my first increase advancing me from \$75.00 to 80.00 per month. On January 7, 1907, the Auditor Office was moved to the Flood Building. In February 1907, Mr. McDonald increased my salary to \$85.00. In September 1907 my salary was increased to 90.00. On October 1st I secured leave of absence, and was married on October 2nd, 1907. On February 20, 1908, I was appointed Secretary to W. F. Ingram, Assistant Auditor. In April 1908, Mr. Ingram raised my salary to \$100.00. In January 1909 he advanced me to \$110.00, and in January 1910 he gave me \$120.00.

As tenants on my uncle's farm, my mother and the youngest of the four boys had what in the neighborhood regarded as a living, but nothing more and no prospects of anything more. So in November 1900 my uncle informed me that he wanted to pass the management of the farm to a man who had married his daughter and who wished us to move off the place.

Having nothing ahead, it seemed to me that the best thing for us to do would be to move to Fullerton and secure employment in one of the factories there. This we did, and I worked at the M. R. Campbell Hub and Spoke factory, at a wage of 85 cents a ten hour day. This work was hard, the days were ten hours long, ^{ten hours} and the wage was 85 cents a day. ~~low~~ - 85 cents a day. ~~Stenographer~~

And here

But how now there was
I developing on the first of
an entire life-time of
"break" on some of the
many turning points. In
my favor, to continue
through the rest of my life.

I had about a fifth grade
education, all our ^{country} district
schools provided. I wanted a ~~little~~
more learning but to obtain
it under the circumstances
was impossible. Then the
factory employed a stenographer
I ~~was~~ saw her at work. I
decided that I ~~would have~~
~~a business education to~~
~~get~~ stenographer. It seemed to me
that to be a stenographer would
give me a chance to learn
something about my employer's
business. But how to realize
this ambition! I ~~was~~ wrote
for literature.

communicated with
throughout Practical Business
College at Nashville and
received lot circulars
describing their business
courses. It appeared that
the only way they had evening
classes. But I would have to
move to Nashville ~~and~~
~~me that was far away and~~
in order to go to this night
school. Could I get a job
there and earn enough to
enable me to go to school.
and what about mother
and John?

open up opportunities for any man
then that. But ~~later~~ ^{the firm} ~~was~~ ^{not} ~~my~~ ^{work}
my job in Fullahoma offered
in the factor of the
facilities in Fullahoma
afforded me no chance
of realizing my ambition
and here is where the date
of February enters the
picture.

Here was that first Brazil
In the first week of
February 1902, ^{the army established}
a temporary recruiting office
I had never before seen a soldier
for a stay of a week.

A transient thought entered
my mind that maybe this
man could offer me the
chance I had wanted. So I
called on him and had a
long talk. Mind you, I had
never seen a soldier before.
^{I understood that}
~~and it was my understanding~~
that soldiers ^{are} ~~had~~ only hard
tack and canned beef
^{I lived in tents and slept on the}
~~to eat and had to sleep on~~
^{ground with}
the ground rolled up in

their blankety. Nevertheless,
asked ^{the recruiting sergeant} ~~me~~ ^{if} ~~it~~ ^{was} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~opportunity~~ ^{an opportunity}
~~for~~ ^{for} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~attend~~ ^{attend} ~~a~~ ^a ~~school~~ ^{school}
~~at~~ ^{at} ~~night~~ ^{night} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~business~~ ^{business}. He ~~had~~
informed me that if I
would enlist in the Coast
Artillery I would be station
at a large city on one
of our ^{sea} coasts, and that
the officers of the army
were always ~~ready~~ ^{and}
willing to assist their ~~men~~ ^{men}
in bettering themselves,
and would help me to get
into a night school. The
decision was up to me. ~~Since~~ ^{Since} ~~I~~ ^I ~~realized~~ ^{realized} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~all~~ ^{all} ~~I~~ ^I ~~needed~~ ^{needed}
~~for~~ ^{for} ~~a~~ ^a ~~term~~ ^{term} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~three~~ ^{three} ~~years~~ ^{years} ~~and~~ ^{and}
~~that~~ ^{that} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~chances~~ ^{chances} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~getting~~ ^{getting} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~a~~ ^a ~~school~~ ^{school} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~night~~ ^{night} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~business~~ ^{business}
~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~enough~~ ^{enough} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~get~~ ^{get} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~a~~ ^a ~~school~~ ^{school} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~night~~ ^{night} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~business~~ ^{business}
~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~enough~~ ^{enough} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~get~~ ^{get} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~a~~ ^a ~~school~~ ^{school} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~night~~ ^{night} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~business~~ ^{business}
~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~enough~~ ^{enough} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~get~~ ^{get} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~a~~ ^a ~~school~~ ^{school} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~night~~ ^{night} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~business~~ ^{business}
~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~enough~~ ^{enough} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~get~~ ^{get} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~a~~ ^a ~~school~~ ^{school} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~night~~ ^{night} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~business~~ ^{business}
it was against it, especially
my father and ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~employer~~ ^{employer}.
That didn't help me a bit.
I had to make my own decision.

and
with
I had
at a
house
and
for
wonder
knew
clothes than I had
dreamed of owning
kitchen table - for
I had a coat by and
from a granary, baked
potatoes in tin, light
bread galore, and other
better food than I had ever
had before. I started to
grow in height and weight.
I was in. I lived it.

