

DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE AND DERBY DIOCESAN RECORD OFFICE 1971

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ACCESIONS to the Derbyshire Record Office in 1971 have been dominated by several important deposits of business records. Not only have coal mining records been further increased, but there have also been very substantial additions to the material on the iron and steel industry and allied trades, the Office's first records of a Derbyshire printing firm and also the records of two representatives of the relatively small Derbyshire chemical industry.

The Office's holdings of material relating to the coal and iron industry in N.E. Derbyshire have been greatly enhanced by the deposit of the section of the Sitwell family papers relating to the minerals on the estate. The development of the mineral wealth of the estate dates back to the seventeenth century when George Sitwell and Katherine Sitwell his wife were leading figures in the iron trade of N.E. Derbyshire and adjoining parts of W. Nottinghamshire. The Sitwells had an interest in the forges at Carburton and Clipstone in Sherwood as well as the furnaces, forges and nail-making works on the Staveley, Eckington and Renishaw estates. The papers therefore contain mid seventeenth-century accounts for smelting, the production of bar-iron and nail making. There are also several examples of contracts for the supply of bar-iron to the West Midlands iron manufacturing industries demonstrating the links between the two areas at this date. There are in addition many papers relating to the large-scale purchases of timber, particularly in Sherwood, which were necessary to supply charcoal for both furnaces and forges. Large-scale coal mining on the estate commenced in the mid eighteenth century and detailed accounts for two of the early Eckington collieries, Harberlands and Bramley Moor, have survived from the 1780s to the early years of the nineteenth century. The later coal mining papers consist largely of leases and tenancy agreement, surface and underground plans and case papers relating to collieries in South Yorkshire (Whiston, Gawber Hall, Rotherham, Brampton le Moors) as well as Derbyshire (Eckington, Renishaw, Brampton).

The iron and steel industry in more recent years is represented by deposits from Sheepbridge Rolling Mills Ltd., Chesterfield, and a small ironworks at Belper, the Smedley Brothers' Eagle Foundry. The Sheep-

bridge material consists largely of engineering drawings and plans, including some general plans of the works, from the 1890s onwards, and a fine series of drawings of the Siemens' electric furnace introduced at the works around the turn of the century. The Smedley Brothers at Eagle Foundry specialised in the production of grinding machinery and the surviving records include a good series of trade catalogues for their mortar mills as well as another collection of engineering drawings.

Two Pye Bridge chemical companies which developed from a company established there in the early 1850s, have provided the Office's first material relating to the Derbyshire chemicals industry. The Midland Acid Co., founded in 1913, specialised in the production of sulphuric acid, an industry that lost much of its importance with the closure of coke ovens at local collieries. The records include fine runs of wage and account books and an item of particular interest is a ledger dealing solely with the equipping of the plant in 1913/4. Kempson and Co., on an immediately adjacent site, were tar distillers and their records contain comprehensive series of company minutes and sales and purchases ledgers.

The recently closed firm of S. Rowbottom and Son of Alfreton has provided the Office's first deposit of printing records. Most of the surviving account books and ledgers date only from the 1950s and are not open to inspection. The deposit also includes several files of bills and correspondence from the 1870s however, containing much material of local interest and many examples of Rowbottoms' work in the form of souvenir booklets, programmes and sale catalogues.

Among the family papers, an important addition has been a further deposit of Okeover papers which includes correspondence and drawings relating to the rebuilding of Okeover Hall by Joseph Sanderson and Simon File between 1745 and 1765 as well as further additions to Leeke Okeover's bills and receipts. Another important acquisition are the Agard and Bate papers relating to the Foston and Scropton estates of those families in the seventeenth century purchased at a Sotheby sale in June. The collection contains good series of seventeenth-century surveys, rentals and household and estate accounts for a part of the county for which such material was not previously available. The papers also contain material relating to the administration of woodland and parks within the Honour of Tutbury and an inventory of the contents of Foston Hall the Bate family seat made in 1689.

