



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	UNITED SERVICE HOME
ACCESSION NO	1967.0019
CATEGORY	Community and Political, organisations
ACTIVITY	Service Organisations
DATE RANGE	1854-1858, 1890-1933
SIZE OF COLLECTION	4 Archive Boxes
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>In July 1890 in response to a public outcry regarding a destitute war veteran who had been committed to prison for reasons of homelessness, a provisional committee was appointed by the Victoria Barracks. The committee created an enquiry board to consider claims for relief and arranged for a public meeting. Subsequently through public subscriptions and a Government land grant of six acres of land at Drysdale, Victoria, a home for the relief of selected needy war veterans was opened on 1 July 1891. Over the next 27 years, with the aid of extension some 105 aged veterans were housed. In 1918 a movement was made to have the responsibility and assets of the Home transferred to the Commonwealth Government who latterly declined. After desultory letting of the property at a very small rental it was agreed during WWII between the Trustees and the Victorian Government to sell the property, with the difference above the land value being paid to the Trustees.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	1967
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Access Not Set
DESCRIPTION	Minutes 1890-1912; annual reports 1892-1918; correspondence 1891-1933; accounts 1929-1931; personnel books 1890-1913; plans and photographs 1894-1914; newspaper clippings 1892-1916; medals and ribbons 1854-1858; keys.
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	

SERIES TABLE OF CONTENTS

SERIES	TITLE	CREATED	PAGES
1	Minutes		3
2	Annual Reports		3
3	Correspondence		3, 4 & 5
4	Accounts		6,7
5	Personnel Books and Documents		7
6	Photographs and Plans		8
7	Newspaper Cuttings		8
8	Veteran Medals and Ribbons		9
9	Six Keys		9

Collection: United Service Home Accession: 1967.0019

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
1	1 & 2	Minutes, Annual Reports, Printed.	1892-1918
2	3	Correspondence	1896-1930
3	4	Accounts	1857
4	5,6,7,8 & 9	Personnel Books and Documents; Photographs and Plans; Newspaper Cuttings; Veteran Medals and Ribbons; Six Keys.	1857-1916

E N D

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE - ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY.

NAME: United Service Home.
ADDRESS: Drysdale, Victoria.
MAIN ACTIVITY: Caring for War Veterans.
NAME OF TRANSFEROR: Brentnall, Newton & Butler.
DATE OF TRANSFER: 1967.
QUANTITY: 1½ running feet.
INCLUSIVE DATES: July 1890 - 1 April 1948

GENERAL NOTE: In July 1890, as a result of public conscience being finally aroused by the committal to prison, solely to ensure his maintenance, of a war veteran of good character, a provisional committee appointed by Victoria Barracks met, appointed an enquiry board regarding claims for relief and arranged for a public meeting. Thereafter subscriptions of some £1,800 were received plus, after a Government grant of some six acres of land at Drysdale, Victoria, substantial furnishings etc. therefor, and a home for the relief of selected needy War Veterans was opened 1st July 1891, commencing with eight inmates. Over the next 27 years, with the aid of some extension and improvements being made, some 105 aged veterans were housed, several deaths took place, and a section of the Bellarine General Cemetery was allocated and the graves cared for. About 1918 a movement was made to have the responsibility and assets of the Home transferred to the Commonwealth Government. The latter declined to accept such transfer. The following decade appears to have been somewhat stagnant, with few veterans living in and only a limited number receiving small amounts of relief weekly. After desultory letting of the property at a very small rental it was agreed in the World War II years between the Trustees and the Victorian Government to sell the property, with the difference above the land value being paid to the Trustees. The last two years accounts in hand (1945 and 1946) do not have an annual report attached and no such sale is indicated. The 1947 financial statements indicate continuance till then of the holding of Government and semi-Government securities to the face value of £4,700. It does not appear, amongst the records received, whether the Defence (or some other) Department has taken over the Trust or whether the Trustees continue to hold the assets of the Trust under the latest Trust Deed referred to dated 9 December 1941, executed when the sale of the realty was in contemplation. Various famous service names appear among sponsors and office bearers.

