

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 117

## KENWORTHY COLLECTION

Shopkeepers, Latrobe

### INTRODUCTION

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## INTRODUCTION

John Presnell Kenworthy was born in Hobart in 1855, to Robert Kenworthy and Ann Sarah Presnell. In 1880 he married Constance White, daughter of Pastor W White, of Launceston.

John and Constance had five children, Mercia, May, Robert, Herbert and Harold. Whilst in Launceston, the family were active in the St John's Friendly Society. John was a keen musician and for some years was secretary of the Launceston Musical Association. It is likely that John sang alongside his brother Albert and father Robert in the choir of the 1891/92 International Exhibition held in Launceston.

They moved to Latrobe around 1891 where John opened his drapery store the Mersey Boot Arcade, previously the Mersey Book Arcade, in 1892. JP Kenworthy was a member of the town board of Latrobe, a member of the Latrobe Chamber of Commerce and served as treasurer of the North Western Agricultural Association. In the 1890s he maintained an interest in various mining companies. He also sang in the St Luke's Church Choir at Latrobe. Constance Kenworthy was a supporter of the Latrobe Horticultural Society until her death in 1926. Mr Kenworthy died a little over four years later in 1931. Both Constance and John Kenworthy are buried at Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston.

Kenworthy's drapery and clothing store continued to be run by the Kenworthy family after the death of Mr Kenworthy. It remained in Kenworthy hands until it closed in May 1992. Mercia Kenworthy, John and Constance's last surviving child, died the following year in June 1993. She was 92 years old, and had worked in the store since the age of 16, remaining involved in the running of the store until its closure.

The contents of this collection were donated by Henry Armitage on behalf of Miss M C Kenworthy in 1992. This Guide was produced in April 2015.

### ***1. Kenworthy Family Papers***

1/1	Two calling cards of Mrs R Kenworthy, Athelstane, Trevallyn	nd
1/2	Rules of the St John's Friendly Society Launceston booklet; 1880	1880
1/3	Two St John's Friendly Society contribution books belonging to John Kenworthy; 1880 and 1880-1882	1880-1882
1/4	Letter of reference for John Kenworthy from Magnus Susman; August 25 1883	1883
1/5	Invoice from Richards & Son to Mr Kenworthy; October 01 1886	1886
1/6	JP Kenworthy's bank book from the Launceston Bank for Savings; 1888-1894	1888-1894
1/7	Religious verse written by Pastor White, Constance Kenworthy's father	1890
1/8	Fauntleroy Silver Mining Co, first half yearly report; April 1891	1891
1/9	Tasmanian Exhibition, Launceston, programme of the official closing ceremony; March 22 1892	1892
1/10	Invoice from JD Hellewell, dentist, to Mrs JP Kenworthy; December 01 1896. Payment noted April 13 1897	1896-1897
1/11	Hand drawn map of Balfour and Margaret Streets, Launceston, on Alfred Green & Co. Solicitors notepaper. Robert Kenworthy's name is written below the map	190?
1/12	Invoice from George Banfield, Star Bakery, Latrobe to Mr Kenworthy; March 31 1900	1900
1/13	Life insurance policy from Australian Mutual Provident Society for Mabel Alice Kenworthy; September 1 1903	1903
1/14	Letter of reference for Robert Kenworthy from HT Russell & Sons; December 24 1904	1904
1/15	Greeting cards: postcard to May from Lucy; Christmas cards to Mr Kenworthy from Bridget, to May from J Conlon?, to May from Nellie; Christmas card telegram to John Kenworthy from Caroline Burdom; New Year's card to Harold from Grandpa December 1904, New Year's postcard to Grandpa from May December 24 1912	1904-1912

