

Guide to the Hall-Benedict Drug Company Logbooks and Ledgers

Ms Coll 66



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2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 66

CREATOR: Hall-Benedict Drug Company

TITLE: Hall-Benedict Drug Company logbooks and ledgers

DATES: Circa 1909-1980

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 75 Volumes

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 boxes

LANGUAGE: English


SUMMARY: The collection documents the business activities of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company, a pharmacy in New Haven, Connecticut, from 1909 to circa 1980. The collection contains prescription logbooks, financial ledgers in bound volumes and loose pages, customer account/address cards, and a newspaper article.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0066>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0066>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
 vol. volume

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Thomas F. and Helen Formichella.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Hall-Benedict Drug Company logbooks and ledgers are the physical property of the Historical Library, Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

Preferred Citation

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Logbooks and Ledgers. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

Company History

The Hall-Benedict Drug Company was a pharmacy in New Haven, Connecticut that became one of the oldest independent drug stores in the state. The business was formed in 1909 when Alonzo Benton Hall, who already owned a pharmacy in New Haven, took on Edward N. Benedict as a junior partner. The two men opened the Hall-Benedict Drug Company at 767 Orange Street, a newly constructed three-story mixed-use building located in a residential neighborhood, and the business remained in operation at that location until 1998. The commercial space on the first floor of the building housed a pharmacy counter, soda fountain, work area, and an office. The other floors of the building were used as residential space first occupied by Hall and his family in 1909. A successful business, the Hall-Benedict Drug Company dispensed over one million prescriptions, and was well integrated with the East Rock neighborhood in which it was situated. They offered a delivery service for prescriptions and provided a message service for local physicians. Their soda fountain was also a popular feature, attracting children from nearby schools and visitors to East Rock Park.

During its operation, the Hall-Benedict Drug Company was owned and managed by the Hall, Benedict, and Formichella families. After Alonzo Benton Hall's death in 1923, Edward N. Benedict purchased his share and became sole owner of the company and the Orange Street property. After Edward's death in 1949, ownership of the business and property passed to his wife, M. Katherine Benedict, who managed the company until her death in 1960. Ownership of the business and property then passed to the Benedict's children, Mary Benedict Killion, Frank D. Benedict, and Edward J. Benedict. In 1977 the three siblings sold the business and property to Vice President and Assistant Treasurer Thomas F. Formichella Jr., who had joined the company in 1953. Formichella ran the Hall-Benedict Drug Company until the business was closed in 1998.

After closing the Hall-Benedict Drug Company, the Formichella family retained ownership of the property at 767 Orange Street and leased the commercial portion of the property to two other pharmacy practices. In 1998 Thomas F. Formichella sold the name "Hall-Benedict Drug Company II" and leased the space to Jack Appelbaum, who ran the business until his death in 2010. Annette Appelbaum, Jack's partner, maintained the business until June 2011, at which point Hall-Benedict Drug Company II was closed. In 2011 Scott Wolak leased the commercial space of the property and opened East Rock Pharmacy, which remained in operation at that location until 2018. There is no longer a pharmacy located at 767 Orange Street.

Business Partners and Employees

Alonzo Benton Hall (1844-1922) was the founder and senior partner of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company. Hall was a native of New Haven and completed a degree at Phillips Exeter Academy in 1856. In 1870 he opened a pharmacy at the corner of Chapel and Howe Streets, which remained in operation until the opening of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company in 1909. Hall was married four times: to Mary Lambert, Amelia

Emeric, Julia Stevens, and Harriet Stevens and fathered two children: Mrs. M. G. Haviland and Alonzo Benton Hall, Jr. He was a member of the Knights Templar and a prominent member of the community. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven.

Edward N. Benedict (1879-1949) was the junior partner, then sole proprietor of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company. He worked as a druggist and clerk by 1900 and became a member of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association in 1911. Benedict married M. Katharine Benedict and fathered three children, Mary Benedict Killian, Frank D. Benedict, and Edward J. Benedict.

