

WILLIAM MARTIN SEARBY

Born at Croft, Lincolnshire, England, January 21, 1835

Died in San Francisco, October 7, 1909



WILLIAM MARTIN SEABY
Fifty-fifth President of the
American Pharmaceutical Association

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William Martin Searby

William Martin Searby, fifty-fifth President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was born at Croft, Lincolnshire, England, January 21, 1835, where he also received his early education.

When fifteen years of age he passed his apprenticeship examination with the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. In 1855 he entered the laboratory of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain at the Square, London, where he was granted special advantages by Mr. Braithwaite, Professor Redwood's assistant, in charge of the laboratory.

He passed the major examinations in 1856 at Apothecaries' Hall, London, and thereafter engaged in the drug business with his brother, Wright Searby, at Norwich. Four years later he came to Victoria, B. C., where he opened a pharmacy and continued in business here until 1865, when he located in San Francisco.

The fire, following the earthquake of 1906, destroyed the several stores Professor Searby was interested in, his home and with it his library and other valuable personal belongings. The climax of his trials came in the loss of his life companion, whose death was hastened by their heartrending experiences.

It was largely through Professor Searby's efforts that the California Pharmaceutical Society and California College of Pharmacy were organized; to these he always remained loyal and in them was ever a sincere and earnest worker. The California Pharmaceutical Society bestowed many honors upon him and several times chose him for presiding officer. He was dean of the California College of Pharmacy and held the chair of Materia Medica up to the time of his demise.

Professor Searby's activities in the American Pharmaceutical Association date from 1882 and terminated with his death October 7, 1909. He served with distinction in various capacities and invariably discharged the duties of office conscientiously and efficiently. In 1907 he was elected president of the Association and presided over the deliberations of that body at the meeting in Hot Springs.

He was kind and courteous, very considerate of others, but if he differed in opinion with friends, he unhesitatingly expressed his views and unflinchingly stood for whatever he thought just and right. "The beauty and purity of his domestic life was a setting for his character: His graceful method of speaking, with his clearness in teaching, made him a leader."