

Roll: **19250514-1933**

Camera: **Kodak Brownie 2**

Format: **116**

Year: **1925** Month: **May**

Subject: Skegness 1925

People:

Doff, Eliza Hannett, Robert Hannett and Scamp.

Notes:

First off I should say that I have no idea what the dog was really called but I have christened him Scamp. Scamp appears on two of the pictures: In one he is rooting around on a grassy bank, in the other he is being petted by my Great Grandad, Robert John Hannett. Scamp looks like a liver spotted Spaniel to me, possibly a small Springer or a Cocker. Leaping to conclusions, I thought that the dog must have come with them from Nottingham and that growing up with Scamp must be the reason why Dad took so readily to the breed in later life.

After several days of working on the prints I noticed on the scans (yes I scan both back and front of pictures, I guess that that is part of my obsessive, compulsive disorder. Undiagnosed, mild I think, but there). And so is the writing. Very faint, and a little blurred but definitely a line of handwriting that seemed to have been subsequently rubbed out.

My eyesight is not good at the moment and even pouring over the back of the pictures with a magnifying glass, I failed to interpret the words of the text. I tried ramping up the exposure and heightening the contrast, but still no joy, other than to reveal the first character as an "M" in the same hand as that of the "M" in "May" an inch above. I toyed with idea that it was again the date of the event and perhaps had been erased for some reason in favour of the bolder writing higher up. I asked my brother, who's vision is so much better than mine, if he could make it out but still no luck.

One of the oddities of this stuff is that if you stare at writing long enough and wish hard enough, sometimes, the scribble will suddenly resolve itself and give up its message, and so it was in this case. After a good week staring back at forth at the print and the scan the word dog at the end of the line emerged, then the following day I thought "Mrs" at the beginning. Now I have:

Mr + Mrs F???????? dog

So my great grandparents did not have a dog at home that Dad grew up with, so we can scratch that imprinting malarkey. In addition the formality of "Mr + Mrs F" does strongly suggest that the family stayed in a boarding house rather than with relatives and took the owners dog with them for a walk.

Eliza has declined since the last photographs of her that I saw certainly when Dorothy was born, five years earlier, she looked quite robust. John still looks the same and from these pictures I would not have expected him to be dead just sixteen months later. To me, Dorothy still looks well beyond her five years of age and she still has that odd wide mouth smile.

I have assumed that Grandad took the pictures although there is no evidence that he, Elsie or Frederick Wesley are on the trip. That though could be Elsie on the right as we look at those on the bench. If it is, then with Fred behind the lens, we have everyone excepting Dad. The annual visit to Skegness seems to have already become a fixture in the Fulford calendar although Elsie's sister is perhaps not yet resident there.

Technical:

A feature of the collection, which has helped me enormously in sequencing the records, is that many of the prints are numbered on the back, I think to indicate the film roll from which they came. In this mini set the first two are numbered 92 and the second pair are numbered 51. The latter are printed on "Velox" paper. Velox was made by Eastman Kodak and was favoured by photographers for the dark blue blacks that it produced. In 1925 it came in two grades; Vigorous and Soft.

Velox was a slow contact print paper. With the negative in contact with the paper it was held up to a tungsten lamp or exposed to bright daylight. Only six percent of households had electricity in 1925 so it is possible that to produce his prints Fred would need to hold each frame up to the window for 45 seconds or more.

I think it likely that the camera being used was a Kodak Brownie 2A and I like to imagine that Fred would be using the folding version rather than the bulkier but cheaper box camera. The format could produce high quality 4 1/4 x 2 1/2" negatives with very high resolution but these pictures do not I think live up to their promise although they do perform quite well when enlarged. The scans were taken on an Epson Perfection V550 at 2400dpi.

Dates:

Fred, or possibly Elsie, has written the date on two of the photographs and I have assumed the same date for the other two as they are at the same location.

Frames:

MPS-0011	1405	12:00	Doff doffs her shoes and socks at the seaside.
MPS-0012	1405	12:00	A girl and her grandmother.
MPS-0034	1405	12:00	Husband and wife.
MPS-0035	1405	12:00	Husband and wife.
MPS-0036	1405	12:00	Boating Lake, Skegness
MPS-0037	1405	12:00	Boating Lake, Skegness



MPS-0011.jpg



MPS-0012.jpg



MPS-0034.jpg



MPS-0035.jpg



MPS-0036.jpg



MPS-0037.jpg



MPS-0011 - Doff doffs her shoes and socks at the seaside.



MPS-0012 - A girl and her grandmother.



MPS-0034 - Husband and wife.



MPS-0035 - Husband and wife.