Thomas F. Formichella, Jr. (1922-2007) joined the Hall-Benedict Drug Company in 1953, eventually becoming Vice President and Assistant Treasurer, then sole proprietor of the company. Formichella was a native of New Haven and worked for the New Haven Railroad before joining the Hall-Benedict Drug Company. He married Helen Doolan Formichella and fathered three children, Karen F. Krowski, Diane F. Williams, and Elise F. LaRocco. He played baseball and softball on several teams in the New Haven City Wide League. Formichella is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Hamden, Connecticut.

Hall-Benedict Drug Company employees of note include Howard Embler, William F. Gilroy, Joseph F. Cantafio, and John H. Korn. Embler was a registered pharmacist, who started working at the Hall-Benedict Drug Company as a delivery boy in 1919. He was a member of first graduating class of the Connecticut College of Pharmacy 1928 and became a manager of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company in 1949. William F. Gilroy became a pharmacist in 1917, operated his own business from 1938-1948, and began working for the Hall-Benedict Drug Company in 1948. The pharmacy also employed Joseph H. Korn, who started working there in 1917, and pharmacist Joseph F. Cantafio. All four men remained employed by the Hall-Benedict Drug Company in 1960.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: Series I. General, circa 1930-1980. Series II. Prescription logbooks, 1909-1970. Series III. Financial ledgers, 1909-1967. Series are further arranged by date.














Collection Contents



















Series I: General, Circa 1930-1980



















b. 1, f. 1	"A Pioneer Drug Store Fills a Million Prescriptions." <i>New Haven Register Magazine</i> , December 18, 1960.	
b. 1, f. 2	Customer account and address cards	Circa 1930-1980




Series II: Prescription Logbooks, 1909 June 3–1970 March 14

The series contains logbooks used by pharmacists to record prescribed medications dispensed by the Hall-Benedict Drug Company. The system of using logbooks to record prescriptions was started when the business opened at 767 Orange Street in 1909. Prescription logbooks contain hand written entries organized by date and transaction number. Each entry consists of a transaction number and a prescribed medication. Entries in earlier volumes frequently contain recipes for compounding medications. Each entry also contains a name, which may be that of the prescribing physician. The inner covers and end papers of several volumes are annotated with employee names, recipes for compounding products sold by the pharmacy, and contact information for local vendors. Some volumes also contain pasted in newspaper articles on topics related to pharmaceuticals.

 vol. 1	Prescription 1-7384	1909 June 3–1911 April 30
 vol. 2	Prescription 14854-22237	1913 January 18–1914 May 18
 vol. 3	Prescription 22238-29443	1914 May 19–1915 July 27
 vol. 4	Prescription 29444-36392	1915 July 27–1916 June 12
 vol. 5	Prescription 36393-44560	1916 June 12–1917 June 22
 vol. 6	Prescription 44561-51933	1917 June 22–1918 September 14
 vol. 7	Prescription 51934-60409	1918 September 17–1919 July 20
 vol. 8	Prescription 60410-68932	1919 July 21–1920 June 28
 vol. 9	Prescription 68933-77001	1920 June 28–1921 September 21
 vol. 10	Prescription 77002-85119	1921 September 21–1922 September 26
 vol. 11	Prescription 85120-93532	1922 September 26–1923 September 14
 vol. 12	Prescription 93533-102406	1923 September 14–1924 November 1
 vol. 13	Prescription 102407-111341	1924 November 1–1925 November 14