1/16	Invoice from JD Hellewell, Dentist to JP Kenworthy; July 01 1907	1907
1/17	Invoice from WL Wells & Sons to Miss Kenworthy; April 30 1908. Receipt attached dated May 16 1908	1908
1/18	Hire agreement for a phonograph, between John Kenworthy and Gordon Martin; November 06 1908	1908
1/19	Notice of Assessment for land in Balfour Street, owned by Robert W Kenworthy; 1909	1909
1/20	Invoice from James Beck to Kenworthy; 1909. Payment noted	1909
1/21	Invoice from HT Russell & Sons to Mr R Kenworthy; July 28 1910	1910
1/22	Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Launceston label for writing prize awarded to Mercia Kenworthy; 1916	1916
1/23	St John's Church, Launceston, Parochial Mission, June 15-26 1917, memorial of the mission, belonging to M Kenworthy	1917
1/24	St John's Church, Launceston, memorial of young people's mission; June 17-25 1917. Belonging to M Kenworthy	1917
1/25	Theatre playbill for Grand Concert by the Latrobe Choral Society; Monday June 25 1917. Miss Kenworthy listed as a performer	1917
1/26	Theatre playbill for The Sparklets Costume Comedy Company, [NW Tasmania], performing three revues	c1925
1/27	Telegrams of condolence on the death of Mrs Kenworthy; September – October 1926. Nine in total	1926
1/28	Cards of condolence on the death of Mrs Kenworthy; September – October 1926. 35 in total	1926
1/29	Letters of condolence on the death of Mrs Kenworthy; September – October 1926. 32 in total	1926
1/30	Tags of condolence on the death of Mrs Kenworthy; September – October 1926. 18 in total	1926
1/31	Letters of condolence from Kenworthy business associates on the death of Mrs Kenworthy; September – October 1926. Five in total	1926
1/32	Death notice for Mrs Kenworthy, to be printed in	1926

The Mercury; September 30 1926

1/33	Letter from EH Hart & Co to JP Kenworthy re rents Received; October 05 1926	1926
1/34	Invoice from Silvanus Wilmot to JP Kenworthy; October 28 1927	1927
1/35	Invoice from EM & C Clark to Miss Kenworthy; July 07 1928. Payment noted	1928
1/36	Invoice from EM & C Clark to Miss Kenworthy; August 01 1930. Receipt is attached dated August 07 1930	1930
1/37	Invoice from RF Johnstone to Miss Kenworthy; January 31 1934. Payment noted with stamp	1934
1/38	Invoice from LW Smith to Mr Robert Kenworthy; February 13 1953	1953
1/39	Receipt from LW Smith to Mr Robert Kenworthy; March 02 1953	1953
1/40	Invoice from Johnstone Bros, to Mr R Kenworthy; November 04 1955. Receipt attached dated December 13 1955	1955

## **2. Family Photographs**

2/1	Postcard of an unknown house with a bicycle at the front	nd
2/2	Photograph of a bridge, possibly at Latrobe	nd
2/3	Postcard with photo of unknown social gathering	nd
2/4	Unknown building with striped awnings	nd
2/5	Street scene of Latrobe, showing Jackson's Millinery	nd
2/6	View of house and river at Hamilton Park, Latrobe	nd
2/7	Social gathering on the banks of the river, Latrobe	nd
2/8	Water sports on the river at Latrobe	nd
2/9	Postcard with a photo of a social gathering, Latrobe	nd
2/10	Postcard of a bridge at Latrobe	nd
2/11	Latrobe Tabernacle Church	nd

2/12	Bell's Parade, Latrobe	nd
2/13	New span of an unknown bridge. Caption reads 'Safely Over'	nd
2/14	New span of an unknown bridge. Caption reads 'Ready to Start'	nd
2/15	House interior, lady by china cabinet. Note on reverse mount reads 'John & Connie'	nd
2/16	Children and teachers of Chudleigh state school; June 9 1904	1904
2/17	Postcard to Mr H Kenworthy from Leila; December 26 1905. Picture of Japanese maidens on front of card. Backing has separated from card	1905
2/18	Group, possibly a church group. Caption on reverse reads 'Under the willows at Paradise'; Saturday 6th Feb 1915	1915
2/19	Latrobe Congregational Sunday School picnic at Bell's Parade, Latrobe. Rev. and Mrs W Dawson are highlighted; 1920	1920
2/20	Social group in the garden at Frogmore, Latrobe, 1920s	1920s
2/21	Opening day of Devonport High School, 1922	1922
2/22	Two colour photographs of screen made by Amelia Burrows [nee Kenworthy] Launceston, 1889 depicting art, music, fashion and Tasmanian places of interest. Photography by John Squire Photography, North Carlton, Victoria	mid 20 <sup>th</sup> c

### ***3. Kenworthy Business Papers***

3/1	Photocopied letter from JP Kenworthy regarding the opening of his store in Latrobe; April 30 1892	1892
3/2	JP Kenworthy store notepaper, with a handwritten note on the reverse	c1892
3/3	Nine invoices and receipts relating to JP Kenworthy's store, from Mr Woodberry; Mrs Coupe; W & G Genders; Mr P Douglas; Dickson, Primer Pty Ltd; Robert Hogarth, Waverley Woollen Mills; Findlay & Wills; Wm L Wells & Sons; DW Murray	1902-1955

