

The Jersey Lilly
Directed by: Claudia Listman

Lilly Langtry: A beautiful actress of the day. Lilly was a tomboy and jokester and was known to crow like a rooster

Freddie Gebhard: The handsome, rich, young debonair American playboy, Lilly's lover

Prescript:

Born on Jersey, one of the Largest Channel Islands, Lilly Langtry became a "Superstar" of the time, and a professional beauty. She was a tomboy and a jokester but was also known for her intelligence. When Lillie's extended tour landed her in San Francisco, she was entranced by the surrounding beauty of California. She traveled to Monterey and Yosemite with her new paramour Freddie Gebhard, the love of Lilly's life. There was a slight problem, however, in that she had never formally divorced Edward Langtry since England's strict laws prohibited this action.

So, with rumors flying, she and Freddie located a lovely hideout in the Guenoc Valley, far away from her estranged husband and rumormongers. She renamed it "Langtry Farms". Here, Lillie could live in the beautiful house, with Freddy residing in the nearby hunting lodge.

After riding in the coach over the mountain, Lilly and Freddy stopped briefly in Middletown. Their words are taken directly from Lilly's writings....

The time is, May 1888

Lilly and Freddie look out the windows of the coach!

Freddie: Wooden Shanties abound in this place!.

Lilly: There is a Store, a Bar and a Barbershop! But from what I see of the population of the country around, I don't see there is much practice for a hairstylist or a barber.

Narrator: It was 27 May 1888 when Lilly saw Guenoc Valley for the first time. She described the sight in the flowery language of the time:

Freddie (As he steps from the coach) That was a rough ride...I've never seen such a rough, narrow, corkscrew road, and you could feel every rock for 17 miles. The springs in that coach were only leather thongs!

Lilly: (As Freddie helps Lilly down) But Freddie, did you see that lovely panorama as we descended the mountain? It appeared as a dream of loveliness! I can't get over the masses of ripe corn and the centenarian evergreen oaks. It is without exaggeration, entrancing!

Narrator: Lilly also wrote....On and on we drove, each turn of the road making us gasp with the new picture disclosed 'till treading our way through the vineyards and peach orchards laden with fruit and covering a great part of the green hills, we reached **HOME!**

Whispers to Freddie

Oh my! I've never seen such a crowd of nonchalant lounging cowboys loitering around a front door! I do love the red or Khaki flannel shirts and leather, bead-embroidered trousers. Cock-a-doodle-do!

Freddie: Strangely enough the ones on ponies are lounging as well.

Lilly: stops and looks around making note of her house.

The house looks built of wood although it certainly has no pretension to style, It is big and roomy.

Freddie leads her around:

Look my darling! We can make dreams come true here. Perhaps lining this lane to the house with Eucalyptus?

Lilly: (excited). Oh Freddie yes! And a garden over there! I can't wait to begin planning the design for the house!

Lilly whirls: I feel so free here! (Crooks a finger at Freddy). Come here handsome. Let's make use of that freedom!

(They walk away hand in hand)

Post Script: Lilly needed legal residence for six months, and then filed for citizenship before her divorce was granted in Lakeport.

Lillie traveled the globe and died in Monaco on Feb. 12, 1929. An unidentified person on the Isle of Jersey wrote this for the **Evening Post**.

*Farewell our Islands fairest flower.
A Sad farewell from all your friends
Both old and young – rich and poor,
Who love you till all memory ends,
Dear Lilly of Jersey at rest.*