

By: Aditi Parekh

IMS

Green Street Essay

You might think that the life in the 1800's and 1900's was not as interesting as the life you live in today, but that is not true. Back then, life was as enjoyable as today, possibly even more. Before I go into an account of my daily life, let me introduce myself I am Aditi Valentine, daughter of clay merchant Robert Newton Valentine and Mary Dell Mercer. I live on 128 Green Street with my mama, dad, and eight other siblings.

Today is another day in Green Street with my family. I woke up early in the day, around six a.m. , to get to my morning chores. I have to chop the firewood, water our little farm, and then get ready for school. After finishing all the chores, I quickly wore my seventh grade school uniform, and went to school after informing Mama and Dad, who were busy with their work. The Woodbridge schools are not close to home, so I board a streetcar with my friends and go straight to school to be on time. There are not that many students in our classes, for they have other work to do and do not have time for education. Our family believes that education is important. So, I attend school daily.

The moment school is over, I went straight to my dad's clay store because my dad is a clay merchant. He's name is Robert Valentine, the son of my grandfather, James Valentine. I have to help my dad manage the money and sell clay and pottery his employees make. We need to make sure our pottery is good because there are other places that sell pottery as well. "Pollon Pottery Gets High Honor" (The Woodbridge Independant, August 24, 1926) Our pottery has to be near to perfect, to get a recognized in our area. There are many clay miners that work here and sometimes, I help them do their job. The employees are very kind, and they let me spin

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the pottery wheel sometimes! Today, however, there weren't as many customers. I walked outside to the clay mill (which is about a mile away) with my dad. I helped him give orders to the clay mill workers, kept an eye on the workers, and checked the money. A while later, we returned to the store. Being the boss, he didn't sit with his employees to make pottery. Instead we worked on creating new designs customers would like and planning his next business trip. My dad has many competitors around Woodbridge like "KEEISCHEK & SONS" (The Independent Hour, April 20, 1876). Therefore, he has a major job in his company. After a few hours at my dad's store, I went back home in a streetcar. Once I arrived home, I did some of my evening chores, like watering the vegetables again and washing dad's precious car. After the chores were over, I did a little bit of my school work. We usually didn't get too much homework. Most students care more about farm work anyway. I was too excited for our family reunion coming up.

We were having a family reunion at my uncle, Edwin Valentine's, house. He lives three houses down the street. The moment I finished my work, I went over to my mama asking her if there was anything I had to do because I was free. My mama reminded me that I need to get gifts for all the families we are going to be meeting in the family reunion. I grabbed my blue cycle down the street to a store where I bought good quality gifts for everyone coming. I also had to buy a desert for our family reunion, so I went to a nearby bakery, the Stern's Model Bakery. It is known as a great bakery, it "...has outgrown an imposing structure equipped with the latest machinery." (The Bulletin, August 3, 1923), buying a cake for five dollars. Remembering that we need to be there by seven o'clock, I rushed back home with all the items I bought with the money mama gave me.

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When I reached home, my mama came home from the shopping, my mama looked at all the gifts and the cake and decorated them nicely. I looked out the window of our house, and I saw my dad coming home. It was already six o'clock, meaning that our whole family, with nine children and two adults had to get ready. We needed to look great, as for my dad and brothers wore suits and ties, while my mom, my sisters, and I wore pretty dresses. After we were all ready, we grabbed our gifts and cake, and walked over to my uncle's house. It was really decorated and many people were already there greeting us. They were saying "Hi, Mary!" and "Hi, Robert!", and hello to all us kids. We left our gifts to a side with the cake, sitting down and talking to our aunts, uncles, and cousins. My siblings and I all went to talk and greet the other kids, our cousins, while the adults were talking together. As dinner time came soon, my family passed around the great gifts to one another while my relatives passed around gifts to all of us. We ate a big dinner, and at the end, as dessert, my mom served the large cake to everyone. Dinner was over, and we all talked to each other and when it was around ten o'clock, many of the families started leaving because they came from far places. We were all saying bye to each other, and about an hour later, we said bye to everyone as we left. Once we walked back home, mama put all nine of us to bed, exhausted we went into deep sleep. Being the seventh grade daughter of Robert Valentine family, I had a busy day! This is my day as a daughter of a prominent family in Green Street.

At the time, reunions, of family and other groups, were very common. Clubs and churches for example, often held reunions to spread happiness. Family reunions were for "recalling and recounting the blessings ... [and] renewal of ties that bind us and our families together" (Fords

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Beacon, 1956-11-29). Family reunions are very enjoyable, because I get to meet relatives from farther towns, such as my cousins. We spend time eating delicious food while playing games and having fun.