

## Business records in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL016

### The Wolfson Reading Room

#### Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library  
University of Aberdeen  
Bedford Road  
Aberdeen  
AB24 3AA

### Introduction

Many businesses have deposited their papers with the University and as a result, it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material relating to the north-east of Scotland.

The University holds records of numerous businesses from all the region's traditional industries (fishing, granite cutting etc.) and also from newer industries such as oil and gas production.

Outwith the collections deposited by businesses there is a wealth of material relevant for the research of business history, especially amongst the papers of local estates and families. These sources are especially important for evidence of early industry managed as part of larger landed estates.

### Banking and finance

Aberdeen Stock Exchange: 1845 – 1952. Includes member company records such as articles of association and annual reports. Those included are: Scottish Steam Herring Fishing Co. and Tivoli (Aberdeen) Ltd. (MS 2756).

Aberdeen Trust Ltd. (formerly North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage Co. Ltd.): 1875 – 1984 (MS 3211).

Old Aberdeen Savings Bank: 1816 – 1860 (MS 638).

Scottish banking papers: 1806 – 1835 (MS 2565).

### Broadcasting

British Broadcasting Corporation: Aberdeen programme material, particularly relating to Scottish country dance and folk music: 1930s – 1990s (MS 3628).

### Building and construction

City of Aberdeen Land Association Ltd., minutes: 1874 – 1875 (MS 2626).

William Kennedy, joiner, Kinnernie, Aberdeenshire, daybook: 1831 – 1867 (MS 2266).

Alexander George Reid, Builder and Contractor, Kemnay: 1845 – 1937 (MS 3544).

### Engineering

Aberdeen Trawlowners and Traders Engineering Company Ltd.: 1900 – 1971 (MS 3248).

Barry, Henry and Cook Ltd., engineers: 19<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 3348 and MS 3268).

H. & J. Bryce, plumbers and brassfounders: papers: 1903 – 1959 (MS 2936).

Peterhead Engineering Company:  
1970s-1990s. (MS 3799).

Alexander Cannon, administrator with Taylor Woodrow Group: papers relating to Africa: 1950s (MS 3417).

### Farming

For a list of farmers see separate factsheet.

### Fishing

Aberdeen Trawlers records: 1891 – 1913 (MS 2791).

### Food and agriculture

Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Board:  
1932 – 1992 (MS 3636).

Bennachies Coffee Estate, South India:  
1882 - 1886 (MS 2769/I/87).

Bon-Accord Distillery Co Ltd, whisky distillers:  
1880 – 1884 (MS 2769/I/62).

George Bruce and Co., seed-merchants, Aberdeen:  
c. 1870 – c. 1973 (MS 2816).

Flett and Sutherland, fish salesmen of Findochty, Banffshire: 1899 – 1921 (MS 3229).

George Jamieson & Son Ltd, builders and timber merchants: 1913 – 1919 (MS 2769/II/73).

Kayan Coconut Company, Malay States, and related papers: c. 1700 – 1900 (MS 2769/II/131).

Robert Lawson & Sons (Dyce) Ltd, bacon curers, Parkhill Farm, Dyce: 1955 – 1957 (MS 3732).

Philorth Steam Cultivation & Traction Co Ltd:  
1872 – 1888 (MS 3004/433, MS 3004/V30,  
MS3004/V74 & MS 3004/V78).

Rajawella Estate and Raja Coffee company  
c.1890s (MS 2911).

Riddoch of Rothiemay Ltd., timber merchants:  
1869 – 1974 (MS 3261).

Aberdeen connections in Ceylon (coffee and tea plantations) papers: 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 3813).

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## Manufacturing

Gray, Watt & Company: ropemakers:  
1813 – 1819 (MS 1045).

## Merchants

William Anderson, grocer and merchant, Clochan,  
Aberdeenshire: 1854 – 1882 (MS 3204).

Robertson Burnet, draper, Aberdeen: letter book:  
1752 – 1762 (MS 3068).

Robert Clark, painter and decorator: account book:  
1868 – 1912 (MS 2378).

William Cruickshank, blacksmith in the  
Rothienorman area, Aberdeenshire, register of  
work: c.1903 – 1914 (MS 3868).

Adam Mackie, farmer, merchant and innkeeper,  
Fyvie, Aberdeenshire: 1818 – 1850 (MS 3347).

Thomas Mercer, merchant, Aberdeen: copy  
letterbook and ledger: 1718 – 1745 (MS 2947).

Thomas Milne, nurseryman, Aberdeen, ledger:  
1839 – 1863 (MS 3395).

Captain William Penny, ship master: papers:  
1842 – 1854 (MS 2295).

John Rickart of Auchnacant, merchant,  
Aberdeenshire (The Rickart manuscript):  
1690 – 1724 (MS 2305).

