

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 87

THE EDITH RANSOM COLLECTION

Women, Northern Tasmania
Welfare Workers, Northern Tasmania

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

Edith Mary Jessie Ransom, born at Hobart in 1888, the eldest daughter of Thomas Stannus and Sarah (nee Mason) Todd, married Vernon Ransom of “Killymoon”, Mount Nicholas, in 1912 at Bellerive. (1) Before her marriage she studied at the Conservatorium, University of Melbourne. Mr & Mrs Ransom lived in the Fingal Valley for some years after their marriage, where Mr Ransom was a farmer at Ormley. In the 1930s they lived at Dilston, Windermere and “Newnham Hall” on the East Tamar before moving to “Pleasant View”, St Leonards. Several years after her husband’s death in 1944 Mrs Ransom moved to Longford. (2)

Mrs Ransom was involved with a most impressive number of community organisations, mainly concerned with the welfare of women and children. The following list is in alphabetical order:

Anglican Synod

Anzac Hostel Flower Circle

Australian Broadcasting Commission Regional Advisory Committee

Australian Women’s National League of Tasmania

Civil Defence League

Country Women’s Association in Tasmania, President of the Dilston branch, International Officer, State Link Officer

Girl Guides Association, Tasmanian Branch

Good Neighbour Council

Justice of the Peace

League of Remembrance

Longford Child Health Clinic

Ministering Children’s League of Tasmania

Mothers’ Union, St Leonards

Northern Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania Ladies’ Committee

St Matthias Church, Windermere, organist (3)

Longford Pre School Centre

Returned Sailors, Solders and Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia, Longford Women’s Auxiliary

Royal Commonwealth Society

Royal Empire Society

7LA weekly broadcasts

Toosey Hospital Board

Travellers’ Aid Society

Victoria League

United Nations Association of Australia

War Services Nurses’ Welfare Association of Tasmania

Women Justices Association of Tasmania

Women’s Show Judges Association

Women’s Land Army in Tasmania

Edith Ransom, who was awarded an MBE in 1967, died on 5 November 1968, survived by her daughters Mary and Leonie. (4) Her son Arthur Vernon had died in 1923 at the age of four (5) and her husband Vernon died in 1944. (6)

The collection was donated in April and June 2005.

Apart from the following references, all the above information comes from the records:

1. Tasmanian Pioneers Index; *Examiner* 27 April 1912
2. *Wise's Tasmania Post Office directories*; Tasmanian electoral rolls
3. TAMIOT records on microfiche, Launceston Reference Library
4. *Examiner* 6 November 1968
5. *Examiner* 13 January 1923
6. *Examiner* 13 September 1944

1. Correspondence

1/1	Edith Todd, postcards, illustrations etc, silk ribbon from Japan	1902-1905
1/2	Edith Todd, postcards	1903-1912
1/3	Edith Ransom, postcards, includes one to Vernon Ransom	1914-1952
1/4	Mr. Todd, Mrs Todd, Miss D Todd, five postcards, 1906, 1925, 1929, nd	
1/5	Edith Ransom, correspondence (includes letters from her daughter Lieut. M J Ransom in Japan, 1951-1952)	1929-1967

2. Scrapbooks

2/1	Edith Ransom, scrapbook	1906-1966
2/2	Scrapbook with prize certificates won by Mr & Mrs Ransom at St Mary's Farmers' Association Agricultural and Produce Shows and Northern Agricultural Society, Longford; Mrs Ransom's certificates from East Tamar Rural Producers' Association, Rocherlea	1915-1933
2/3	Scrapbook (includes receipt for Conservatorium fee, 1908)	1935-1950

3. Country Women's Association in Tasmania Records

3/1	Country Women's Association in Tasmania, Dilston Branch, correspondence etc	1938-1949, nd
3/2	Victory card, printed for the Dilston Branch C.W.A. in Tasmania	1941
3/3	Link Annual Report of C.W.A. in Tasmania, September 1943 (Mrs Ransom was State Link Officer)	1943
3/4	C.W.A., minutes and record of first meeting of State International Officers, held in Sydney (Mrs Ransom was Tasmania's International Officer)	1946
3/5	[Edith Ransom], handwritten notes on early history of C.W.A in Tasmania	1958, nd
3/6	<i>The Tasmanian Countrywoman</i> , February 1967 (includes report on Mrs Ransom's M.B.E award, p.2)	1967

