

MS 3147/3/499
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
GREGORY MINE
1779—1782; 1791-1793

INTRODUCTION

Letters and papers relating to Gregory and Yatestooop mines in Derbyshire and their engines, from 1779 to 1782 and from 1791 59 1793. Gregory mine was a lead mine. The proprietors included Joseph, later Sir Joseph Banks. The mine had an atmospheric engine, but the proprietors ordered a new Boulton & Watt engine in 1779. The recommendation to get a Boulton & Watt engine came from Mayson Wright of the Hull Water Works, who wrote to Logan Henderson on 16 Mar. 1779 saying he had recommended Boulton & Watt to a friend of his, Mr. Milnes, who was involved with a Derbyshire lead mine [3/384/72, General Incoming Correspondence 1775-1785]. The mine's engineer was Francis Thompson, who had erected several atmospheric engines, while another local engineer, Thomas Southern, father of John Southern, acted as an observer for Boulton & Watt. The engine appears to have been set going circa July 1781, and seems to have been a considerable success. The old atmospheric engine was altered in 1792.

Francis Thompson, and possibly some of the Gregory proprietors, were also involved in the nearby Yatestooop mine, which also had a atmospheric engine. Comparisons were made between the Gregory Boulton & Watt engine and the Yatestooop engine. In May 1780 it was suggested that the Yatestooop engine be altered to the Watt principal but this did not happen. According to Dickinson & Jenkins Thompson erected an atmospheric engine underground at Yatestooop, the proposal for which is mentioned in this bundle.

Further letters referring to Gregory and Yatestooop mines will be found in the General Incoming Correspondence 1775-1785 series [3/370—3/384] from: William Milnes and William Milnes Jr.; Francis Thompson; Anthony Tissington about Yatestooop; Humphrey Winchester about Yatestooop. There are also letters from Milnes in the General Incoming Correspondence 1785-1795 M [3/396]. See also Dickinson & Jenkins p312 for details of Francis Thompson's career as an engine builder, and for drawings of the Gregory engine see Portfolio 5/546.

The bundle is divided as follows:

- Nos. 1-42. Correspondence and Memoranda.
- Nos. 43-49. Undated Calculations and Indenture.

LIST

Nos. 1-42. Correspondence and Memoranda.

1. Letter. R. B. Hodgkinson (London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 3 May 1779.
Requests details of the cost, construction etc. of an engine.
2. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 29 May 1779.
Docketed as William Milnes.
Asks James Watt to send his proposals for the engine to William Milnes of Ashover.

3. Letter. Thomas Southern (Wensley) to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jun. 1779.
On the same sheet:
Transcript of letter. Thomas Southern (Wensley) to Banks Hoskinson (London). 30 Jun. 1779.
Sending James Watt a copy of his letter to Mr. Hoskinson [i.e. R. B. Hodgkinson] describing the advantages and the costs of Boulton & Watt's engine. Report on the Yatestooop engine. His son [John Southern] would like to visit James Watt and view engines.
- 4a. Letter. R. B. Hodgkinson (Overton) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 23 Aug. 1779.
Kept with (b) below.
The proprietors of Gregory Mine are sending a messenger to concerning the engine.
- b. Letter. R. B. Hodgkinson (Overton) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 24 Aug. 1779.
The proprietors intended to send their engineers to talk to Boulton & Watt but have been delayed by events.
5. Letter. R. B. Hodgkinson (Overton) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 29 Aug. 1779.
The proprietors wish to erect an engine and have sent their engineer bearing this letter. They hope that Boulton & Watt and their principal workman can meet them. James Watt has used the back of this letter for calculations and a sketched section of an adit.
6. Memorandum. Account of Gregory Mine, Derbyshire. By Francis Thompson. Sep. 1779.
Notes on the Gregory Engine left at Harper's Hill by Francis Thompson. James Watt has used this memorandum for calculations and notes.
- 7a. Memorandum. Sep. 1779.
Kept with (b) below.
Various calculations by James Watt including:
"Gregory Mine Old Engine Trial by Mr. [Logan] Henderson Sep. 4 1779."
"Calculation of what the new Engine would amount to allowing it to be 3 times as good".
"For the house & pump."
"By acct. delivd. by Francis Thompson."
"New Engine."
- b. Memorandum. "Experiment on Gregory Mine by Mr. Henderson." 4 Sep. 1779.
8. Draft agreement. "Articles proposed to the Adventurers in Gregory's Mine." 11 Sep. 1779.
In Matthew Boulton's hand.
Draft of the articles sent to R. B. Hodgkinson at Edwinstford.
9. Draft Agreement. "Proposals to the Adventurers in Gregory's Mine by Boulton & Watt." 11 Sep. 1779.
In James Watt's hand.
10. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 18 Sep. 1779.
Francis Thompson understands the drawings of the engine house. Wants further particulars "as by the inclosed papers". They are satisfied a 24 inch cylinder will be sufficient. The enclosure now wanting.
11. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Soho). 13 Dec. 1779.
Design and detail of the great beam.
Docketed "This letter not being directed to Mr. Watt Engineer was sent to Mr. Watt the Silversmith, who on opening it found it was not for him and he directly returned it."

12. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 23 Feb. 1780.
Progress on the work for the engine at Gregory Mine.
13. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 3 Jun. 1780.
Delivery of goods and drawings for the engine. Is putting the new pumps in at Yatestoop and must have a trial.
14. Letter. Joseph Banks (London) to James Watt (Soho). 28 Jul. 1780.
R. B. Hodgkinson is dissatisfied that James Watt has not visited Gregory Mine. Wishes to know when he can get a copying machine.
15. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 29 Jul. 1780.
They expected James Watt to have visited this month. The proprietors are impatient at Boulton & Watt not sending the materials.
16. Memorandum. "Proposal re the premium payable from Gregory Mine Brought by J. Watt from Ashover." Aug. 1780.
17. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 4 Sep. 1780.
Has received the printed list of materials. Is unhappy about the method of comparison with the Yatestoop engine. What James Watt suggests should happen to the engine if the mine fails is reasonable.
18. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 8 Sep. 1780.
Wants drawings of the balance bob. Also needs pasteboard. Understands the drawings he has received. Apologises for the odd temper of the proprietors. Did not know about their meeting. James Watt should hold them to the agreements.
19. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 25 Sep. 1780.
Accepting Boulton & Watt's proposal concerning the Gregory engine.
20. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 9 Oct. 1780.
Would like an explanation of the copper plates. Carriers have set off to collect the goods from Wales and Soho.
21. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 7 Oct. 1780.
About sending for the goods for Gregory mine.
22. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 21 Oct. 1780.
Has received the goods from Bersham. Potential problems of the gudgeon having been made too thick.
23. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 3 Nov. 1780.
About pasteboard and the steam pipe.
24. Letter. Thomas Beckett (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 3 Nov. 1780.
Details of where he has sent the piston rod for Gregory mine.
25. Letter. Joseph Banks (London) to James Watt (Soho). 9 Nov. 1780.
Problems with getting his post delivered. Agrees with James Watt's calculations of the price of the engine. James Watt has the confidence of all but one of the mine's partners. He is sending the agreement to his uncle, Mr. Hodgkinson, who is the managing partner.

26. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 14 Nov. 1780.
Progress on the boiler. Hopes James Watt will send Mr. Harrison next week. Hopes to get the beam up tomorrow.
27. Letter. Joseph Banks (London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 14 Nov. 1780.
He and Hodgkinson approve of the agreement. Has sent it to William Milnes for approval by the proprietors on the spot.
28. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 2 Dec. 1780.
Is satisfied with the draft of agreement.
29. Letter. Joseph Banks (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 16 Feb. 1781.
Has received the agreement. Acknowledges Boulton & Watt's "candour & liberality."
30. Letter. Francis Thompson (Ashover) to James Watt (Birmingham). 31 Mar. 1781.
Progress of the engine. Details of the mining operations.
31. Letter. William Milnes (Ashover) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Apr. 1781.
Has forwarded the agreement.
32. Letter. Jo. Gregory (Ashover) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 May 1781.
Sending Gregory Mine's payment of £273.
33. Letter. Thomas Southern (Wensley) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 10 Jul. 1781.
*The docket is on a separate wrapper.
Problems of Yatestooop mine. Proposals for an underground Newcomen engine at the mine.
Criticisms of the Gregory engine by Winchester, Thompson & others.*
34. Letter. Thomas Southern (Wensley) to Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 29 Oct. 1781.
*Observations on Yatestooop and Gregory mines. Appointment of a new mine agent.
Dissatisfaction with Mr. Winchester and the old agent.*
35. Letter. Thomas Southern (Wensley) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 10 Dec. 1781.
*The docket is on a separate wrapper.
Further disagreements among the proprietors concerning Yatestooop. The improvements the Gregory engine has brought are beginning to be applauded. His son John would be glad to work for Boulton & Watt.*
36. Letter. John Stratford (Gregory Mine) to John Buchanan (Soho). 24 Apr. 1782.
"Mr. Hoskinson's" [i.e. R. B. Hodgkinson's] stay in Derbyshire will be short so can Matthew Boulton write to him immediately? He likes the engine.
37. Letter. R. B. Hodgkinson (Overton) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 25 Apr. 1782.
Is pleased with the engine. Wishes the counters to be checked quarterly for drawing up the accounts.
38. Letter. R. B. Hodgkinson (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 10 May 1782.
Hopes one of them will examine the counters before the middle of Jun..
39. Memorandum & rough sketch. Memorandums concerning Gregory Mine. Aug. 1791.
40. Letter. William & John Milnes (Ashover) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 19 Apr. 1792.
Will consider what size the cylinder should be. The engine continues to work well.

41. Letter. William & John Milnes (Ashover) to Boulton & Watt. 24 Apr. 1792.
Have decided on a 45" cylinder. Arrangements for its delivery. Hope that James Law will be sent. Will James Watt please order the goods immediately as "the engine cannot work long in its present state".
42. Letter. John Stratford (Gregory Mine) to John Southern (Soho). 20 Mar. 1793.
Have not yet proceeded with Southern's scheme. The engine continues to work well. Plans for extending the pump and mineshaft. Stratford's near accident with the engine.

Nos. 43-49. Undated Calculations and Indenture.

43. Sketch plan of the engine house and calculations. Not dated.
44. Memorandum. "Calculations respecting an Engine intended to be erected at Gregory Mine in Derbyshire". Not dated.
In Matthew Boulton's hand.
45. Memorandum. "Calculations respecting an Engine of Boulton & Watt's construction intended to be erected at Gregory Mine." Not dated.
In Matthew Boulton's hand.
46. Memorandum. "Calculations respecting an Engine of Boulton & Watt's construction intended to be erected at Gregory Mine." Not dated.
Copy of the above item. In Zaccheus Walker's hand?
- 47a. Indenture. Between Boulton & Watt and Banks Hodgkinson and the "proprietors, adventurers and partners in Gregory Mine". Not dated.
Kept with (b) below.
Printed. Various amendments have been written on scraps of paper which have then been attached to the original agreement.
- b. Memorandum. Note of the addresses of Joseph Banks, William Milnes and Samuel Kirk.
48. Page of calculations by James Watt based on the payment from various engines. Not dated.
49. Page of calculations. Not dated.
Docketed "Gregory Mine".

MS 3147/3/500
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
SIR NIGEL GRESLEY
1789—1795; 1801

INTRODUCTION

Letters relating to a steam engine for Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley, Bart., of Drakelow Hall, from 1789 to 1795 and 1801. Sir Nigel bought the engine for his colliery at Apedale in Staffordshire. It was erected by Peter Ewart. The correspondence includes letters from Ewart and from Sir Nigel's foreman, Edward Eardley, but the majority are docketed as Sir Nigel Gresley.

