

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Series One: The Boulton and Watt Archive and the Matthew Boulton Papers from Birmingham Central Library

**Part 13: Boulton & Watt Correspondence and Papers (MS 3147/3/286-404)**

DETAILED LISTING

**REEL 221**

MS 3147/3/286-299: Incoming Correspondence and Papers:

Letters from Agents, Engine Erectors and Employees at Soho

**3/286 Robert Muir (Moor), 1783-1789 (13 items)**

Letters from Robert Muir from 1783 to 1789. Muir was an engine erector who worked first in Cornwall, then in the North West and Scotland. At some point between May and July 1786 Muir changed the spelling of his name from Moor to Muir. This may have been connected to his relocation to Scotland.

These letters, which are addressed to James Watt and John Southern, were scattered throughout the collection. They may have been removed from bundles of general incoming correspondence.

The letters are dated as follows:

No. 1.	1783
No. 2.	1785
Nos. 3-7.	1786
Nos. 8-11.	1787
No. 12.	1788
No. 13.	1789

**1783.**

1. Letter. Robert Moor (Hallamannin) to James Watt [?] (—). 9 Aug. 1783.

**1785.**

2. Letter. Robert Moor (Craven Cross) to James Watt (Soho). 30 Dec. 1785.

**1786.**

3. Letter. Robert Moor (Pwllheli) to James Watt [?] (—). 13 May 1786.

4. Letter. Robert Muir (Cark) to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jul. 1786.  
*Letter continued on 1 Aug. Docketed "Experimented on Penryndee engine and arrival at Cark."*

5. Letter. Robert Muir [Cark] to James Watt (Soho). 4 Oct. 1786.

6. Letter. Robert Muir (Kennet Pans) to John Southern (Soho). 12 Dec. 1786.
7. Letter. Robert Muir (Kennet Pans) to John Southern (Soho). 19 Dec. 1786.
- 1787.**
8. Letter. Robert Muir (Kennet Pans) to John Southern (Soho). 17 Jun. 1787.
9. Letter. Robert Muir (Kennet Pans) to James Watt (Soho). 1 Aug. 1787.
10. Letter. Robert Muir (St. Clements Wells) to James Watt (Birmingham). 8 Oct. 1787.
11. Letter. Robert Muir (St. Clements Wells) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 19 Oct. 1787.
- 1788.**
12. Letter. Robert Muir (Leadhills) to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jun. 1788.
- 1789.**
13. Letter. Robert Muir (Leith Walk) to John Southern (Soho). 13 Apr. 1789.

#### OLD REFERENCES

1. Letter. Robert Moor to James Watt [?]. 9 Aug. 1783. [B&W Box 2/17/29]
2. Letter. Robert Moor to James Watt. 30 Dec. 1785. [B&W Box 40/6]
3. Letter. Robert Moor to James Watt [?]. 13 May 1786. [B&W Box 40/6]
4. Letter. Robert Muir to James Watt. 30 Jul. 1786. [B&W Box 40/6]
5. Letter. Robert Muir to James Watt. 4 Oct. 1786. [B&W Box 40/6]
6. Letter. Robert Muir to John Southern. 12 Dec. 1786. [B&W Box 35/1]
7. Letter. Robert Muir to John Southern. 19 Dec. 1786. [B&W Box 35/1]
8. Letter. Robert Muir to John Southern. 17 Jun. 1787. [B&W Box 35/1]
9. Letter. Robert Muir to James Watt. 1 Aug. 1787. [B&W Box 40/6]
10. Letter. Robert Muir to James Watt. 8 Oct. 1787. [B&W Box 40/6]
11. Letter. Robert Muir to James Watt. 19 Oct. 1787. [B&W Box 40/6]
12. Letter. Robert Muir to James Watt. 30 Jun. 1788. [B&W Box 40/6]
13. Letter. Robert Muir to John Southern. 13 Apr. 1789. [B&W Box 22/1]

**3/287 James Murdock, 1788-1795 (28 items)**

Letters from James Murdock from 1788 to 1795. James, brother of William Murdock, worked for Boulton & Watt as an engine erector. He worked at various places around the country, and in 1793 he was sent to erect an engine in Cadiz, Spain. He was dismissed on his return in 1795 for misconduct during his time there.

These letters were probably removed from bundles of general correspondence, as they bear varying styles of docketing and folding.