 vol. 14	Prescription 111342-120396	1925 November 14–1926 December 11
 vol. 15	Prescription 120397-129377	1926 December 12–1928 January 9
 vol. 16	Prescription 143724-158911	1929 January 14–1930 February 7
 vol. 17	Prescription 158912-176246	1930 February 8–1931 March 21
 vol. 18	Prescription 176247-192429	1931 March 22–1932 May 24
 vol. 19	Prescription 192430-208466	1932 May 24–1933 October 6
 vol. 20	Prescription 208467-224404	1933 October 6–1935 January 10
 vol. 21	Prescription 259481-277532	1937 June 28–1938 November 16
 vol. 22	Prescription 314078-332335	1941 June 15–1942 August 15
 vol. 23	Prescription 356627-371073	1943 August 17–1944 July 28
 vol. 24	Prescription 371074-389469	1944 July 28–1945 July 24
 vol. 25	Prescription 389470-407296	1945 July 24–1946 May 18
 vol. 26	Prescription 407297-425333	1946 May 18–1947 March 17
 vol. 27	Prescription 425334-443317	1947 March 17–1948 January 1
 vol. 28	Prescription 443318-459755	1948 January 1–1948 September 20
 vol. 29	Prescription 459756-477665	1948 September 20–1949 June 11
 vol. 30	Prescription 477666-495371	1949 June 11–1950 March 21
 vol. 31	Prescription 495372-512799	1950 March 23–1950 December 13










 vol. 32	Prescription 512800-530100	1950 December 14–1951 August 28
 vol. 33	Prescription 530101-547697	1951 August 28–1952 May 5
 vol. 34	Prescription 549698-564391	1952 May 5–1953 January 24
 vol. 35	Prescription 564392-582274	1953 January 25–1953 October 24
 vol. 36	Prescription 582275-599123	1953 October 24–1954 July 2
 vol. 37	Prescription 599124-616326	1954 July 3–1955 April 2
 vol. 38	Prescription 616327-633928	1955 April 3–1956 January 8
 vol. 39	Prescription 633929-651861	1956 January 9–1956 October 4
 vol. 40	Prescription 651862-663908	1956 October 5–1957 June 22
 vol. 41	Prescription 669909-687064	1957 June 22–1958 March 11
 vol. 42	Prescription 687065-794384	1958 March 12–1958 December 13
 vol. 43	Prescription 794385-721313	1958 December 13–1959 August 26
 vol. 44	Prescription 721314-738595	1959 August 27–1960 May 13
 vol. 45	Prescription 738596-756128	1960 May 13–1961 March 8
 vol. 46	Prescription 756129-773403	1961 March 9–1961 December 22
 vol. 47	Prescription 773404-791700	1961 December 23–1962 November 7
 vol. 48	Prescription 847463-866470	1965 July 8–1966 May 29
 vol. 49	Prescription 866171-883126	1966 April 30–1967 February 15


 vol. 50	Prescription 883127-899780	1967 February 16–1967 December 11
 vol. 51	Prescription 916314-934511	1968 October 3– 1969 September 10
 vol. 52	Prescription 934512-944648	1969 September 10–1970 March 14

Series III: Financial Ledgers, 1909 May 7–1967 December 31

The series contains bound ledger books and loose pages that were used with a refillable ledger cover containing hand written entries recording income and expenses of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company from 1909 to 1967. Ledgers in the series include daily entry income and expense with monthly totals; expense details; summaries and adjustments; balance sheets; profit and loss; and a payroll journal. The format of daily entry ledgers from 1909-1916 varies; they may contain entries for bills payable, bills paid, sales, cash balance, cash paid out, and merchandise. In 1917 the company began using larger ledgers for the daily income and expenses ledgers and their bookkeeping became more complex. In these ledgers a column on the far-left page lists cash sales, cash received on account, sales charged, and cash paid out. Columns across the top of the pages, from left to right, are labeled Cash, dr (draft) and cr (credit); Bank dr and cr; Accounts Rec(eivable) dr and cr; Mdse (merchandise) dr; Sales cr; Payroll dr; Fuel and Light dr; Insurance dr; Tax dr; Freight and Expense dr; Fountain Supplies dr; Rent dr; Repair dr; and Misc(ellaneous) Expense dr. Each column contains daily entries and a running total at the bottom of the page. These ledgers also contain monthly and quarterly totals. Other than switching from bound ledger volumes to a refillable ledger cover with loose pages, the Hall-Benedict Drug Company's daily bookkeeping practices show very little variation from 1917 to 1967.