The Leake Secular Cartulary of c. 1570, also purchased at a Sotheby sale, is a further important addition to the Office's holdings of family papers. The Cartulary itself consists of transcripts of deeds relating to Leake property in Derbyshire centred on Sutton-cum-Duckmanton, providing information on a group of parishes for which estate material was previously absent. The volume also contains a rental of the whole of Francis Leake's estate in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire in 1574. The amount of detail given is variable but is generally good for the N.E. Derbyshire section of the estate. A freeholders

list for the whole of Derbyshire in the 1580s is another important item in the volume and seventeenth-century additions include detailed terriers and rentals for the Leakes' Newark estate. This together with the Agard and Bate papers were bought with the help of the Friends of the National Libraries.

Among the ecclesiastical parish records have been some unusually early examples of the accounts of the various parish officers. The Hartshorne parish deposit includes constables' accounts dating back to 1602 for instance. The same deposit also contains a 1616 seating plan of the church. An unusual item in the Brampton parish deposit is a seventeenth-century taxation list for the parish in which the individual farms and industrial establishments are scheduled and valued. Among the more modern papers, the correspondence in the Riddings parish deposit relating to the successive divisions of the old Alfreton parish with the need for greater church provision in the emerging industrial villages of Ironville, Riddings and Somercotes in the 1840s and 1850s is of considerable interest.

LIST OF ACCESSIONS 1971

Family and Estate: Okeover (addnl.): deeds and estate papers 18-19c., including accounts, correspondence and plans relating to the rebuilding of Okeover Hall, 1745-1765. Fitzherbert (addnl.): estate papers relating to the Gally Knight estate in Warsop and Kirton (Notts.) 18-19c.

Agard and Bate: Foston and Scropton estate papers 17c.

Leake: the Leake Secular Cartulary c. 1570, consisting of transcripts of deeds relating to Leake property in North Wingfield, Sutton-cum-Duckmanton and elsewhere in Derbys., Notts., Lincs., and Yorks. 13-16c., with 16-17c. additions including a rental of Sir Francis Leake's estates in 1574, and list of Derbyshire freeholders 1580s.

Sitwell: papers relating to the coal and iron industry on the Sitwell Estate and elsewhere in N.E. Derbys. and N. Notts. 17-20c.; bundles of miscellaneous bills, receipts and vouchers c. 1820-1856; sale catalogues 19c.

Business: Rowbottom and Sons, printers, Alfreton: files of bills and correspondence 1870-1888; sales ledger 1919-1921; general ledgers 1932-1970; wages books 1918-1941; estimate books 1959-1969; receipt books 1937-1951; miscellaneous examples of their work 20c.

Smedley Bros., Eagle Foundry, Belper, manufacturers of grinding machinery: articles of association, trade catalogues, miscellaneous stores and sales books, loose accounts, plans and drawings c. 1890-1970.

Midland Acid Co., Pye Bridge, manufacturers of sulphuric acid: articles of association 1913 and 1954; share registers and certificates 1914-1968; company minutes 1913-1942; accounts 1914-1970; wages books 1915-1968; agreements relating to site and equipment 1914-1958.

Kempson and Co., Pye Bridge, tar distillers: articles of association 1897; register of shareholders 1897-1957; company minutes 1897-1938; sales and purchases ledgers 1897-1969.

Sheepbridge Rolling Mills Ltd., Chesterfield (formerly Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co.): c. 250 engineering drawings and site plans 1899-1966; order book 1966-1969; copy trade catalogue c. 1930 and copy section and roll book 1940-1953; printed miscellanea 1905-1967.

Stancliffe Estates Ltd., Darley Dale: miscellaneous papers relating to quarrying 19-20c. Samuel Dean, valuer and farmer of Kirk Ireton: book of draft tenant right valuations 1904-5.

Copy Shipley farm accounts 1905: copy Shipley butcher's accounts 1913-1930.

Brindley's of Brassington, grocers: five customers' account books 1888-1939.

See also Sitwell family papers for the iron industry in N.E. Derbys. and N. Notts. 17c.

Mining: National Coal Board, pre-vesting date records: Bolsover Colliery Co.: signing-on books, employment registers, accident and compensation books, Mansfield Colliery 1912-1957: Blackwell Colliery Co.; signing-on books, accident books, colliery manager's reports, Sutton (-in-Ashfield) Colliery (Notts.) 1912-1938: Stanton Ironworks Co. (Collieries division); Production Committee minutes Bilsthorpe Colliery (Notts.) 1946-1948: 177 photographs of various collieries 20c.: South Derbyshire Colliery Owners Association minutes 1912-1946: Moira Colliery Co.; Church Gresley Colliery signing-on book 1921-1953; 8 mining plans of the Swadlincote area 1872-c. 1920: Shirebrook Colliery Co.; register of shareholders 1920-1946, certificate of incorporation 1895.