Late in March I was sent west with a train load of recruits, presumably enroute to the Philippines. But on arrival here the Coast Artillery recruits were cut out and assigned to Artillery Companies in the Presidio here. "Gosh, thinks I, "everything is working out like the sergeant said". My old 29th Company fed me still better. I drill and qualified for duty mounting guard, walking past, cutting grass off the cannon slopes in the spring and drilling on the big 12 inch guns. Mind you, the pay was \$13 a month.

That summer I took an examination in gunnery and was the only private who passed

as a First Class Gunner
\$2⁰⁰ more a month! In
1903 I got a special duty
job as laborer in the
Quartermasters Dept,
juggling stores and tent
issuing clothing and
equipment, etc. and was
excused from all duty
except answering perille
and retreat, and got 35¢
extra per day or \$10.85 a
month. I was in close
to the Company Command
gave me permission to
go to a business college
in San Francisco at night
it was 4 nights a week and
the tuition was \$4⁰⁰ a month
this I could pay! I took a
course in Stenography and
typewriting.

Having completed my
course, the Commanding General
of the Army in the West, General

Frederick Funston, detached me from duty with the Company and brought me down town as his stenographer. I then wore civilian clothes and was given \$37 for paying for room and board, and saved \$12 out of it.

My three-year enlistment was due to expire Feb 13, 1905. General Funston told me he thought I needed more than 8 months of experience before facing the "cold world", and that if I would reenlist he would keep me a year and then approve my application for discharge by purchase, which my unused clothing allowance would cover.

Effective Feb 6, 1906, a week before the expiration

of the year, I got myself
a job to go to work for
Southern Pacific on Feb
General Funston approved
my discharge by purchase
as of Feb 6 and gave
back the purchase price
\$90. Wow! He also gave me
a nice letter of recommendation
which of course I still have.
So I went to work for my
present employer on Feb
1906, at the unheard of
salary of \$75 a month.

In my neighborhood we have nothing more than the slanting rays of the sun, the shortening of the days, and the shedding of dead and dying leaves, and our deciduous trees, to remind us of either the approach or the presence of Autumn.

On Riley's Creek these signs are only the harbingers of Autumn's approach. And there, Autumn really arrives. You have the changing colors of the foliage of your forests, the feeling of solemnity of vegetable ^{matured} and dying, ~~the~~ the hazy atmosphere, ~~against~~ the hills, the shimmering ^{waves} rays of warmth over the roads and fields, and from such as these, the reminder of matter

nature that in bringing
your crops to maturity
she has performed her
self-allotted task for the
year and it only remain
to you to harvest what she
has produced for mankind.
The corn, the hay, - all grain
all fruits, the hickory nuts
the walnuts, the wild grape
and the tamar, the persimmon
the paw paws - ugh, - the
black haws and the red, the
beech mast, the chinquapins
the pole cobs, muskrats,
groundhogs, coons and
possums - and in my
day the sweet brown chestnut
the formations of wild
geese streaking further to the
south, the protracted
meetings and the calling
of mourners and the
shouting of certain women
the "brilliant" professions

of religion or a picture
facsimile thereof, the last
day of school with the
knowledge of an etymology
of what we regarded as
"slave labor" before we
met at school again.
We also noticed our
mothers at about this
time of the year beginning
to knit our striped yarn
stockings which were the
fore-runners of new brogue
shoes to be bought as soon
as we could rake up \$1.25
to buy them with. The crab
grass was dying to
catch the frost for us to
wear our bare feet
through. We would be
wearing peas and beans
and shelling them - how
we hated that task - had
no objection to the old
winter hats and I believe

old Pled the cow, pulled
fodder - and I think we
called these dog days -
I used to think this was
because we were leading
dogs' lines.

As you can see from
the foregoing recital that
such small signs as we
have here of the coming
of Autumn have a strong
tendency to stimulate
my imagination, or
rather, to an indulgence
in retrospection. But
I am really incapable
of recording all the thoughts
that run through my
mind - or what I laughingly
refer to as my "mind" -
about Autumn on Lilyp
Creek. And even if I were
there in the midst of
Autumn's splendor I would
no doubt be speechless, for

in the light of my experience
of last June, I would most
likely be overwhelmed by
the beauty of the scenery
and the contemplation of
the eternal workings of
nature. And I wish it
were practicable for me
to be there this very Autumn.

It might well be asked
why, if I love Autumn
on Riley's Creek so much,
I don't visit there in the
Autumn rather than the
month of June. If I did
that, look what I would
be missing of Spring and
Summer! No, I couldn't
do it.

It might be further
asked why, if I so love
both Autumn and Jun
on Riley's Creek, I ever
left the place or don't
go back there now and sta

This is all of the notes Dad had in his possession.

Lyn