

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 16

LAUNCESTON UNITED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' DISPENSARY COLLECTION

Pharmacies, Launceston
Friendly Societies, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

The Friendly Societies' Movement originated in the United Kingdom in the 19th century, and was an important precursor to present day medical benefit funds. Its objective was to serve the ordinary man, particularly those from the lower middle class, in the advancement of a better life, through the provision of:

- sick pay whilst unable to work,
- funeral allowances to relieve a family when the bread-winner died,
- medical attention and access to reasonably priced quality medicines

The Movement became strong in Tasmania and a *Friendly Societies Act* was passed in 1888, closely founded on its 1875 UK counterpart. United Friendly Societies' (UFS) dispensaries were opened in Launceston on 1 October 1879 and Hobart in 1884. This coincided with increased recognition of pharmacy as a profession, a Launceston Pharmaceutical Association being established in 1884. Within a few years members of the Association were objecting to the trading practices of the Launceston UFS Dispensary, which included large sales to the public beyond its charter to dispense and supply medicines only to its members and their families.

Led by W A Solomon and A R Fowler, representatives from the Launceston United Friendly Societies first met at the Workmen's Club in Elizabeth Street on 25 July 1879. It was not until 11 September the same year that they finally resolved to establish the Dispensary. The original 762 members came from seven societies - the Ancient Order of Foresters, Olive Branch Tent and Star of Tasmania Branch (Independent Order of Rechabites), Manchester Unity (Independent Order of Oddfellows), Protestant Alliance Friendly Society, United Ancient Order of Druids and the St Patrick's Society (joined in 1880 after withdrawing initial interest the previous year). Membership of the Dispensary remained small in the early years, and many members paid two subscriptions to support it. However, membership increased steadily subsequently - 1,609 in 1889, 2,168 in 1899 and nearly 6,000 in 1929.

The Launceston UFS Dispensary was reorganised in 1916, a board of management consisting of one delegate from each member society replacing the original committee structure. The same year F H Ralph succeeded W A Solomon as secretary. Member societies also changed over the years. Some dissolved, others joined (eg Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society (1889), St John Benefit Society (1898), the Australian Natives' Association (1900) and the Coats Patons Employees' Mutual Benefit Society in the early 1920s. The latter represented a progressive move by the former Patons and Baldwins Company not common amongst large employers at that time.

The Launceston UFS Dispensary, later called the Friendly Pharmacy, has operated continuously since it first opened, surviving concerns about declining membership in the early 1950s and a legal dispute centred on possible closure in the mid 1970s. It celebrated its centenary at the end of July 1979. The present building at 86a St John Street was built in 1957 on the site of its original premises, although between July 1892 and 1921 the Dispensary was located on the north-western corner of St John and Elizabeth Streets. Since 2007 the pharmacy has been called Terry White Chemists (*Examiner* 5 April 2008, p. 9 and Telstra *Launceston & North Eastern Tasmania phone book*, 2008).

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 1994, 1995 and 1997.

1. Legal Records

- 1/1 Launceston United Friendly Societies' Dispensary Regulations 1881-1980
March 1881; *Friendly Societies' Act 1888* (consolidated 1954);
Friendly Societies' Regulations 1966; Towell v Page judgement
November 1977; rule amendments 1916 and 1980

2. Minutes of Meetings

- 2/1 Minute book of meetings, July 1879-October 1880 and 1879-1881
letterbook July 1879- January 1881, at end of volume (includes
first annual report September 1880)
- 2/2 Minute book of meetings, July 1889-February 1896 (includes 1889-1896
annual/half-yearly reports September 1889-October 1895)
- 2/3 Minute book of meetings, February 1896-December 1902 1896-1902
(includes annual/half-yearly reports March 1897-September 1902
and correspondence)
- 2/4 Minute book of meetings, November 1902-October 1911 1888-1911
(includes annual/half-yearly reports March 1903-September 1911,
building fund regulations 1888, newspaper cuttings and
correspondence)
- 2/5 Minute book of meetings, November 1911-April 1921 (includes 1911-1921
annual/half-yearly reports September 1911-September 1913, board
members roll 1916-1918 and newspaper cuttings)
- 2/6 Minute book of meetings, April 1921-November 1931 (includes 1921-1931
financial reports and newspaper cuttings re jubilee)
- 2/7 Minute book of meetings, April 1941-October 1966 (includes 1941-1966
list of member lodges and representatives January 1960 at end of
volume)
- 2/8 Minutes of meetings (Board minutes November 1966-October 1976, 1966-1976
includes members' attendance register June 1966-June 1971)
- 2/9 Minutes of meetings (Board minutes November 1976-October 1979, 1976-1979
includes financial statements)
- 2/10 Minutes of meetings (Board minutes November 1979-September 1979-1981
1981)
- 2/11 Minutes of meetings (Board minutes November 1981-July 1988, 1966-1988
annual general meetings 1966-1986, executive and sub-committee

meetings 1967-1981, trustees and direct members meetings 1967-1988, includes list of board members November 1984 and attendance register February 1974-Jun 1987 at end of volume)

