



*Image: Thomas Gaydon, Chemist
Glass Slide
Childers Pharmaceutical Museum Coll.*

The Childers Pharmaceutical Museum Images

Preserving the Images

In 2012 the *Picture Bundaberg Project* was asked to assess the condition of the Childers Pharmaceutical Museum negatives and glass slides. The images were in their original paper folders and cardboard boxes, stored in alphabetical order in a wooden container. Exposure to damp, insects and high temperatures over a period of 80 years had destroyed approximately 30% of the contents, with another 10% in very fragile condition.

Bundaberg Regional Libraries undertook the task of digitising the remaining negatives and slides - several hundred folders and boxes - before the images were lost or degraded further. The project began in January 2013, and has currently digitised half the collection. The earliest images appear to have been taken in the mid 1920s, with others up to the mid 1930s. It is not known what happened to the rest of the negatives that would have been stored at Thomas Gaydon's Chemist shop over the years.



Damaged slides and negatives from the Collection

Thomas Gaydon

Thomas Gaydon arrived in Childers in 1894, when the main street was just a bullock track.

Gaydon had been apprenticed as a pharmaceutical chemist to Thomason Brothers in Brisbane. Four years after commencing his apprenticeship, Gaydon became qualified and decided to start up his business - the Isis Pharmacy - in Childers. As one of the first shops in the main street, before he could actually build, he had to clear his block and even the road in front, which he did with axes and mattocks with the assistance of Mr N. J. Geraghty and Mr. William Hood.¹

In September 1899, resub 18 of sub 3 of portion 840 was transferred to Thomas Gaydon and William Hood as joint tenants - this was most probably the land on which their adjoining timber shops were built.

The 1902 Fire

According to the Queensland Heritage Register, 1902 was a very dry year, and Childers had no fire brigade. As a result, when a fire swept through the south of the main street on March 23, virtually all the buildings, which were timber and closely built, were destroyed.

Listed among the destroyed stores was T. Gaydon, Chemist. However, with Bundaberg architect F. H. Faircloth engaged to redesign new premises, tenders were called for the construction of 8 new shops in June 1902.

Under the influence of the man known as 'the Builder of Bundaberg', the new premises, including the Chemist shop, were masonry. They were single storey buildings with large glass shop fronts and striped curved awnings across the footpath.

In 1909 an upper floor was added to Gaydon's building which included an adjoining shop. The upper floor was well lit and was the perfect situation for its use as a dental surgery by Thomas



bun00731 Childers after 1902 fire

Gaydon, who also practiced as a dentist, photographer, and anaesthetist to the local hospital.

The Chemist shop

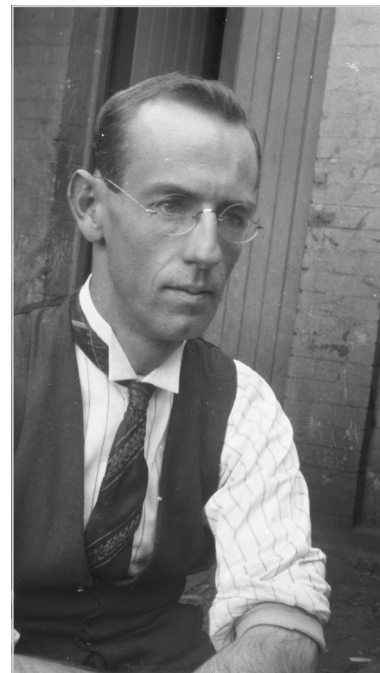
After the death of Thomas Gaydon in 1935, the Chemist shop and property was transferred to his two sons T. Geoffrey Gaydon (a dentist), and S. Noel Gaydon (a chemist), who both practiced from the premises.

When Noel Gaydon died in 1966, his business partner Mervyn Hooper, a chemist, took over the business and the property.

In 1973, Hooper transferred the property to his wife, and on his death in 1982, his widow Isa Hooper operated the pharmacy as a gift shop.

The Museum

After the shop ceased trading in 1987 and was sold, the Isis Shire leased the building and purchased the contents. They catalogued items and carried out some conservation work, and in 1989 Gaydon's Pharmacy opened as a pharmaceutical museum.²



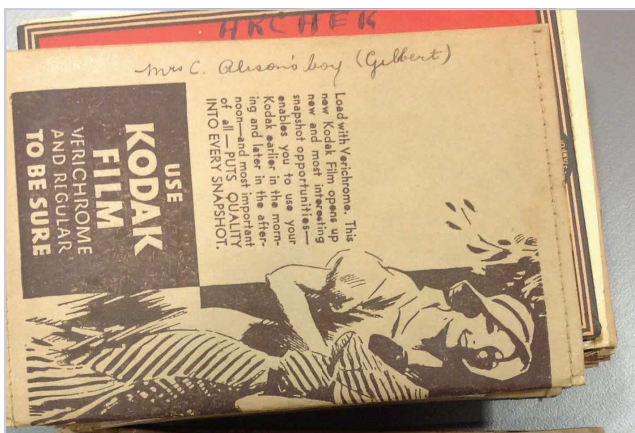
*Stanley Noel Gaydon
Childers Pharmaceutical
Museum Coll.*

The Glass Slides and Negatives

Many of the several hundred negatives and slides housed in the Pharmaceutical Museum have deteriorated over the years, and cannot be digitised.

What remains of the collection though, is an intriguing look at the families and social customs of Childers and outlying areas through the 1920s and 1930s.

From baby photos, weddings and funerals, to Church events and cane farms, Thomas Gaydon photographed the people and life of Childers. Many of the images are simply marked with a surname - no details or date.



It is hoped that by showing the images at the Childers Festival, and cataloguing them as part of the Picture Bundaberg digitisation project, we will be able to gather more information about the people shown in the portraits.

More importantly, we hope to give their descendants the opportunity to see these images which have been forgotten for so many years.

Sue Gammon
Picture Bundaberg Co-Ordinator
Bundaberg Regional Libraries

References:

1. Childers Pharmaceutical Museum & Art Gallery, http://welcometochilders.8k.com/childers_pharmaceutical_museum.htm
2. Childers Pharmaceutical Museum, <https://heritage-register.ehp.qld.gov.au/placeDetail.html?siteId=15403>



Cordalba Rifle Club



Marano Cremelo Wedding



Matron