4.Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association Records

4/1	Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association of Tasmania, annual reports 1943, 1943/44, 1944/45, 1945/46, 1946/47, 1947/48, 1948/49, 1949/50, 1951/52 (includes agenda of first meeting, 1942)	1943-1952
4/2	Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association, 1 st half-yearly review	1943
4/3	St Leonards Auxiliary of the Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Assoc., first annual report	1943
4/4	Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Assoc of Tas., annual report of Mobile Cupboard	1943
4/5	Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association of Tasmania, correspondence	1942-1963, nd
4/6	<i>Austerity Cookery Book</i> , Launceston, 1943 (one bound copy; one copy with the Association's badge attached)	1943
4/7	Printed sheet re objects, membership and auxiliary	c1942
4/8	Handwritten text of 7LA broadcast by Mrs Ransom	1943
4/9	Small brochure re services provided at Cavell House	1944
4/10	<i>Nursing, Medical & Welfare Exhibition, Albert Hall, Launceston</i> , catalogue (The Association was an exhibitor)	1952
4/11	Services Nurses Welfare Assoc. of Tas., handwritten history of the association by Mrs Ransom	1955
4/12	Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association of Tasmania, notices of annual meetings, Christmas and New Year greeting cards etc	1945-1948
4/13	Services Nurses' Welfare Association of Tasmania, letterheads etc	nd

5.Records Relating to the Anglican Church

5/1	Diocese of Tasmania, <i>Order of Service at the Enthronement of Right Reverend Geoffrey Franceys Cranswick as Eighth Bishop of Tasmania</i> , Hobart, 1944	1944
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- 5/2 *Public Welcome to the Lord Bishop of Tasmania...Albert Hall, Launceston on Wednesday, June 7th, 1944 at 8pm, program* 1944
- 5/3 Mrs Edith Ransom, summons to attend synod meetings, 1946-1950, 1952, 1955-1957 1946-1957
- 5/4 *A Charge Delivered at the Second Session of the 30th Synod, 1947 by the Rt. Reverend G F Cranswick, [Hobart], 1947* 1947
- 5/5 *Albert Hall, Launceston, November 3rd, 1950, 8pm, A Public Meeting to Welcome...Archbishop of Canterbury, program* 1950
- 5/6 *Albert Hall, Launceston, November 28th, 1951, 8pm, A Public Meeting to Welcome...Archbishop of York, program* 1951
- 5/7 *The Order of Service on the Occasion of the Welcome to the Right Reverend Robert Edward Davies, Bishop of Tasmania, St John's Church, Launceston, [Launceston], 1963* 1963

6.Miscellaneous Items

- 6/1 Edith Todd, Associated Board of Royal Academy of Music and Royal Academy of Music pass certificate for pianoforte 1903
- 6/2 Edith Ransom, *That Scrap of Paper: Patriotic Song*, words by W A Harrison, music by Edith Ransom, Launceston, c1914 (includes manuscript of the song) 1914
- 6/3 *Australian Exhibition of Women's Work 1907: programme of choral concert, [Melbourne], 1907 (includes postcards re choir)* 1907
- 6/4 *Service of Public Thanksgiving...Pioneer Gathering Celebrations 1803-1835 to be held at the Elphin Show Grounds, Launceston, Launceston, 1935 (with associated ephemera, including Pioneer Ball programme)* 1935
- 6/5 *Launceston Missionary Exhibition, Albert Hall, Sept. 24th to 27th 1935: programme, [Launceston], 1935* 1935
- 6/6 Edith Ransom, handwritten submission to Government on behalf of ALP women and northern division of Australian Women's National League c1935
- 6/7 Edith Ransom, typed letter to Prime Minister JA Lyons on behalf of Australian Women's National League c1935
- 6/8 Edith Ransom, handwritten report on visits to certain municipalities 1935

