

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 109

THE LADY RAMSAY COLLECTION

Women, Launceston
Welfare Workers, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

Ella Elizabeth Pegus Dudley, the youngest daughter of Frederick Henry Pegus Dudley, was born in Kensington, Greater London, in 1882. ¹ Following the death of her parents and on the advice of a Tasmanian nurse in England at the time, she came to Launceston where she trained as a nurse at the Launceston General Hospital. Commencing in 1902, she was a probationer during the 1903 smallpox epidemic. After passing her final exams she returned to England. Later she came back coming to Tasmania when St Margaret's Hospital opened and was in charge of the theatre. St Margaret's Private Hospital was established by Dr John Ramsay in 1912.

Ella Dudley of "Danehurst", Putney, England, and Dr John Ramsay of St Margaret's Private Hospital, Launceston, became engaged in May 1913. They were married on 1 October 1913 in Sydney. ² Their four sons and two daughters were born between 1914 and 1923. A son, one of twin boys, died in infancy in 1923.

The Ramsays lived at St Margaret's Hospital and the adjacent "Nelumie" for 20 years. "Ruglen" in Pyenna Avenue was their weekend house until they moved there permanently after it was enlarged.

Dr Ramsay (1872-1944) was appointed C.B.E. in 1924 and knighted in 1939 for services to surgery, the first Launcestonian and the first medical man in Tasmania to be so honoured.

Lady Ramsay was active in the community and renowned for her hospitality. She was President of the Launceston General Hospital Central Auxiliary and a life member. She had been the first President of the St John Ambulance Auxiliary, formed in 1933, which changed its name to the Central Auxiliary in 1945. She was a Northern Division of Junior Red Cross committee member, an office bearer of the Ministering Children's League, a foundation member and Vice-President of the Northern Branch of Royal Derwent Hospital Auxiliary and a member of state executive of the Red Cross Society.

Lady Ramsay had a passion for travel. *Here and There*, the account she wrote of her travels, commencing in 1910, was published in Launceston c1960. She had travelled overseas 13 times, six times by air. All proceeds from the sale of the book were to benefit various charities.

Sir John Ramsay died at "Ruglen" on 6 February 1944. Lady Ramsay died in a private hospital at Launceston on 23 September 1978, aged 96. She was survived by her daughter Nell and son James.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in May 2004. One item had previously been donated in February 2004.

¹ <http://search.ancestry.com.au>

² Sir John Ramsay entry in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 11

Lady Ramsay

1. Correspondence

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 1/1 | Ella Dudley/Ramsay, letters written during her travels (most were published in her book <i>Here and There</i> , c1960) | 1909-1951 |
| 1/2 | Ella Dudley/Ramsay, letters written during her travels (some were published in her book <i>Here and There</i> , c1960) | nd |
| 1/3 | Miss Dudley, Danehurst, Michelago, N.S Wales, Australia, postcard inscribed on back 'Samarai, British New Guinea, Feb. 13 th 1912, E.E.D' | 1912 |
| 1/4 | Miss E.E. Dudley, c/o Mrs W.R.Cole, Danehurst, Putney, London, England, postcard of St Margaret's Private Hospital, dated 8 June 13, from L Milne | 1913 |
| 1/5 | Lady Ramsay, letter from secretary Australian Red Cross, Northern Tasmanian Section | 1949 |
| 1/6 | Lady Ramsay, letter from Henry Reed, Mount Pleasant | 1953 |

2.Awards

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| 2/1 | Mrs J Ramsay, certificate awarded by the Australian Red Cross Society in recognition of five years of service during the Great War 1914 1919 | c1919 |
| 2/2.1 | Ella Elizabeth Pegus Ramsay, certificate of award of Officer in the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
<i>Oversized item</i> | 1936 |
| 2/2.2 | Small badge of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in a case and a larger badge of the Order, both badges have a clasp attached to a black ribbon in the shape of a bow | 1936 |
| 2/3 | Lady Ramsay, certificate awarded by the Australian Red Cross Society in recognition of service during the World War of 1939-1945 | c1945 |

3.Newspaper Cuttings

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| 3/1 | Miscellaneous newspaper articles concerning the Ramsay family | 1913-1974 |
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4. Miscellaneous Items

