|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Business records |
| September 2024 |
| QG HCOL016 |
|  |
|  |

**Collections Research Room**

**University Collections**

The University 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: 19th century – 20th 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 Connon, 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/I/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: 20th century (MS 3813).

# 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

Craigenlow 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:   
18th century – 20th century (MS 2911).

# Printing and publishing

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: 15th century – 20th 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: 18th century –   
20th 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): 18th century – 20th 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).

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 Research 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 Research 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*.