in connection with King's Jubilee Appeal for maternal and child welfare

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| 6/9 | Edith Ransom, certificate re appointment as district Justice of the Peace | 1943 |
| 6/10 | Newspaper cutting re Edith Ransom's community work | c1943 |
| 6/11 | Mrs V L Ransom, certificate from Women's Voluntary Services, Great Britain & Northern Ireland | c1947 |
| 6/12 | Edith Ransom, certificate awarded in recognition of contribution to non government organisations conference in Bali | 1951 |
| 6/13 | Royal Empire Society, Northern Tasmania Sub-branch, <i>Annual Report and Statement of Accounts</i> , Launceston, 1952 | 1952 |
| 6/14 | [Edith] Ransom, life membership certificate RSSAILA Longford Women's Auxiliary | 1960 |
| 6/15 | Mrs V L Ransom, United Nations Association of Australia, Tasmanian Division, life membership certificate | 1964 |
| 6/16 | Edith Ransom, <i>Kenilworth</i> , typescript; printed pamphlet " <i>Kenilworth</i> " by Mrs Edith Ransom, <i>Greetings from Tasmania</i> , with an introduction by A C Atkins, Minister for Agriculture, Tourists and Immigration (nd) (includes photograph of sundial at Kenilworth and of Allan Taylor) | 1965 |
| 6/17 | Edith Ransom, Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire certificate | 1967 |
| 6/18 | Henry Francis Lyte M.A., newspaper cuttings pasted in a folder, with note that he was a relative of Mrs Sarah Todd | nd |

7.Ephemera

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| 7/1 | <i>Round the merry year</i> , London, nd (children's book, pre 1900) | nd |
| 7/2 | <i>At home: a book for registering "At Home" days</i> , London, nd (pre 1900) | nd |
| 7/3 | <i>Children's invitations</i> , box of cards and envelopes (pre 1900) | nd |
| 7/4 | <i>Children's acceptances</i> , box of cards and envelopes, also Christmas greeting cards (pre 1900) | nd |

7/5 Edith Ransom, invitations to various functions 1935-1967

8. Photographs

8/1 Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association, group photograph, V Summers, M Ransom, D Edgell, B Lyne, M Smith, E Ransom identified nd

8/2 Armed Services Nurses' Welfare Association, four photographs of flag being presented by president Mrs Ransom to Ambulance Launch AH 1731, with a number of people, including M Ransom, Lt Barnett and L Barnard MP, at Hobart wharves 1945

8/3 Services Nurses' Welfare Association, two photographs of Queen's Institute of District Nursing members [England] receiving food parcels from the Association 1948

8/4 Services Nurses' Welfare Association, photograph of stand at Nursing, Medical & Welfare Exhibition at Albert Hall 1952

8/5 Framed colour portrait of Lt. James Bowen nd

8/6 Framed black and white portrait (copy) of Rear-Admiral James Bowen nd

9. Mary Ransom Records

9/1 Lieutenant M J Ransom, St Leonard's Municipality certificate of appreciation for Second World War service c1945

9/2 Mary Janet Ransom, Medal of the Order of Australia award certificate 1977

9/3 Mary Ransom, two postcards nd

9/4 Two invitations 1964, 1993

9/5 Letter re NW [Tas] war train journey 1995

9/6 *Examiner* 16 August 1995 interview 1995

9/7 Letters from Lieut. Mary Ransom, Japan, to her sister Leonie Ransom 1951-1952

9/8 Certificate presented to Lieutenant M. J. Ransom by the St. Leonards Municipality [1945?]

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| 9/9 | The Order of Australia certificate presented to Mary Janet Ransom | 1977 |
| 9/10 | Occupation of Japan medal pamphlet | nd |
| 9/11 | Three invitations to Mary Ransom, one from the Governor of Tasmania | 1964, 1967, 1993 |

10. Leonie Ransom Records

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| 10/2 | Leonie Ransom miscellaneous wartime correspondence | 1940-1945 |
| 10/3 | Four postcards | 1977, 1994 |
| 10/4 | One copy of the book <i>The water-babies</i> by Charles Kingsley, awarded to Leonie Ransom, 1928 | 1928 |
| 10/5 | One copy of the book <i>Tom Brown's school days</i> by Thomas Hughes, awarded to Leonie Ransom, 1928 | 1928 |

11. Mary and Leonie Ransom Records

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| 11/1 | One copy of the book <i>Kidnapped</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson, awarded to Leonie and Mary Ransom, 1928 | 1928 |
| 11/3 | Postcards | 1980s-1990s |

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 1999.OH.20

Peter Mercer, 'Sarah Squire Todd: woodcarver of Hobart (1861-1959)', *Australian Antique Collector* July 1983

Newspaper articles concerning Mary Ransom, *Sunday Examiner* 3 December 1995, p.16;
Northern Midlands Community News 20 June 1997, p.7