The bundle originally contained correspondence from 1790 to 1801. The style of the wrapper suggests that the bundle was created in the 1800s, probably from letters removed from the General Incoming Correspondence series for 1785—1795 and 1788—1798. At some point, the letters from 1790 to 1793 docketed by John Southern were replaced in the 1788—1798 series. However the two halves have again been reunited in one bundle.

See also the General Incoming Correspondence 1785—1795 E (3/389) for further letters from Edward Eardley on the construction of the engine. For drawings of the engine see Portfolio 5/48.

LIST

1. Bundle wrapper.
Marked "Sir N. B. Gresley 1790—1801."
2. Memorandum & sketch of mine. Order engine for Sir N. B. Gresley. Dec. 1789.
3. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 5 Jan. 1790.
4. Letter. Nigel Bowyer Gresley (Drakelow) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 10 Jan. 1790.
5. Letter. Nigel Bowyer Gresley (Drakelow) to James Watt (Birmingham). 1 Feb. 1790.
6. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 22 Feb. 1790.
On the same sheet:
Sketch. Plan of Sir Nigel's premises at Apedale.
7. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 18 Mar. 1790.
8. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 19 May 1790.
9. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 22 Jul. 1790.
10. Letter. Nigel Bowyer Gresley (Drakelow) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 12 Aug. 1790.
11. Letter. Peter Ewart (Apedale) to John Southern [Soho]. 19 Sep. 1790.
12. Letter. Nigel Bowyer Gresley [Drakelow] to John Southern [?] [Soho]. 23 Sep. 1790.
13. Letter. Peter Ewart (Apedale) to John Southern (Soho). 27 Sep. 1790.
14. Letter. Peter Ewart (Apedale) to John Southern (Soho). 1 Nov. 1790.
15. Letter. Peter Ewart (Apedale) to John Southern [Soho]. 15 Nov. 1790.
16. Letter. Peter Ewart (Apedale) to John Southern (Soho). 26 Dec. 1790.
On the same sheet:
Letter. Peter Ewart (Newcastle-under-Lyme) to John Southern. 26 Dec. 1790 [?].
17. Letter. Peter Ewart (Apedale) to John Southern [Soho]. 2 Jan. 1791.
18. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to John Southern (Soho). 17 Feb. 1791.
19. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to James Pearson (Soho). 12 Jan. 1792.
Docketed "Answered 16 Jan. 1792."

20. Letter. John B. Scott (Lichfield) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 20 Apr. 1792.
Marked "Replied to 21 Apr. J. S."
21. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to John Southern (Soho). 26 Jul. 1793.
Docketed "Answered 29 Jul."
22. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to John Southern (Soho). 26 May 1794.
23. Letter. Nigel Bowyer Gresley (Drakelow) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Jul. 1794.
Docketed "Answered 25 Jul. 1794."
24. Transcripts. Transcripts of 3 letters on the same sheet, as follows:
John Southern for Boulton & Watt (Soho) to Edward Eardley. 8 Aug. 1793.
Boulton & Watt (Soho) to Edward Eardley. 23 Jun. 1794.
James Watt Jr. for Boulton & Watt (Soho) to Nigel Bowyer Gresley. 25 Jul. 1794.
Docketed "Letters to Sir Nigel Gresley."
25. Letter. Nigel Bowyer Gresley (Drakelow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 29 Jul. 1794.
26. Letter. Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 3 Aug. 1794.
27. Memorandum. James Law's report upon Sir N. Gresley's engine as taken down by Mr. Boulton. 179— [circa Aug. 1794.] 2 sheets.
The docket is on a separate sheet.
Details of the engine, performance, settling of account in 1792 etc.
28. Memorandum. Sir Nigel Gresley's Engine as per James Law. Not dated [circa Aug. 1794].
- 29a. Account. Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley debtor to Boulton & Watt. 19 Mar. 1793—1 Jul. 1795.
In James Pearson's hand. Kept with (b) below.
Docketed "Statement of Sir N. B. Gresley's account to July 1795."
- b. Memorandum. Remarks upon Sir Nigel Gresley's account.
30. Transcripts. Transcripts of 2 letters on the same sheet, as follows:
Edward Eardley (Apedale) to Boulton Watt & Co. [Soho]. 24 Feb. 1801.
Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho) to Edward Eardley [Apedale]. 3 Mar. 1801.