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| 4/1 | Belt buckle inscribed 'Miseris Succurrere Disco. Certificate Jan 16 th 1906', 'Silver, Stewart' on reverse, with thin red ribbon attached | 1906 |
| 4/2 | University of Melbourne, conferring of degrees program, 25 March 1944 (list includes the award of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery to Hugh Thomson Ramsay) | 1944 |
| 4/3 | Lady Ramsay, diary | 1951 |
| 4/4 | Ella E Ramsay, Ruglen, Pyenna Avenue, Launceston, Tasmania, Visitors Book | 1959-1977 |
| 4/5 | Lady E.E.P. Ramsay, <i>Here and There</i> , Launceston, c1960 | c1960 |
| 4/6 | Lady Ramsay, handwritten address re Matron Milne given to members of the [LGH] Ex-trainees Association, 28 October 1961 | 1961 |
| 4/7 | Mildred Dewhurst, note to Mrs Fullerton, endorsed 'Mother's housekeeper until death' | nd |
| 4/8 | Armitage Auctions Pty. Ltd, <i>Surplus antique Edwardian and general furniture...at "Ruglen" Pyenna Avenue, Launceston, Saturday December 9...account estate Lady E.E.P. Ramsay</i> | 1980? |
| 4/9 | "Ruglen", Pyenna Avenue, Launceston, <i>Examiner</i> sale notice, with handwritten note re sale | 1981 |

5. Photographs

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| 5/1 | Lacquer covered album of coloured photographs of Japan | nd |
| 5/3.1 | Photographs of Ella Dudley/Lady Ramsay, including one photo described in her letter of 6 September 1909 from Colombo; some with family members and some in group photographs | 1892-1963 |
| 5/3.2 | One coloured and framed photograph of Ella Dudley, described in her letter of 6 September 1909 from Colombo | nd |
| 5/3.3 | One framed photograph of Lady Ramsay <i>Oversized item</i> | nd |
| 5/4 | Album embossed 'E.E.D.' with photographs of Launceston General Hospital and nurses, including Nurse Dudley | c1904 |

5/5	St Margaret's Private Hospital (includes photos of nursing staff)	c1912
5/6	Photograph album with photos of interior of living quarters at St Margaret's Hospital, Ramsay family members <i>Oversized item</i>	nd
5/8	Margaret Ramsay's photograph album, inscribed 'Margaret W Ramsay, 'Ruglen', Launceston, August 1937' (includes photos of the Ramsay family's 1934 overseas trip)	c1934
5/9	Numerous photos of "Ruglen", Pyenna Avenue, Launceston	1925-1954
5/10	John Dudley Ramsay, endorsed on the back 'John Dudley Ramsay. No1. – to be born & die of my siblings'	nd

6.Ephemera

6/1	Miscellaneous ephemera: Religious text, inscribed on back 'Mary E. Pegus Dudley, Hamburg, Germany, August 10 th 1879'; Miss Ella E. Dudley, Danehurst, 319, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, S.W., visiting card, nd; Dr and Mrs Ramsay, Margaret and Nell's 1934 trip to England: souvenir of visit to <i>The Times</i> , 9 July; BMA invitation to Nell to garden party, 25 July; invitation to afternoon party at Buckingham Palace, 26 July; R.M.S. <i>Carinthia</i> menu, 22 August; Lady Ramsay, Ruglen, Launceston, visiting card, nd; Lady Ramsay, invitation to City of Launceston Civic Ball, 1954; Five hand coloured postcards, printed in Swatow via Hong Kong in China, nd	
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Sir John Ramsay

7.Awards

7/1	John Ramsay, certificate of award of Commander of Civil Division of Order of British Empire	1924
7/2	Sir John Ramsay, certificate of admission as a Member of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor, with congratulatory telegram from Governor General <i>Oversized item</i>	1939

8.Newspaper Cuttings

8/1	Dr John Ramsay, newspaper cuttings from various papers <i>Oversized item</i>	1902-1919
8/2	Dr John Ramsay, newspaper cuttings from various papers <i>Oversized item</i>	1922-1927

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| 8/3 | Dr/Sir John Ramsay, newspaper cuttings from various papers
<i>Oversized item</i> | 1930-1939 |
| 8/4 | Sir John Ramsay, newspaper cuttings from various papers
<i>Oversized item</i> | 1940-1944 |
| 8/5 | <i>The Mercury</i> poster, 'Launceston Citizen Knighted in New Year Honours List', Monday, January 2, 1939
<i>Oversized item</i> | 1939 |
| 8/6 | <i>Medical Journal of Australia</i> , 12 May 1962, article re cardiac massage given by Dr John Ramsay | 1962 |
| 8/7 | <i>Express</i> article, 8 August 1964, on Hornsey Hospital, with group photograph that includes Major John Ramsay | 1964 |