- 2/12 Minutes of meetings (Board minutes August 1988-December 1992, includes board members' attendance register July 1988-December 1992 at end of volume) 1988-1992

3. Correspondence

- 3/1 Correspondence re water supply; premises; fire insurance; employees' wages; J Benneworth, chemist; reports; complaints; Cartledge family history; members' lists 1957-1963; financial papers and historical notes 1904-1994

4. Annual Reports

- 4/1 Reports and financial statements 1881-1898, 1900-1910, 1931, 1955, 1959 and 1993 See also items 2/1-2/5 1881-1993

5. Financial Records

- 5/1 Register of receipts 1945-1965
- 5/2 Monthly record sheets 1948-1957
- 5/3 Register of member lodges accounts 1952-1966
- 5/4 Monthly cash book July 1964-May 1968 1964-1968
- 5/5 Monthly cash book May 1971-December 1978 1971-1978
- 5/6 Saturday takings record book July 1974-March 1988 1974-1988

6. Members' Registers and Other Records

- 6/1 Members' register, St Patrick's Society 1929-1974
- 6/2 Members' register, St Itas Lodge 1929-1977
- 6/3 Members' register, Loyal Cornwall Lodge, Independent Order of Oddfellows 1934-1972
- 6/4 Member's register, Australian Natives' Association; Austral Light; Loyal Cornwall Lodge; Count Sherwood; Star of Tasmania and Olive Branch Tent; North Progressive 1959-1964
- 6/5 Members' register, Kalamazoo: Allen, J E-Lyne, C L (includes name, membership number and occasional other details) nd

6/6	Members' register, (Kalamazoo: Makrill, L-Zegveld, A J (includes name, membership number and occasional other details)	nd
6/7	Member's book, G Banks, Heart of Oak Lodge	1934-1949
6/8	Member's book, A R Wiltshire, Tamar Lodge Free Gardeners	1935-1941
6/9	Member's book, R M Stephenson, Loyal Cornwall Lodge No 1, Independent Order of Oddfellows	19337-1949
6/10	Member's book, R A Horne, Star of Tasmania Lodge No 2	1940-1949
6/11	Member's book, S R Porter, Australian Natives' Association, Launceston Branch No 3	1942-1953
6/12	Member's book, J R Wells, Loyal Invermay Lodge No 27, Independent Order of Oddfellows	1944
6/13	Member's book, Patons and Baldwins Employees' Medical Benefits Association	nd

7.Employment Records

7/1	Employees' records, weekly time book (includes name, date of birth, date of commencement, days attended, wages earned)	1968-1973
7/2	Employees' records, weekly time book (includes name, date of birth, date of commencement, days attended, wages earned)	1973-1978

8.Prescription Books

8/1	Prescription book, with index	1931
8/2	Prescription book B, with index at end of volume	1933-1935
8/3	Prescription book C, with index	1935-1943
8/4	Prescription book D	1943-1947
8/5	Prescription book	1943-1946
8/6	Prescription book E, with index	1945-1947
8/7	Prescription book A, with index	1946-1948
8/8	Prescription book B, with index	1948-1950
8/9	Prescription book F, with index	1950-1952

8/10 Prescription book G, with index	1952-1954
8/11 Prescription book H, with index	1954
8/12 Prescription book J, with index	1954-1955
8/13 Prescription book K, with index	1955
8/14 Prescription book L, with index	1955
8/15 Prescription book M, with index	1955-1956
8/16 Prescription book P, with index	1956
8/17 Prescription book R, with index	1956
8/18 Prescription book S, with index	1956-1957
8/19 Prescription book T, with index	1957
8/20 Prescription book V, with index	1957
8/21 Prescription book W, with index	1957-1958
8/22 Prescription book X, with index	1958
8/23 Prescription book Y, with index	1958-1959
8/24 Prescription book Z, with index	1959
8/25 Prescription book A, with index	1959
8/26 Prescription book B, with index	1959-1960
8/27 Prescription book C, with index	1960
8/28 Prescription book D, with index	1960
8/29 Prescription book E, with index	1960-1961
8/30 Prescription book F, with index	1961
8/31 Prescription book G, with index	1961
8/32 Prescription book H, with index	1961
8/33 Prescription book J, with index	1961-1962
8/34 Prescription book K, with index	1962

