

**The Osler Library of the History of Medicine
McGill University, Montreal Canada
Osler Library Archive Collections**

P178

CHARLES LEWIS FONDS

COMPLETE INVENTORY LIST

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Title

Charles Lewis Fonds

Physical Description

35,5 cm of textual records. – 2 copper printing plates. – 4 photographs.

Dates

1843-1954

Biographical Sketch / Administrative History

Charles Lewis, born in 1863 in Dublin, was notable for his work in pharmacy at The T. Eaton Drug Company Limited in Toronto from 1890-1917. His interest in medicine was influenced by his father, a physician and surgeon of Cork, Ireland. Lewis studied medicine at Queen's College, Cork, but his father's death made it impossible for him to finish medical school, so he turned his attention to drugs. He graduated from the University of Dublin, in the late 1880's with a major in the pharmaceutical drugs field. Upon completion of his schooling, he immigrated to Canada, settling in the Toronto area. He started his first business with Timothy Eaton, T. Eaton Company, a candy store in downtown Toronto on Young Street, where he quickly added a full complement of drugs and elixirs. That was the beginning of the Chas. Lewis Drug Company. He expanded his operations to Eaton's stores and became Canada's first drugstore chain with a catalogue. In 1890, he became managing director of the T. Eaton Drug Company, a position he held until 1917, when he became head of the Welfare Department for the T. Eaton Company, Limited. He was known as "The Kindly Head of the Welfare Department." He died at his summer home "Old Mill Cottage," in Ahmic Harbour, Onatrio in 1925.

Scope and Content

The fonds illustrates Charles Lewis's work in pharmacy and includes a collection of his father's records, also named Charles Lewis. It contains books, drug formulae books, manuscripts, diplomas, licenses, certificates, patent documents, catalogues, testimonials, notes, correspondence, legal documents, financial documents, business documents, and obituaries.

Finding Aids

Complete inventory list available.

Custodial History

The fonds was purchased for the Osler Library from Alexander Books (Ancaster, Ontario) in November 2010.

Language

The documents are in English.

Source of Supplied Title Proper

Title based on the documents in the fonds.

Retrieval Number

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Series

Subjects

Lewis, Charles, 1863-1925

Pharmacists – Canada

Pharmacy – Canada

COMPLETE FILE LIST

CHARLES LEWIS (the elder), presumably the father of Charles Lewis the Toronto pharmacist:

Arranged by date:

- 1) Ireland, 24 Nov. 1843. Apothecaries Hall, Dublin. Certificate of the Governor, Deputy Governor and directors of ... having this day examined Charles Lewis of Killarney in the county of Kerry think him properly educated to be apprenticed to the profession of an apothecary ... 9 signatures, wax seal, folio.
- 2) 4 Jan. 1844. Indenture of Apprenticeship between Charles Lewis, his father John Lewis (giving consent) and Owen Cashell McDermott, Apothecary, all of Killarney in the county of Kerry. 4 p. folio.

Further endorsed "Enrolled at Apothecaries Hall 9 April 1845", and further, highly endorsed as to character and work record, by McDermott, signed 20 Sept. 1847.

Note: Indenture Agreements in any field of technology are regarded as being extremely rare and interesting.

Split at folds, cover half folio darkened, some wear, inside clean and readable, full rag paper, folio.

- 3) 1849 March - 1851 March. Apothecaries Hall, London. Certificates to be obtained by those students to whom the regulations of the 23rd of April, 1835 are applicable... (records the teachers, subject, and standing in courses—a sort of running report card). 13 full entries. Folio, worn, some gnawing lightly affecting text, otherwise clear and legible.

- 4) Testimonial, 1850. Clinical Class at Mercers Hospital, Dublin, during sessions 1849 and 1850 "was honorably distinguished on account of the zeal and ability displayed by him ... 1 p. octavo, signed, seal.
- 5) 11 Aug. 1854. Letter, St. Thomas's Hospital, to The Commissioners, Colonial Land and Emigration Society, testimonial for Charles Lewis.
- 6) 4 documents from the Medical Registration Office, Branch Medical Council for Ireland, certifying to the professional capacity of Charles Lewis, 1859, 1865, and a receipt for fees 1859. Lewis was at that time the resident physician at the Berehaven Mines, Castletown, County Cork.
- 7) 12 Feb. 1862. Royal College of Surgeons of England. Certificate of Qualification "to practise the Art and Science of Midwifery". Charles Lewis, of Berehaven Mines. Counterstamped 22/6/1865 Branch Medical Council, Ireland. Mounted with photos.
- 8) 19 June 1865. License to practise Midwifery from the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Brittle, needs restoration.
- 9) 31 Dec. 1865. Testimonial, from John R. Reed, Manager of the Berehaven Mines, for 25 years, a very supportive (even fulsome) testimonial to Dr. Charles Lewis on his work amongst the 11,000 miners, of a very high degree of professional competence and caring as a physician ... from and after 1857. Document on brittle paper, in many pieces, probably complete, needs to be reassembled and conserved.
- 10) 4 documents 1860's re professional capacity:
 - a) Jan. 18, 1867. Michael O'Reilly, Parish Priest (PP) known Lewis last 10 years, medical officer Berehaven Mines ... "attention and kindness to the sick and poor of my parish"... etc.
 - b) Similar document, Jan. 20, 1867, from James Irwin, PP.
 - c) Undated copy re Lewis qualifications 1852, 1862, 1865...
 - d) Undated but probably contemporary with above, brief testimonial letter, black bordered, signed H.L. V... (illegible)
- 11) March 2, 1874. Markethill, County Armagh, Ireland. A Loan Agreement document for £70, between John R. Reed, the lender, and Charles Lewis and (presumably) his wife Sophia C. Lewis. Appears to be the same (by handwriting), John R. Reed in #9 above. Lent by Reed to Lewis.
- 12) Undated, by paper and writing, probably 1860's, single page on drug preparation notes.
- 13) A printed scripture booklet, 1831, on front written JOHN REED, very faint writing follows, appears dated writing 1833. Relation unknown, except for the above John Reed (related through Mrs. Lewis??)