LIST OF RECORDS.

Main Group Headings:

GROUP 1. MINUTES.

GROUP 2. ANNUAL REPORTS.

GROUP 3. CORRESPONDENCE.

GROUP 4. ACCOUNTS.

GROUP 5. PERSONNEL BOOKS.

GROUP 6. PHOTOGRAPHS AND PLANS.

GROUP 7. NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS.

GROUP 8. VETERANS' MEDALS AND RIBBONS.

GROUP 9. KEYS.

GROUP 1. MINUTES.

- 1/1 Minute Book. Minutes of meeting of provisional committee July, 1890.
(In same book is included "Subscription Cards" list and Petty Cash
accounts 23.7.1890 - 30.6.1909.)
- 1/2 Minute Book. Annual and Executive Committee meetings.
4 Aug. 1891 - 27 Nov. 1912
Contains annual reports and balance sheets. Photographs.
- 1/3 Minutes of meeting to appoint new Trustees 20.12.1929 (one sheet).

GROUP 2. ANNUAL REPORTS, PRINTED. 1892-1918.

Except 19th (1910), 20th (1911), 21st. (1912). (See above 1/2.)

GROUP 3. CORRESPONDENCE.

- 3/1 Letter Books.
- 3/2 Loose Correspondence and Memoranda.
- 3/1 Letter Books.
- 3/1/1 Letters from Major A. Purchas, Hon. Sec.
9 Sept. 1892 - 10 Mar. 1896
- 3/1/2 Mar. 1896 - Mar. 1901
- 3/1/3 2 Ap. 1901 - 8 Sept. 1920
- 3/1/4 Letters from Superintendent of Home, Capt. J.M. McWhirter.
Including Reports to Major Purchas.
4 Mar. 1897 - 7 Oct. 1901
- 3/1/5 Letters from Hon. Sec. written on instructions of Committee.
21 Aug. 1909 - 8 Feb. 1923
- 3/2 Loose Correspondence and Memoranda.
- 3/2/1 Handwritten figuring of area of building and cubical contents of
tank.
26 Aug. 1891
- 3/2/2 Major W. Callaghan, O.C. Warrnambool Battery to Superintendent
Hicks.
Passes on doubts as to ability to provide comforts for inmates
at cost set out in 2nd Report. Asks for details.
27 Oct. 1893
- 3/2/3 Copy letter from Major A. Purchas to Jas. Grice.
17 Oct. 1895
- 3/2/4 T. Brentnall, Treasurer, to J.J. Keil.
Complains of Keil's interference in meeting arrangements.
26 April 1930
- 3/2/5 Keil's reply to the above.
1 April (May ?) 1930
- 3/2/6 Representatives of branches of Imperial Navy & Army Association
to Trustees of U.S.H. recommending Keil as secretary.
1 May 1930

GROUP 3. CORRESPONDENCE.

- 3/2 Loose Correspondence and Memoranda.
- 3/2/7 "F. McN." to T. Brentnall in support of Keil.
2 May 1930
- 3/2/8 "Barnacle" to (?) The Herald - draft screed re source of the
Trust funds of U.S.H.
Undated.
- 3/2/9 Memorandum of names of contributors from the Navy & Army to
the Trust Funds of U.S.H.
8 May 1930
- 3/2/10 C.W. Joyce, Vic. State Sec. R.S.S.J.L.A., analysing finances to
provide homes, etc. for war veterans and recommending sale of
the Drysdale home, with the proceeds being added to the £3,000
already held, and invested to make annual grants to veterans.
12 Oct. 1929
- 3/2/11 P.H. Hughes to J.J. Keil, Sec. U.S.H., applying for employment.
Undated.
- 3/2/12 P.H. Hughes to J.J. Keil applying for employment at U.S.H.,
Drysdale.
5 April 1930
- 3/2/13 P.H. Hughes to J.J. Keil, Sec. U.S.H., notifying change of
address, acknowledging receipt of lettercard.
16 April 1930
- 3/2/14 William Snell to Victorian Homes for Invalid & Aged Men, Royal
Park, Melbourne, applying for admission to U.S.H., Drysdale.
Certified copy forwarded 6 May 1930 by Commandant, 3rd District
Base.
22nd April 1930
- 3/2/15 M.F. Calder on behalf of self and husband applying to J. Keil
for employment at U.S.H., Drysdale.
7 May 1930
- 3/2/16 John Symonds to the Trustees U.S.H., Drysdale, applying for
employment as gardener.
12 May 1930
- 3/2/17 S.J. Sheaf to Trustees U.S.H., Drysdale, applying for employment as
a painter and musician.
14 May 1930
- 3/2/18 Letter from Major J. Stanley, Hon. Sec., to Hon. Jas Bell, M.L.C.
inviting him to a concert, with acceptance dated 5 Nov. 1891
endorsed.
31 Oct. 1891
- 3/2/19 Copy of letter from Major General Sir A.B. Tulloch to Lieut.-Col.
Brodribb.
9 Feb. 1913