Romeley estate, Clowne; coal mining plan 1878-1882: copy of coal lease by A. M. Mundy to Manners Colliery Co. of coal at Shipley, 1896: 4 maps of the Notts. and Derbys. coalfield c. 1930.

Dale Mines, Ecton (ph. Warslow), Staffs.: lead mining plans, 1826-1873.

J. A. Stevenson of Wensley, mining agent: journal and memorandum book 1878-1885.

See also Sitwell family papers for coal mining in Eckington and elsewhere in N.E. Derbys. and S. Yorks., 18-20c.

Ecclesiastical:

Parish: (all inc. registers except Repton) Barlow 1573-1961; Bradbourne 1648-1956; Brampton 1658-1965; Brassington 1716-1954; Chesterfield Holy Trinity 1838-1961; Derby St. Alkmund's 1538-1967; Derby St. Andrew's 1864-1969; Hartshorne 1594-1968; Hazelwood 1845-1968; Osmaston (by Derby) 1574-1969; Repton (addnl.) 1703-20c.; Riddings 1834-1969; Scropton 1680-1964.

Other Papers: Belper Methodist Circuit (addnl.): minutes of trustees' meetings, accounts, roll books, correspondence files 20c.

Microfilms of non-conformist registers in the Buxton area 19c.

Copy accounts for building the catholic church at Hassop 1816-1817.

Archdeacon Crosse's sermon notes, c. 1890-1930.

Copy of sepulchral inscriptions at Newton Solney 1971.

Designs and plans for alterations to Derbyshire churches by Hodgson Fowler of Durham 1899-1906.

Solicitors and estate agents: Moody and Woolley, Derby (addnl.): deeds and estate papers, Holden estate, Aston-on-Trent 17-19c.

Wells and Hind, Nottingham: Sandiacre deeds 1777-1892.

Taylor, Simpson and Mosley, Derby: sundry O.S. 25-inch plans.

Wilkinson and Fisher, Derby: miscellaneous clients' papers 19-20c.

Education: Alderwasley C. of E. School, log-books 1886-1970; Chisworth Methodist School, log-books 1871-1971; Codnor C. of E. School, log-books and other papers 1862-1967; Beeley C. of E. School, log-books 1874-1953; Brampton School Board minutes 1877-1892; N.E. Derbyshire Evening Institute Committees, minute books 1935-1970; mathematics exercise book c. 1860; copy of Tissington School rules 1858; centenary history of Stanley Common School 1964.

Political: North Derbyshire poll book 1868; Matlock Labour Party first minute book 1924-1936; ephemera relating to the general election in Ashbourne 1970.

Manorial: Temple Normanton court book 1826-1905; Bradbourne, Hognaston, Stapenhill and Walton on Trent, court rolls 1479-1533.

Transport: Press cuttings relating to the opening of the Alfreton by-pass 1969: navigation permits and barge registers, Erewash, Nutbrook and Derby Canals 19c.: notes on works railways in Staveley 20c.: notes on Derbyshire canals and railways 20c.

Societies: Rules of the Chinley Female Friendly Society 1808: notes of the Bagthorpe District of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society (Ripley) 1916.

Maps and Plans: Castleton 1819; Earl of Shrewsbury's estates in Cotton, Upper Elkstone and Wetton (Staffs.) c. 1850; Woodthorpe 1844; Allestree c. 1810; Little Chester 1854; West Hallam 1823, 1838; Kirk Hallam 1843; Morley and Smalley 1785; Doveridge 1821, c. 1830; Kilburn 1735-1838; Stoneyford 1830; cycling map of the Ashbourne area 1910; plans of the County Gaol Derby 1832-1866.

Miscellaneous: Printed ephemera relating to Smedley's Hydro 20c.; scrapbook relating to the Turner family, South Derbyshire and Moira Colliery Co., 20c.: microfilm copy of the Heanor and Codnor enclosure award 1792: copy survey of Unstone 1840: copy survey of Duffield 1840: misc. deeds 13-20c.