9. Miscellaneous Items

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| 9/1 | <i>Testimonials, John Ramsay, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., Melbourne University</i> , Melbourne, 1895 (one copy with green cover, one copy with pink cover) | 1895 |
| 9/2 | Dr Ramsay, invitations to Dr J Ramsay and Miss Ramsay in connection with the opening of the Parliament of the Commonwealth Australia: invitation to conversazione, 7 May, with program; invitation to opening of Parliament, 9 May; with program; invitation to evening reception, 9 May, with program; invitation to Royal Review, 10 May, with entrée card; Grand Tattoo, 11 May, entrée card; memorandum re replying to invitation; <i>Programme of Celebrations during the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York from the 6th to the 16th of May 1901</i> , Melbourne, 1901
<i>Oversized item</i> | 1901 |
| 9/3 | J Ramsay, M.S. Melb., <i>Apparent Death from Primary Heart Failure under General Anaesthesia...</i> Reprinted from the <i>Intercolonial Medical Journal of Australasia</i> , September 20, 1906 (includes typed article sent to Dr Craig inside) | 1906 |
| 9/4 | Dr John Ramsay, 4 x 9.5 cm sterling silver plaque inscribed 'Dr John Ramsay, From the Board of Management, Launceston General Hospital, on his retirement from the position of Surgeon Superintendent. 1 st June 1912' | 1912 |
| 9/5 | Dr John Ramsay, typed account of sea voyage port of call at Jamaica (handwritten note by Lady Ramsay on back of last page) | 1922 |

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| 9/6 | Dr John Ramsay, portion of handwritten account of sea voyage port of call at Java | 1932 |
| 9/7 | Dr John Ramsay, handwritten account of voyage on S S <i>Carinthia</i> from Southampton through Europe to Norway (includes pencil notes by Mrs Ramsay) | 1934 |
| 9/8 | Dr John Ramsay, handwritten account of trip to Batavia and Singapore, written on TSS <i>Antenor</i> note paper | nd |
| 9/9 | Dr John Ramsay, handwritten account of sea voyage to Hong Kong, written on SS <i>Changte</i> notepaper | nd |
| 9/10 | Letter sent to Sir John Ramsay from Australian Military Forces, Eastern Command, re whereabouts of his son John, 24 May 1940; certificate of discharge for Private John Dudley Ramsay, 11 July 1941 | 1940-1941 |
| 9/11 | Sir John Ramsay, handwritten notes of address on 'Surgery' given to Rotary Club, Launceston, 11 March 1942 | 1942 |
| 9/12 | Rotary Club of Launceston, notice for meeting of 16 February 1944 (includes an appreciation of Sir John Ramsay, the Club's first president, who died on 6 February 1944) | 1944 |
| 9/13 | Don Nicol, pencil caricature, 18 x 11 cm, of [Dr John Ramsay], dated 2/5/33 on back | 1933 |

10. Photographs

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| 10/1 | Dr/Sir John Ramsay, including photograph wearing a top hat c1900; wearing the uniform of Commander of Civil Division of Order of British Empire, 1934; undated portraits; in the cockpit of a Gypsy Moth; in several group photographs | c1900-1930s |
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11. Ephemera

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| 11/1 | Rotary Club of Launceston, notice of luncheon to be held at the Lounge, Brisbane Hotel, 23 April 1924 (Dr John Ramsay was President) | 1924 |
| 11/2 | Launceston Club, "Bon Voyage" dinner to Dr John Ramsay, 23 March 1934, autographed souvenir card | 1934 |

OTHER SOURCES

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 11, article on Sir John Ramsay

Clifford Craig, *Launceston General Hospital: first hundred years 1863-1963*, Launceston, 1963

John Morris, 'John Ramsay: surgical pioneer of Launceston', chapter in *Health and Medicine Museums Australia, Tasmanian Chapter & the Tasmanian Medical History Museum and Archive*, 2003 winter program papers and proceedings

Paul A C Richards, 'Dr John Ramsay', chapter in *Effecting a Cure: aspects of health and medicine in Launceston*, Launceston, 2006, pp.606-610