8/35 Prescription book L, with index	1962
8/36 Prescription book M, with index	1962-1963
8/37 Prescription book P, with index	1963
8/38 Prescription book Q, with index	1963
8/39 Prescription book R, with index	1963-1964
8/40 Prescription book S, with index	1964
8/41 Prescription book T, with index	1964
8/42 Prescription book V, with index	1964-1965
8/43 Prescription book W, with index	1965
8/44 Prescription book X, with index	1965
8/45 Prescription book Y, with index	1965-1966
8/46 Prescription book Z, with index	1966
8/47 Prescription book 3A, with index	1966-1967
8/48 Prescription book 3B, with index	1967
8/49 Prescription book 3C, with index	1967-1968
8/50 Prescription book 3D, with index	1968-1969
8/51 Prescription book 3E, with index	1969-1971
8/52 Prescription book 3F, with index	1971-1972
8/53 Prescription book 3G, with index	1973-1974
8/54 Prescription book 3H, with index	1974-1976
8/55 Prescription book 3J, nos 1-400 and index (indexes items 8/55-8/56)	1976-1977
8/56 Prescription book 3J-3K, nos 401-1000 and K1-K30 (indexed by item 8/55)	1977-1979
8/57 Prescription book 3M, nos 1-600 (indexed by item 8/60)	1979-1980
8/58 Prescription book 3M, nos 601-1000 (indexed by item 8/60)	1980-1981
8/59 Prescription book 3N, nos 1-998 (indexed by item 8/60)	1981-1984

8/60	Prescription book index, to 3M-3N (indexes items 8/57-8/59)	1979-1984
8/61	Prescription book 3P	1984-1987
8/62	Prescription book 4A, with index	1970-1974
8/63	Prescription book 4B, with index	1974-1977

9. Stock Records

9/1	Sale of Poisons book (includes date of sale, name of purchaser, place of residence, occupation, name, quantity and purpose of poison, purchaser and vendor's signatures)	1916-1986
9/2	Dangerous Drugs register (includes details of acquisition and disposal, list of dangerous drugs and summary of regulations)	1969-1971
9/3	Dangerous Drugs continuation register (includes date of issue, to whom issued, prescribing doctor, prescription and stock details)	1969-1971
9/4	Stock sheets: (1)-(3) shop, (4) dispensary, (5) store	1967
9/5	Stock sheets: (1)-(3) shop, (4)-(5) dispensary, (6) store	1968
9/6	Stock Sheets: (1)-(3) shop, (4)-(5) dispensary, (6) store	1969
9/7	Stock Sheets: (1)-(4) shop, (5)-(7) dispensary, (8) store	1970
9/8	Order book	1970-1986
9/9	Formulae books	1956

10. Ephemera

10/1	Circular letter to members November 1916; Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies' Dispensary <i>Souvenir: 1885-1916</i> ; official opening of new premises program September 1921; H J Exley, <i>Friendly Societies</i> , 1939 (Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics (Tas) publication), official opening of new dispensary invitation October 1958; Centenary dinner invitation and historical notes (typescript) 1979; Friendly Pharmacy leaflets 1995-1997; miscellaneous stationery	1916-1997
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OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 28

QVMAG, Community History, Photograph data base

QVMAG, Community History, 1994.OH.29A-E

QVMAG, Community History, Secondary files, 'Pharmacy', 'Launceston-Medical'

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, newspaper clipping files:
'Friendly Societies'; 'Chemists'; Independent Order of Rechabites Records (manuscript); Protestant Alliance Friendly Society Records (manuscript); Independent Order of Oddfellows Records (manuscript)

The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia (journal), especially 1888-1889

L Fairthorne & Son Pty Ltd, *Landon Fairthorne: a family story of 100 years, 1846-1946*,
Launceston, c1946

J Finch, *Pills, Potions and Politics: the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania 1886-1891*, Hobart, 1991

G Haines, *Pharmacy in Australia, the national experience*, Sydney, 1988

Mercury, 14 August 1929, 'UFS Dispensary, the Launceston Institution, Jubilee Anniversary'