GROUP 3. CORRESPONDENCE.

- 3/2 Loose Correspondence and Memoranda.
- 3/2/20 Lieut.-Col. Brodribb to General Sir Grenville Ryrrie sending details of history, etc. of U.S.H., Drysdale.
11 Nov. (1918)
- 3/2/21 Department of Defence, Aust., to Lieut.-Col. T. Brodribb declining to adopt the suggestion of taking over U.S.H., Drysdale.
28 (?) Dec. 1921
- 3/2/22 Copy letter on behalf of U.S.H. to National Bank of Aust. Ltd. re Bonds and Debentures.
13 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/23 Letter National Bank of Aust. Ltd. to Brentnall Mewton & Butler in reply.
14 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/24 Copy letter on behalf of U.S.H. to Inspector of Charities for Return Forms under the Act.
17 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/25 Copy letter from Chairman of Trustees to National Bank of Aust. Ltd. re investments held there.
18 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/26 Copy letter from Chairman of Trustees to National Bank of Aust. Ltd. forwarding signed forms and notifying change of officers.
18 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/27 Letter from National Bank of Aust. Ltd. to Thos. Brentnall for U.S.H. acknowledging receipt of authority forms.
19 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/28 Copy letter on behalf of U.S.H. to Inspector of Charities enclosing annual financial statement.
20 Aug. 1931
- 3/2/29 Memo. for Friends of U.S.H., Drysdale in support of Appeal for funds.
Photographs. (5 copies)
June 1905
- 3/2/30 Eight sundry used envelopes.
- 3/2/31 Earle Page, Treasurer of the Commonwealth, to Mr. Brentnall in support of War Conversion Loan.
20 Oct. 1927
- 3/2/32 Double sheet Printed Prospectus and Application Form re foregoing.
6 Oct. 1927

GROUP 4. ACCOUNTS.

- 4/1 Cash Book. Includes annual accounts and some annual reports.
18 July 1890 - 1 April 1948
- 4/2 Ledger. Includes accounts of investments with 19 sheets of
insertions.
1 Oct. 1891 - 4 July 1933
- 4/3 Journal.
31 Aug. 1891-1892
- 4/4 National Bank of Aust. Ltd. Pass Book No. 967 of U.S.H.
16 Nov. 1909 - 11 July 1926
- 4/5 National Bank of Aust. Ltd. Deposit Book butts of U.S.H.
Drysdale.
18 Oct. 1909 - 15 April 1914
- 4/6 National Bank of Aust. Ltd cheque book butts Nos. D 600,561 -
D 600,800. Cheque butts D 600,785 onwards are blank and the
cheques themselves (except No. D 600,787 which is itself blank) are
missing.
6 June 1916 - 27 July 1931
- 4/7 Receipt Book of the U.S.H. Drysdale Nos. 1001-1099.
29 June 1908 - 28 Nov. 1913
- 4/8 Receipt Book, with butts separated by perforations, retained
by U.S.H. for obtaining receipts for relief given. The first
receipt is missing but the butt is completed, but thereafter
the butts are left blank and the receipts are completed
and retained in the book.
1 July 1933 - 2 Dec. 1933 (The top butt is dated 5 July 1933.)
- 4/9 Bundle of 21 receipted accounts stapled together endorsed on the
reverse of the back account "Vouchers from 1 Aug. 1893 - 30 June
1894".
The ninth account from the front has the bottom half torn off.
- 4/10 Copy statement of Receipts and Expenditure for year ending
30 June 1931.
- 4/11 Receipted account Hicks, Atkinson & Sons.
Aug. 1907
- 4/12 Receipt No.121 for 10/6.
8 March 1930
- 4/13 Receipt from Thos. Brentnall for £5.4.0.
27 July 1931
- 4/14 Copy Form 7 Hospital and Charities Act 1922 for year 1 July 1927
- 30 June 1928.
Dated 1928
- 4/15 Copy Form 7 Hospital and Charities Act 1922 for year 1 July 1928
- 30 June 1929
Dated 1929