Cont...

MS 3147/3/501
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
THOMAS HANDLEY
1777—1788

INTRODUCTION

Letters from Thomas Handley, from 1777 to 1788. Handley was a patent attorney, based in the Rolls Building, Fetter Lane, London. He advised on and processed all of Watt's patents, namely the copying machine (1780), the rotative patent (1781), the expansive working and double acting patent (1782), the parallel motion and steam carriage (1784) and the smoke-consuming furnace (1785). He also informed Boulton & Watt of the progress of other engine patents and finds and sends rival specifications such as Robert Cameron's.

LIST

1. Bundle wrapper.
Marked "Thomas Handley 1777—1787."
2. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Birmingham). 28 Oct. 1777.
On the same sheet:
Form of petition & affidavit for a patent.
Docketed "Form of a petition to the Council."
3. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 8 Nov. 1777.
4. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Birmingham). 18 Nov. 1777.
5. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Birmingham]. 19 May 1780.
Docketed "With specification."
6. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 31 Oct. 1781.
The sheet has been used for calculations.
7. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to Matthew Boulton [London?]. 20 Dec. 1781.
8. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt (Cusgarne). 20 Dec. 1781.
Docketed "Mr. Palmer's opinion of title of new patent."
9. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt (Cusgarne). 25 Jan. 1782.
On the same sheet:
Form of specification of patent.
Docketed "Form of preamble to specification."

10. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt (Cusgarne). 29 Jan. 1782.
On the same sheet:
Form of specification of patent [duplicate of that sent on 25 Jan.]
Docketed "Form of preamble to specification."
11. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Cusgarne). 8 Feb. 1782.
12. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 9 Feb. 1782.
13. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt [Cusgarne]. 9 Feb. 1782.
Docketed "With specification of rotative patent."
14. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Cusgarne). 16 Mar. 1782.
The sheet has been used for calculations.
Docketed "Date of expansive patent [informing Watt the patent has passed the Great Seal]."
15. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 6 Jun. 1782.
16. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Soho]. 22 Jun. 1782.
17. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Soho). 1 Jul. 1782.
18. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Soho). 4 Jul. 1782.
19. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 26 Jul. 1782.
20. Letter. Thomas Handley (Portsmouth) to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Soho). 2 Sep. 1782.
21. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Soho). 17 Sep. 1782.
Docketed "Receipt and sending off the Irish patent."
22. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (at Mr. Boulton's, Soho). 8 Oct. 1782.
23. Letter. Thomas Handley (Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London) to James Watt [Soho]. 14 Nov. 1782.
24. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Soho]. 30 Nov. 1782.
Docketed "Receipt for £48.13.6."
25. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 29 May 1784.
26. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 15 Jun. 1784.
Docketed "Receipt for £30."
27. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 14 Aug. 1784.
- 28a. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Birmingham]. 21 Aug. 1784.
Kept with (b) below.
Docketed "21 & 23 Aug."
- b. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Birmingham]. 23 Aug. 1784.

29. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 25 Aug. 1784.
Docketed "Receipt of specification."
30. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Birmingham]. 7 May 1785.
31. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 Jun. 1785.
Docketed "Date of new furnace patent."
32. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jun. 1785.
33. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt [Birmingham]. 6 Jul. 1785.
34. Letter. Thomas Handley [London] to James Watt (Birmingham). 9 Jul. 1785.
Docketed "Receipt of furnace patent."
35. Letter. Thomas Handley (12 Clement's Inn, London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 19 Mar. 1787.
Not dated – date taken from the docket.
36. Letter. Thomas Handley (Clement's Inn, London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 31 May 1788.
37. Memorandum. Draft of form of petition for a patent. Not dated.
In James Watt's hand – unclear which patent this is for, but it is one of the engine patents.