## Mining

Craiglenlow Quarries Limited, Dunecht:  
1945 – 1986 (MS 3843).

Rubislaw Granite Company Ltd. (see papers of  
Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors).

Rubislaw Quarry papers, 1873-1888 (see papers  
below of F.A. MacDonald and Partners, engineers  
and surveyors (incorporating Walker & Duncan).

## Oil & gas industry

TOTAL E&P UK: Frigg Transportation System and  
St Fergus papers: 1972 – current (MS 3801).

Canadian Natural Resources: Murchison papers:  
1963 – 2007 (MS 4022).

For more resources see separate factsheet.

## Photography

George Washington Wilson and Co.: 1850 – 1905  
(MS 3792).

## Paper manufacturing

Culter Mills Paper Co. Ltd: 1865 – 1965 (MS 3076).

C. Davidson and Sons Ltd.: Paper Manufacturers,  
Aberdeen: 1852 – 1977 (MS 3232).

Alexander Pirie & Sons, paper-manufacturers:  
18<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 2911).

## Printing and publishing

Aberdeen Journals Ltd.: 1876 – 1978 (MS 2770).

Aberdeen University Press: 1869 – 1996 (MS 3233).

D. Wyllie & Son, publishers and booksellers,  
Aberdeen: 1848 – 1938 (MS 3205).

James Fenton, printer: c.1830 – 1877 (MS 3393).

## Shipping

Aberdeen Harbour Board photographic collection:  
1880s - 1930s (MS 3595).

Aberdeen Steam Navigation Co.: 1835 - 1925  
(MS 2479).

P&O Scottish Ferries Ltd incorporating predecessor  
businesses: 1810 – 2002 (MS 3697).

## Solicitors/advocates & accountants

Adam, Cochran and Company, advocates,  
Aberdeen: papers. This collection contains records  
from families, estates, businesses, trusts and other  
organisations which the firm represented: including  
James Strachan, bookseller: 1630 – 1919 (MS 3066).

Davidson and Garden, advocates, Aberdeen: 15<sup>th</sup>  
century – 20<sup>th</sup> century. This extensive collection  
contains records of some 200 families, estates,  
businesses, trusts and other organisations which  
the firm represented (MS 2769 and MS 3744).

Robert Dawson, accountant: legal papers and  
correspondence: 1866 – 1921 (MS 3515).

T. Falconer, solicitor, Inverness, affairs of the  
MacKintosh family, Inverness: 1833 – 1850  
(MS 843 – 847).

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors: 18<sup>th</sup> century –  
20<sup>th</sup> century. This collection contains records  
from families, estates, businesses, trusts and  
other organisations which the firm represented:  
such as Rubislaw Granite Company Ltd.  
(MS 3257, MS 3277, MS 3394, MS 3662, MS 3665  
and MS 3713).

Edward Mortimer, solicitor, Banff: legal and  
business papers: c.1786 – 1860 (MS 3249).

Aberdeen business ledger of an unidentified  
Aberdeen legal firm: 1808 – 1816 (MS 2182).

## Surveyors

F.A. MacDonald and Partners, engineers and  
surveyors, Aberdeen (incorporating Walker &  
Duncan, Aberdeen): 18<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Includes papers from various businesses such as  
relating to Rubislaw Quarry (papers MS 2626  
and maps and plans MS 3860).

## Transport (road and rail)

Aberdeenshire Light Railways Company records:  
1889 – 1898 (MS 4020).

Knox and Machray's Royal Mail Coach Office:  
1831 – 1837 (MS 2639).

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The O'Dell collection of both manuscript and printed material ranks as one of the major railway collections in Britain and also includes all aspects of transport, with an emphasis on the north and north-east of Scotland, particularly the history of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company.

Grampian Regional Transport Ltd. (formerly Grampian Regional Transport, Aberdeen Corporation Tramways/Transport and Aberdeen District Tramways Company): c.1872 – 1993 (MS 3508).

Great North of Scotland Railway: see O'Dell collection above.

### **Other relevant collections**

Amongst the papers of local estates and families there are many sources relating to local industry such as fishing, farming and distilling. For example, the papers of the Earls of Fife (Duff House) include items relating to the distillery industry (MS 3175).

'Lives in the Oil Industry' Oral History Archive & associated records was a major collection of sound recordings which was completed between 2001 and 2006 and includes interviews with nearly 200 people, totalling nearly 800 hours of recordings (MS 3769).

### **Printed collections**

The Local Collection, accessible via the Reading Room, contains relevant printed material such as Postal and Trade Directories and publications by the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce.

### **Access**

Materials are available, upon request, for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items.

### **Further reading**

For further reading please also see the studies of a number of manuscripts, printed books and collections in the journals *Aberdeen University Library Bulletin*, *Aberdeen University Review* and *Northern Scotland*.