GROUP 4. ACCOUNTS.

- 4/16 Copy Form 7 Hospital and Charities Act 1928 for year 1 July 1929
- 30 June 1930.
15 July 1930
- 4/17 Copy Form 7 Hospital and Charities Act 1928 for year 1 July 1930
- 30 June 1931.
19 Aug. 1931

For further account documents incorporated in other groups see as follows:

1. Item 1/1 Minute Book of original provisional committee incorporates initial subscriptions and Petty Cash Book 1 Oct. 1892 - 1 July 1909, and also some scrappy figuring at end of book.
2. Item 1/2 Minute Book containing account matters passim.
3. Group 2 Annual Reports containing account matters passim.
4. Group 3 Correspondence containing account matters passim.
5. Item 5/2 Records and Relief Book.
6. Item 5/5 Visitors Book contains some details of subscriptions.

GROUP 5. PERSONNEL BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS.

- 5/1 Roll of Inmates with Records (Folio 37 to 99 inclusive are entirely missing and Folios 100 to 108 inclusive have the top section cut off.)
Pages 100 to 109 inclusive set out the distribution of the personalty of the U.S.H.
- 5/2 Records and Relief Book. The Records section contains lists and details of inmates of U.S.H. and other Institutions. The Relief section sets out details of payments and receipts 23 July 1890 - 3 June 1908
- 5/3 Address Book, undated.
- 5/4 Home Address Book, undated.
- 5/5 Visitors Book 11 Oct. 1891 - 25 July 1913. Contains some details of subscriptions.
- 5/6 U.S.H. Drysdale Rules. 1 July 1891 - 23 Oct. 1902.
Cf. also Rules dated 30 July 1906 pasted on to inside of front cover of Item 1/2 (Minute Book).

GROUP 8. VETERANS' MEDALS AND RIBBONS.

- 8/1 Turkish Medal for the Crimea War with ribbon. (Description in Dorling, H.T., Ribbons & Medals, Philip, London, 1944, pp. 115-6. In Baillieu Library, B737.2, D711.)
- 8/2 Crimean Medals, 1854, with ribbons.
- 8/2/1 With Sebastopol clasp. Private A. Desmond, 18th Foot.
- 8/2/2 With Sebastopol and Inkermann clasps. Chas Turnbull, Able Seaman, H.M.S. Britannia.
- 8/2/3 With Sebastopol, Inkermann and Balaclava clasps. Pte. T. Robertson, 4th Dragoon Guards. (See Dorling, p. 51.)
- 8/3 Indian Mutiny Medal, 1857-8, with ribbon. Inscribed "Delhi". Sergt. J.A. Hicks, 52nd Foot. (See Dorling, p. 52.)
- 8/4 Indian General Service Medal, 1854, with ribbon. "Pegu" bar. Key attached. Pte. A. Desmond, 18th Foot.
- 8/5 Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and ribbon. No date. Q.M. Sgt. J.A. Hicks, Co. St. Corps. (See Dorling, p. 91.)

GROUP 9. SIX KEYS, one bundle of 3 having a tab attached inscribed "U.S.H. Collectg. boxes".

R. Renowden.