MS 3147/3/502
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
JOSEPH HATELEY
1792

INTRODUCTION

Letters from Joseph Hateley of London from 1792. Hateley, an engineer, claimed to have invented an engine that would supercede Watt's. He offered to communicate his invention to Boulton & Watt, and said that he would offer them a share of the profits should they wish to into business with him once they had seen a model of his engine. Hateley sought a guarantee from Boulton & Watt that they would not patent his invention.

For details of Hateley's career see Dickinson & Jenkins p. 316.

LIST

1. Letter. Joseph Hateley (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 2 Jul. 1792. 2 sheets.
2. Letter. Joseph Hateley (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 14 Jul. 1792.
3. Letter. Joseph Hateley (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 20 Jul. 1792.
4. Letter. Joseph Hateley (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 21 Jul. 1792.

5. Draft of letter. James Watt (Soho) to Joseph Hateley (London). 1 Aug. 1792.
Docketed "Draft letter to Mr. Hateley rejected by him."
6. Letter. Joseph Hateley [Birmingham] to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 2 Aug. 1792.
- 7a. Letter. James Watt [Heathfield] to Matthew Boulton (Soho). "Saturday" [4 Aug. 1792].
Enclosing (b) below.
- b. Draft of letter. James Watt (Soho) to Joseph Hateley (London). 2 Aug. 1792.
8. Memorandum. Letter proposed by J. Hateley for us to sign. — Aug. 1792.
Text of a letter saying that Boulton & Watt have no intention of taking out patents that might infringe on Hateley's invention.

MS 3147/3/503
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
JAMES KEIR – LETTERS TO MATTHEW BOULTON, JAMES WATT
1778—1780; 1786; 1791; 1796

INTRODUCTION

Miscellaneous letters from James Keir, from 1778 to 1780, and three letters from 1786, 1791 and 1796. The letters mainly concern the copying press business, in which Keir was a partner, and engine business, as Keir acted as manager at Soho Manufactory while Boulton and Watt were away. The letters were found among the copying press papers, with the exception of the letter to Watt of 1 November 1779 which had been placed with the Partners' Correspondence.

LIST

1778.

1. Letter. James Keir [Soho] to Matthew Boulton (Redruth). — Oct. 1778.
Docketed "Account of valves and counters." Zaccheus Walker has added a note to the sheet.

1779.

2. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 26 Sep. 1779.
Docketed as 28 Sep. Matthew Boulton has added a postscript.
3. Letter. James Keir (London) to James Watt (Chacewater). 3 Oct. 1779.
4. Letter. James Keir (Castle & Falcon) to Matthew Boulton [?]. 8 Oct. 1779.
5. Letter. James Keir (London) to Matthew Boulton (—). 9 Oct. — [1779?].
6. Letter. James Keir (London) to James Watt (Chacewater). 12 Oct. 1779.
On the same sheet is a draft of the patent application for the copying press.
7. Letter. James Keir (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 14 Oct. 1779.

8. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (at Thomas Wilson's, Chacewater). 1 Nov. 1779.
On the same sheet:
Letter. James Watt Jr. (Winson Green) to James Watt. 1 Nov. 1779.
With a label by Hazleton "James Watt Jr. 's letter to his Hon^d. Papa."
9. Letter. James Keir (London) to Matthew Boulton (Chacewater). "Wednesday" [15 Dec. 1779].
Date taken from the postmark. Docketed as Nov.
10. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 30 Dec. 1779.
On the same sheet:
Letter. James Keir (Soho) to Matthew Boulton (Chacewater). 30 Dec. 1779.
11. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 4 Jan. 1780.
12. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 17 Jan. 1780.
13. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 25 Jan. 1780.
14. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 26 Jan. 1780.
15. Letter. James Keir (Soho) to Matthew Boulton (Chacewater). 1 Feb. 1780.
On the same sheet:
Letter. James Keir (Soho) to James Watt (Chacewater). 1 Feb. 1780.
- 1786.**
16. Letter. James Keir (—) to James Watt (—). 23 Apr. 1786.
Docketed "Receipt for draft of £17.13 sent him in return for one of his I sent to Scotland to get payment of."
- 1791.**
17. Letter. James Keir (West Bromwich) to James Watt (Handsworth). 23 Feb. 1791.
Docketed "About Dr. Small's spinning."
- 1796.**
18. Letter. R. Small (—) to James Keir (Birmingham). 1 Sep. 1796.
Keir forwarded this letter to Boulton & Watt.
Docketed "Mr. Keir. Engine for Mr. Small." The sheet has been used for calculations.

MS 3147/3/504
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
JAMES KEIR – MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS TO JAMES WATT JR.
1788—1815

INTRODUCTION

Miscellaneous letters from James Keir to James Watt Jr., from 1788 to 1815. The letters of 1789 and 1790 include several references to articles for Keir's *Dictionary of Chemistry*, and the later letters concern social engagements. There is also a set of papers from 1788 concerning the valuation of the house that Keir was buying from Humphrey Pickering. Keir appears to have passed these papers to Watt Jr. while Watt Jr. was in Manchester, as in his letter of 3 Dec. 1789 Keir asks Watt Jr. to send him the agreement he made with Pickering.

LIST

1788.

- 1a.** Letter. William Nixon (Birmingham) to James Keir (The Grove, near Winson Green). 28 Mar. 1788.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "Nixon's letter with statement of expenditures."
- b.** Account. Statement of Sundry Works done for Mr. Pickering at his house at the Grove.
- 2.** Transcript of letter. James Keir (Smethwick) to Mr. — Horton, Builder (Birmingham). 21 May 1788.
Docketed "Copy of letter to Mr. Horton declining his opinion."
- 3.** Transcript of letter. James Keir (Smethwick) to the Executors of the late Humphrey Pickering. 26 May 1788.
- 4.** Draft of letter. James Keir and the Executors of Humphrey Pickering to ?, builders and surveyors. 26 May 1788.
Docketed "Letter to the Executors of H. Pickering proposing a new survey."
- 5.** Account. Executors of the late Humphrey Pickering debtors to James Keir. Not dated.

1789.

- 6.** Letter. James Keir (Smethwick) to James Watt Jr. (Taylor & Maxwell's, Manchester). 11 Sep. 1789.
- 7.** Letter. James Keir (Smethwick) to James Watt Jr. [Manchester]. 20 Nov. 1789.
- 8.** Letter. James Keir (—) to James Watt Jr. [Manchester]. 3 Dec. 1789.
- 9.** Letter. James Keir (near Birmingham) to James Watt Jr. (Taylor & Maxwell's, Manchester). 13 Dec. 1789.

1790.

10. Letter. James Keir (Smethwick) to James Watt Jr. (at Charles Taylor's, Manchester). 10 Feb. 1790.

11. Letter. James Keir (Hill Top, West Bromwich) to James Watt Jr. (Manchester). 5 Dec. 1790.

1808.

12. Letter. James Keir (Tividale) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 4 Aug. 1808.
Docketed "Upon some appearancs in the quarry on the Rowley Hills."

1810.

13. Letter. James Keir (Tividale) to James Watt Jr. (Handsworth). 15 Jul. 1810.
Docketed "Wishes me to dine with Mr. Greenough."

1813.

14. Letter. James Keir (Hill Top) to James Watt Jr. (Handsworth). 12 Jun. 1813.
Docketed "Has declined dining out."

1815.

15. Letter. James Keir (Smethwick Grove) to James Watt Jr. (Handsworth). 4 Feb. 1815.
Docketed "Is upon a visit to Mr. Moilliet and wishes me to call."