- 14) 18 Jun. 1852. Royal College of Surgeons of England. Certificate of Qualification “to exercise the Art and Science of Surgery”. Charles Lewis.
- 15) Regium Medicorum Collegium Edinburgense. Diploma. Carolum Lewis. Counterstamped 22/6/65 Branch Medical Council, Ireland. On vellum.

CHARLES LEWIS:

Born 1863 ... died Toronto 1925

- 16) 3 early documents: entry certificates to The Hospital and FREE School of King Charles II, at Oxmantown, Dublin, 1875; a school proficiency certificate in drawing, 1877 and a confirmation certificate by the Bishop of Dublin, 1878.
- 17) 4 reference letters: Kings Hospital School, Dublin, 1879; Wm. Good, M.D., Cappa, Bandon, Cork, Ireland, 1883 re his ability in "compounding", e.g. Making up drug prescriptions; Rev. Geo. R. Wedgwood, Methodist Minister, Bandon, 14 Feb., 1884, re Lewis' work with C.H. Roche, Apothecary, 21 Oct., 1879 to 2 Oct., 1882 ... (refers to Lewis as "now in Toronto") and, Toronto, 23 Dec. 1884, testimonial from Josiah Green, Chemist and Druggist, Toronto.
- 18) Richard Perrott, J.P., Borough of Cork, Ireland, 14 March, 1884, that "Charles Lewis has been three years compounding in an open shop in Cork, Oct. 22, 1879 to Oct. 22, 1882".
- 19) Toronto, Feb. 4, 1885. Ontario College of Pharmacy. License to conduct the business of a Pharmaceutical Chemist in the Province of Ontario ... with the customary green renewal seals provided annually upon the payment of the annual fee, dated from 1886 to 1920. Matted, with large pictures.
- 20) 3 receipts: 23 Jan. 1890, Charles Lewis "of Petrolia" annual license fee; 1893, same, at Toronto; life insurance policy receipt, 1894.
- 21) T. Eaton Drug Co. Ltd., 11 financial statement or summary documents: 6 undated (appear circa 1900-1910; 1897/8; 1909 (2); 1910, 1914. See Drug Formula Books for additional such information.
- 22) Miscellaneous prescriptions, drug notes. 1 - 1884, balance undated.
- 23) T. Eaton Co. Printed Catalogue: Drug pages excerpts, stitched, in card covers: 1897 Spring/Summer 2 copies; 1897/98; 1898/99; 1901/02.
- 24) Letter and reply 1902 General Manifold Co., Franklin, PA, to T. Eaton Co., respecting a special glue paste developed by Lewis.
- 25) Clippings and miscellaneous file. 15 items, including a photo circa 1900 of a drug display.

- 26) Various undated obituaries of Lewis, and a cabinet photo similar to those published at his death in 1925.
- 27) Letter, "Liz" to "Peggy", 1954, presumably relatives.
- 28) Various legal documents, including patent documents, last will and testament, 1877 – 1939.
- 29) Various business, financial, and legal correspondence and documents, primarily of Mrs. Charles Lewis, 1917 – 1932.
- 30) Portrait of Charles Lewis, c. 1910.
- 31) 15 Jun. 1915. The T. Eaton Drug Co. Picnic to Buena Vista Lansing. Group portrait mounted with signatures.

Miscellaneous Books

- 32) Wedding book, 2 Dec., 1914, Charles Lewis and Beatrice Maud Young.
- 33) Tyronis Thesaurus: or Entick's Latin-English dictionary, London, 1831, signature Charles Lewis.
- 34) Small octavo bound notebook clearly Charles Lewis (Jr.), drug lectures, 1870, etc., numerous rag ends of cutout pages, possibly a diary.
- 35) Another, similar book, drug/medical lecture notes.
- 36) Victorian pocket notebook cover, no contents.
- 37) Pocket folder "Fire alarm telegraph stations of the T. Eaton Co. Ltd.
- 38) Miscellaneous. 2 copper printing plates, one for Mr. and Mrs. Lewis' annual Christmas card, the other a thank-you card for expressions of sympathy at the death of Charles Lewis. Neither dated.
- 39) Silver, engraved name card holder belonging to Mrs. Charles Lewis, containing her cards (#297 in the Osler Library Artifact Collection.)

