



*Afternoon tea in the garden at 180 Salisbury Street, Christchurch, 1891: Fred, Mary, Amy (sitting), and their maid. (Vol. 6)*

been an independent young woman travelling through Europe and Australia as a governess and teacher. Late in 1885 or early in 1886 she left Liverpool for New Zealand, where she settled in Christchurch and taught music as well as acting as 'morning governess' for the children of George Harper. By 1905 Fred and Amy's marriage was beginning to deteriorate. Amy did not like living in New Zealand. It was a 'one horse country' fit only for 'cabbages and sheep'. However, 'ordinary middle-class' Fred was happy with his job and his neighbours and would not be persuaded to return to England. The solution which he and Amy arrived at was not divorce, but an agreement whereby he made Amy an annual allowance which enabled her to spend most of the remaining years of her life after 1909 in England. She died in 1920.

In September 1889 Amy gave birth to a daughter who was named Mary Rushton Barkas, the 'Rushton' being a tribute to Amy's brother Dr Rushton Parker. Not surprisingly, Mary's interests as she grew tended to be of a scholarly nature. In 1905 she was dux at Christchurch Girls' High School and gained the fifth highest marks in the country in the Junior Scholarship Examination. In 1908 she graduated B.Sc. at Victoria University College, and M.Sc. with second class honours in Chemistry at the end of 1909. She was