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Llewellyn Hall Gardner

(1862-1904)

William (“Will”) Gardner was born on 20 June 1825, in Yates County, NY. His wife, Helen Maria Hall, was much younger; she was born in 1833 and survived until 1933. The two had three children:

Llewellyn Hall Gardner (1862-1904)

Elizabeth E Voorheis (1869-1940)

Jessie Susan Hutchinson (1870-1967)

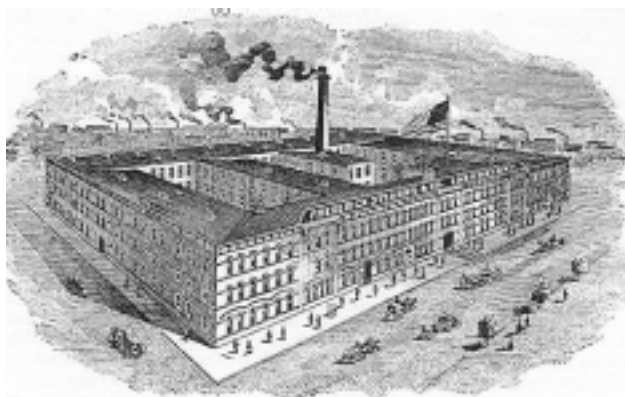
Where the couple picked up the Welsh name “Llewellyn” for their firstborn, the available record does not suggest. At all events, it seems to have served him ill, since he died in 1904 at 42 years of age, predeceasing both his parents.

The family was living in Lansing, Michigan at the time of Llewellyn’s birth. They later moved to Lowell, east of Grand Rapids. It is as a resident of Lowell that Llewellyn turns up as a first year student at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy, in academic 1882-1883.



The following year, his organizational ability first appears. In the room at 73 South State Street which he shared with fellow pharmacy student Adolph Gustave Hoffmann, there met on Friday 2 November nine other students plus Dean Albert Prescott, pursuant to the organization of a scientific society, this one to succeed where previous efforts had failed. At later meetings a constitution was drafted and the name Phi Chi Society adopted (later amended to Phi Delta Chi). It went public on January 25, 1884. Courses of instruction were arranged with members of the faculty. Gardner and his classmates graduated in June 1884 (he and several others as pharmaceutical chemists), but Phi Delta Chi, with him as president, went rolling on. It was incorporated at the University in 1895, and came under the laws of Michigan on January 23, 1896. Days before, at the end of 1895, the fraternity gained its second or Beta chapter at the Northwestern University College of Pharmacy. A Gamma chapter appeared in spring 1899 at Columbia, and Delta soon after at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. At present there are 96 chapters, a seal with lions and torches and a Latin motto, a secret handshake, and I don’t know what all else.

Meanwhile, what of Llewellyn? He graduated at the end of academic 1884, as a pharmaceutical chemist. He began as prescription clerk and manufacturer with Pratt & King, 205 Main Street West, Jackson, Michigan. In 1885, he returned to Detroit as he head of manufacturing for Frederick Stearns & Co. This was a major operation, whose premises occupied a whole block of Detroit:



In 1886, he married Helen Elizabeth Tuttle, five years his junior, whom he had presumably met earlier at the University of Michigan. In 1887, the couple moved to Memphis, where Llewellyn worked as a manufacturing chemist for the wholesale druggist S Mansfield. Not long afterward, in 1888, he rejoined the Stearns firm in Detroit. In this situation of seeming stability, the couple had their only child, Helen Gertrude Gardner. She died two years later, in 1892.

Family legend had it that the child's death was due to her father, imagined as a sort of local pharmacist, having erred in mixing a medicine for her, and committing suicide out of remorse. He did indeed die, but not exactly that way.

In 1899, the Philadelphia-based journal *Medical World* began reprinting analyses of common nostrums and curatives, obtaining some of these analyses from other publications, such as the *Western Druggist*. This was so pharmacists might know how to treat patient reactions to them; *Medical World* perhaps also had in mind the possibility of pharmacists compounding their own equivalents. At any event, two such recipes, taken from the "New Item," were included in one issue of the *Medical World* as the work of L H Gardner at "our laboratory," the location of that laboratory not being specified.

Llewellyn had contracted tuberculosis in 1894. Due to his ill health, the couple moved to Los Angeles. He is mentioned as "Professor L H Gardner of Pasadena" in an 1898 book about notable citizens of Detroit. He appears in the 1900 Los Angeles census. He died at Los Angeles on 15 May 1904, aged 42. He was cremated, and his ashes were sent to Detroit, to be interred in the Garner family plot at Woodmere Cemetery.

His still young widow, Helen Elizabeth née Tuttle, was now free to remarry. Before going on, we may glance back at her life up to then.