

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

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J S FORWARD COLLECTION

**Radio Broadcasting, Launceston
Hospitals, Launceston
Businessmen, Wynyard, Scottsdale**

INTRODUCTION

THE RECORDS

- 1. Correspondence*
- 2. Indexes*
- 3. Financial Records*

OTHER SOURCES

INTRODUCTION

James Stanley (known as 'JS' and Stan) Forward, well-known radio personality, pioneer Kentish Christian Brethren churchman and hardware businessman, came to Tasmania at the age of five from Wiltshire, England. Born in 1877, he was one of a family of 10 children. In his teens, following the death of his parents, he went to work in the Sheffield district. In the late 1890s he became active in the Kentish Gospel Hall Church and in May 1903 married Lilian Morse (1882-1953) whose family were also members. They had four children. J S Forward subsequently had businesses in Tullah, Wynyard (1913-1916), Scottsdale (1916-1920) and Launceston (1920-c1942). J S Forward Pty Ltd, ironmongers, at 87 Brisbane Street, was essentially a hardware store. In later years 'JS' worked at J R Green's hardware store in the city. He had connections with this firm whilst managing his own store in Scottsdale many years previously.

J S Forward continued to be active in the Gospel Hall Church and in 1931 was asked to produce a Christian broadcast program for the Launceston radio station 7LA. This session ran for some 30 years and at the time was considered to be the oldest continuous session of its type in the Australian broadcasting industry. Also widely respected for his hospital visitation work, which was related to his radio program and possibly also to an earlier association with the establishment of the North-Eastern Hospital at Scottsdale, J S Forward was awarded an MBE in 1956. He died in Launceston on 20 December 1963, aged 87.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in August 1994. It relates almost entirely to J S Forward's Wynyard and Scottsdale hardware businesses in the period 1914-1920. A scrapbook, donated separately in 1990 (1/6), contains letters of appreciation for his hospital work and 7LA program (1942-1947).

1. Correspondence

1/1	Letterbook, June-September 1914	1914
1/2	Letterbook, January 1916-January 1917	1916-1917
1/3	Letterbook, September-Oct 1917	1917
1/4	Letterbook, December 1917-June 1918	1917-1918
1/5	Correspondence re Australian Missionary Tidings	1920
1/6	Scrapbook (re hospital visitation and fund-raising, 7LA radio program)	1942-1947

2. Indexes

2/1	Customers' orders, September-December c1917 (includes names and order numbers)	c1917
2/2	Customers' orders, June-December 1918 (includes names and order numbers)	1918
2/3	Customers' orders, January 1919-March 1920 (includes names and order numbers)	1919-1920

3. Financial Records

3/1	Accounts register (includes names of suppliers and amount owed)	1913-1915
3/2	Order book, cJuly 1917-May 1918 (carbon copies of customers' orders)	1917-1918
3/3	Receipts (includes billheads from various businesses in Scottsdale, Springfield, Derby, Avoca, Ringarooma, Branxholm, Deloraine, Sheffield, Burnie, Wynyard, Geelong, Melbourne, Launceston etc (examples only)	1918-1920

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 1997.OH.15A-B

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, newspaper cuttings file, 'Forward family'

Alan F Dyer, *God was their rock*, Sheffield, 1974, especially pp. 59-61

Examiner 7 July 2008, pp.17-18, article on Eileen Shekleton, J S Forward's daughter