The Drug Formulae Books 5 Volumes, circa 1890-1917

- D-1) Small octavo, bound book, lock clasp; pp. 1-287 numbered. Very worn, some staining, binding loose internally (from much reference use in the pharmacy over many years). Internal evidence and a few dates indicate circa 1890-1898. Index at front.

- p. 1-166 written; 167-269 blank
- p. 250-253 Financial summary of the T. Eaton Drug Co, Jan 1896-July 1900. Half-yearly summaries.
- p. 282-285 other formulas
- p. 285 Analysis, Georgetown (village) water, June 24, 1896
- p. 286 Analysis, May 22, 1896, spring north of Upper Canada College hill ... and a typed report inserted, to E.Y. Eaton, May 26, re Mrs. Mark Irish water analysis. Appears to be the same locale.
- Pasted, in back - partial typed letter to the company re: aluminum phosphate and soda, source (top of letter) has been cut off.
- p. 270-273 contents list of pages 1-86.

Estimate the book contains around 320 formulas

- D-2) Small octavo, bound book, lock, clasp. Circa 1896-1904(?). 288 pp. Handwritten, appears entirely filled up. Formulas average 2 to a page, approx. 525. Some wear shows, books appear to be "incremental" i.e. added through the period, not rewritten from another volume.

p. 276-279 Financial summary, half-yearly Jan. 1905-July, 1910. Similar format to Book D-1.

- D-3) Octavo, very clean, 498 pp., numbered; lock clasp. Approx. 220 written upon, balance blank. Appears to be a "compiled" book, i.e. written about the same time, handwriting and ink density uniform throughout the formula section. Alphabetical index at front. Appears circa 1905-10. A clipping dated 1905 pasted in back. p. 474-478 Financial summary in previous format, Jan. 1908 to July 1912.

Approximately 250 formulas

- D-4) Undated, small bound book, 179 numbered pages. Perhaps 60 written upon. No date, no index, clean, no wear, probably a "compiled" book. Appears circa 1910.
- D-5) Small, loose-leaf book, red morocco cover. Written on the front cover "No. 94". From contents, probably a sole survivor of a massive reference set of Lewis' work.
- 141 numbered formulas (rather than page numbering)
 - formulas of many accompanied by a T. Eaton Drug Co. Ltd. Printed label, many attributed on the label to Lewis, e.g. no. 35: "Lewis' Liquid Antiseptic".

Approximately 141 formulas

Total of all formulas is estimated at 1200-1300

The financial data, combined with File No. 19, with these formula books, embraces about 12 years dated between 1896 and 1914. Of great significance for quantifying the size of the practice and its inventory value.

Documents Mounted and Shrink Wrapped

- 1-2 Diplomas, license ... see details document files 17, 7. 7-Charles Lewis the elder, 17 Charles Lewis.

Sources examined by Ed Phelps

- 1) Encyclopedia Canada, 4 vols.
Food Legislation, p. 801-802 refers also to drugs

Pharmaceutical Industry pp. 1655-56
Pharmacy 1656-7

Copies attached.

- 2) **Books, by date**

1873. Companion to the latest edition of the British Pharmacopoeia, London, 9th ed., 1873, 427 p. (Taylor Library, UWO)

Canada Lancet (periodical) vol. 22/23, 1889-1891 (E. Phelps copy)

1951. History of Pharmacy ... Kremers, Edward and George Urdang, Philadelphia, Lippincott, 2nd ed. (Taylor Library, UWO)

1966. Drug Adulteration, Detection and control in 19th century Britain, Ernst W. Stieb ... Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1966.

1964. Pharmacy in history, George E. Trease, London, Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 1964. 265 p. (Taylor Library, UWO)

1988. Pharmacy museums and historical collections in the United States and Canada by George Griffenhagen and Ernst W. Stieb. Madison Am. Ins. History of Pharmacy. (Main Library, UWO)

Personal Consultations by E. Phelps

- 1) Prof. Norman R. Ball, Toronto
- 2) (Retired) Prof. Ernst W. Stieb, Kitchener
- 3) (Retired) Chemist formerly with Health Canada, George A. Neville, Ottawa
- 4) Health Portfolio Archivist, Archives of Ontario, Toronto

Charles Lewis Fonds – complete file list
Osler Library Archive Collections

- 5) John H. Lutman, UWO J.J. Talman Collection re Mitchell Coll London
- 6) Archivist in charge of the T. Eaton Co. Collection Archives of Ontario, Toronto
- 7) Larry McNally, NAC, Ottawa
- 8) National Museum of Civilization, Ottawa/Hull
- 9) Assoc. Dean College of Pharmacy, University of Toronto
- 10) Other U.S. locations mentioned in the Pharmacy Museums