 vol. 53	Daily entries: expenses, sales, cash balance, expense details	1909 May 7–1911 February 28
 vol. 54	Daily entries: merchandise, expenses, sales	1910 January 1–1912 August 24
 vol. 55	Daily entries: expenses, sales, cash balance	1911 March 1–1913 March 31
 vol. 56	Daily entries: merchandise, expenses, sales	1912 August 26–1915 March 31
 vol. 57	Daily entries: expenses, sales, cash balance	1913 April 1–1916 August 31
 vol. 58	Daily entries: merchandise, expenses, sales	1915 April 1–1917 February 18
 vol. 59	Daily entries: expenses, sales, cash balance	1916 September 1–1918 May 31
 vol. 60	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1917 January 1–1918 January 31
 vol. 61	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1918 February 1–1919 March 31
 vol. 62	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1919 April 1–1921 July 31
 vol. 63	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1921 August 1–1923 June 30
 vol. 64	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1923 July 1–1924 December 31
 vol. 65	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1925 May 1–1927 April 30

 vol. 66	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1927 May 1–1929 September 30
 vol. 67	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1929 October 1–1932 February 29
 vol. 68	Daily entries: expense details, monthly soda totals	1930 September 1–1937 August 31
 vol. 69	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1932 March 1–1934 August 31
 vol. 70	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1934 September 1–1937 April 14
 vol. 71	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1937 April 14–1939 September 25
 vol. 72	Daily entries: expense details, monthly soda totals	1937 September 1–1944 December 31
 vol. 73	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1939 September 26–1942 January 31
 vol. 74	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1942 February 1–1944 January 3
b. 2, f. 1	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1944 January 1–1944 December 31
b. 2, f. 2	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1945 January 1–1945 December 31
b. 2, f. 3	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1946 January 1–1946 December 31
b. 2, f. 4	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1947 January 1–1947 December 31
b. 2, f. 5	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1948 January 1–1948 December 31
b. 3, f. 1	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1949 January 1–1949 December 31
b. 3, f. 2	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1950 January 1–1950 December 31

b. 3, f. 3	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1951 January 1– 1951 December 31
b. 4,  vol. 75	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1952 January 1– 1954 December 24
b. 3, f. 4	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1955 January 1– 1955 December 27
b. 3, f. 5	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1956 January 1– 1956 December 31
b. 3, f. 6	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1957 January 1– 1957 December 31
b. 5, f. 1	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1958 January 1– 1958 December 31
b. 5, f. 2	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1959 January 1– 1960 January 20
b. 5, f. 3	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1960 January 21– 1961 January 18
b. 5, f. 4	Daily entries: sales and tax detail, monthly totals	1960 July–1966 December
b. 5, f. 5	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1961 January 18– 1962 January 10
b. 5, f. 6	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1962 January 10– 1963 January 19
b. 6, f. 1	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1963 January 19– 1963 December 31
b. 6, f. 2	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1964 January 6– 1964 December 31
b. 6, f. 3	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1965 January 10– 1965 December 31
b. 6, f. 4	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1966 January 10– 1967 January 10
b. 6, f. 5	Daily entries: income and expenses with monthly totals	1967 January 10– 1967 December 31

b. 4, f. 1	Payroll journal	1958 October 2– 1969 December 24
b. 1, f. 3	Adjustments	1944–1950
b. 1, f. 4	Balance sheets, expenses, profit and loss	1944–1950
b. 1, f. 5	Adjustments, summaries, profit and loss, expenses	1950
b. 1, f. 6	Balance sheets, expenses, profit and loss	1951–1954
b. 1, f. 7	Summaries and adjustments	1951
b. 1, f. 8	Summaries and adjustments	1952
b. 1, f. 9	Summaries	1953
b. 1, f. 10	Summaries	1954

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Drugs -- Prescribing
Drugstores
Drugstores -- Connecticut -- New Haven
Drugstores -- United States
Medicine -- Formulae, receipts, prescriptions
Pharmacy
Pharmacy -- Practice

Names

Benedict, Edward N.
Formichella, Thomas F., Jr.
Hall, Alonzo Benton