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|------|---|--------------------|
| 3/4  | Fire insurance policy from the South British Insurance Company Ltd for two buildings in the name of Mrs CA Kenworthy; September 17 1908   | 1908               |
| 3/5  | Edison Amberol Records booklet. Stamped with 'Agent for Latrobe - JP Kenworthy'. Handwritten note re price on back, nd. Supplement to July Edison Phonograph Monthly, cut outs for 1909 | nd &<br>1909       |
| 3/6  | 'The Lane' Easter Autumn and Winter catalogue [Melbourne]   | 1909               |
| 3/7  | Three letters relating to JP Kenworthy's store, from Wick Narrow Fabric Co. Philadelphia, 1909; Montgomery Ward & Co, 1926; D & W Murray, 1934  | 1909,1926,<br>1934 |
| 3/8  | Plate glass insurance policy from the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co, for Kenworthy Drapery establishment and dwelling, in the name of John Presnell Kenworthy; June 23 1918   | 1918               |
| 3/9  | Wages record for JP Kenworthy's store for the year 1921; dated January 06 1922  | 1922               |
| 3/10 | Letter from John Baily & Co, Hobart, about their merger with McGregor Bros; 1935  | 1935               |
| 3/11 | Two letters from Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co to Miss M C Kenworthy; 1961, 1965  | 1961,<br>1965      |
| 3/12 | Letter from John Baily, McGregor Bros. regarding credit balance, 10 April 1952  | 1952               |
| 3/13 | The Manufacturers' Agency Haberdashery Price List [Melbourne]   | nd                 |
| 3/14 | The Osborne Farmer's Memorandum Book, Henry Philips, Latrobe  | nd                 |
| 3/15 | Advertisement for ANA Sewing Machines   | nd                 |

#### ***4 Business Ephemera***

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|-----|--|----|
| 4/1 | Two samples of price labels and two samples of parcel labels from JP Kenworthy's store | nd |
| 4/2 | Four blank Kenworthy store invoices, two have the street number printed in the address | nd |
| 4/3 | Four different styles of store notepaper from  | nd |

Kenworthy's Drapers, Clothiers and Importers of Boots and Shoes

4/4	Wooden ruler from JP Kenworthy's store with 'to shop at JH Kenworthy's is the golden rule' printed on the top side	nd
4/5	Metal ruler inscribed 'Make it a rule to always use OSMAN sheets, towels & pillowcases'	nd
4/6	One invoice book, Kenworthy's Drapers	nd
4/7	Seven examples of Kenworthy store photographic advertising material, for Quaker cloth, Bussell's poplins, Cordiline zephyrs and kimona crepes, French silk designs, and Christmas gifts and displays	nd
4/8	Daffodil Hose cardboard box	nd
4/9	Old English Lavender soap box, Yardley, London	nd
4/10	Calling card from D & W Murray to JP Kenworthy; June 06 1909. Picture of Lilydale Falls near Launceston on front of card	1909

**5. Miscellaneous Records**

5/1	Letters in reply to an advertisement in The Advocate for a jinker, 1923; from JB Clarke, Bay View Hotel Burnie, August 31 1923; from CJ Harrison, Best Street Devonport, August 31 1923; from Mr G?, Hill Crest Devonport, August 31 1923; from Mr E Campbell, Nichol? Street Devonport, nd	1923
5/2	Bank exchange bill, £52/16/2 to Mr J Reisz, Latrobe [Kenworthy relation] dated February 18 1955	1955
5/3	Tasmanian postal note o5129, issued at Latrobe, value 1/-, nd	nd

**OTHER SOURCES**

QVMAG History Department QVM:1999:P:0548. A series of 62 photographs of Kenworthy's store taken in 1992



Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office NG1511 Kenworthy family records, Latrobe

The North-West: News from the Coast. (1931, February 2) *The Examiner*, p.5.  
retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article51365946>

Mercia's tales lively (1984, June 20) *The Mercury*, p.3.

Century-old Latrobe shop set to shut (1992, April 15) *The Advocate*, p.3.

Coast drapery store closes after just reaching centenary (1992, May 2)  
*The Examiner*, p.3.

Latrobe retail identity dies (1993, June 21) *The Advocate*, p.4.

*Kenworthy* family entries, retrieved from <http://www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au>