The letters are dated as follows:

No. 1.	1788
No. 2.	1789
Nos. 3-5.	1790
Nos. 6-12.	1791
Nos. 13-14.	1792
Nos. 15-19.	1793
Nos. 19-25.	1794
Nos. 26-28.	1795

**1788.**

1. Letter. James Murdock (Hull) to John Southern [?] (—). 16 Sep. 1788.  
*Docketed as 14 Sep.*

**1789.**

2. Letter. James Murdock (Workington) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 13 Mar. 1789.  
*Docketed as 9 Mar.*

**1790.**

3. Letter. James Murdock (Wilsontown) to John Roberts [Soho]. 29 Aug. 1790.

4. Letter. James Murdock (Wilsontown) to John Southern (Soho). 8 Oct. 1790.

5. Letter. James Murdock (Wilsontown) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 23 Oct. 1790.

**1791.**

6. Letter. James Murdock (Wilsontown) to John Roberts (Soho). 15 Feb. 1791.

7. Letter. James Murdock (Wilsontown) to John Southern (Soho). 29 May 1791.

8. Letter. James Murdock (Wilsontown) to John Roberts (Soho). 23 Jun. 1791.  
*Forwarded to James Watt by Roberts.*

9. Memorandum. Balance against James Murdock's account. 6 Jul. 1791.  
*In James Pearson's hand?*

10. Transcript of letter. James Watt [Soho] to James Murdock [Wilsontown]. — Aug. 1791.  
*Docketed "Copies letters to James Murdock and Messrs. Wilson's."*

**11.** Transcript of letter. Boulton Watt & Co. [Soho] to Messrs. Wilson [Wilsontown?].  
[— Aug. 1791.]

**12.** Letter. James Murdock (Darlington) to William Forman [Soho]. 18 Dec. 1791.  
*Docketed "Darlington, finishing engine."*

**1792.**

**13.** Letter. James Murdock (Stockport) to John Southern [Soho]. 16 Jul. 1792.

**14.** Letter. James Murdock (Stockport) to John Southern [Soho]. 8 Oct. 1792.

**1793.**

**15.** Transcript of letter. Boulton & Watt (Birmingham) to James Murdock [Soho]. 20  
Apr. 1793.  
*Docketed "Terms of agreement."*

**16.** Transcript of letter. James Murdock (Soho) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 20 Apr.  
1793.  
*Letter agreeing to the terms of his going out to Cadiz.*

**17.** Transcript of certificate. Boulton & Watt, Birmingham, 20 Apr. 1793.  
*Certifying that Murdock is bound to Boulton & Watt and is not and has never been a  
sailor. Protection against press gangs.*

**18.** Letter. James Murdock (Cadiz) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 23 Sep. 1793.

**19.** Transcript of letter. Boulton & Watt (London) to James Murdock [Cadiz]. 13 Nov.  
1793.

**1794.**

**20.** Letter. James Murdock (King's Dock Yard, Cadiz) to Matthew Boulton (Soho).  
23 Jan. 1794.

**21.** Letter. James Murdock (King's Dock Yard, Cadiz) to Matthew Boulton (Soho).  
25 Jan. 1794.

**22.** Letter. James Murdock (King's Dock Yard, Cadiz) to James Watt (Soho). 5 Feb.  
1794.

**23.** Letter. James Murdock (King's Dock Yard, Cadiz) to Matthew Boulton (Soho).  
14 Feb. 1794.

**24.** Transcript of letter. Boulton & Watt (London) to Malcolm Logan (Cadiz). 20 Feb.  
1794.

**25.** Letter. James Murdock (Carracea) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 2 Nov. 1794.

**1795.**

**26.** Letter. James Murdock (Plymouth) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 28 Feb. 1795.

27. Letter. James Murdock (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 10 Mar. 1795.  
*Docketed as 12 Mar.*

28. Memorandum. Relative to James Murdock's Dismissal. 20 Mar. 1795.

**3/288 John Mudrock, 1806, 1810-1814 (12 items)**

Letters from John Murdock from 1806 to 1814. John, one of the sons of William Murdock, worked for Boulton Watt & Co. at Soho Foundry. He was closely involved in the production of gas lighting apparatus.

These letters are all docketed by James Watt Jr. They were probably removed from bundles of general correspondence.

The letters are dated as follows:

No. 1.	1806
Nos. 2-3.	1810
No. 4.	1811
Nos. 5-10.	1812
No. 11.	1813
No. 12.	1814

**1806.**

1. Letter. John Murdock (Manchester) to James Watt Jr. (13 London St.). 9 Jan. 1806.  
*Docketed "His father unwell. Wishes me to purchase a set of instruments. Also to attend to a transfer which he has ordered."*

**1810.**

2. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 16 Aug. 1810.  
*Docketed "With wooden patterns for lamp pipes to be cast in brass."*

3. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). "Saturday" [27 Oct. 1810].  
*Docketed "Time required for finishing Coupland's burners."*

**1811.**

4. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Dec. 1811.  
*Docketed "Pemberton's offer of 5/8 inch gas pipe."*

**1812.**

5. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 16 Jan. 1812.  
*Docketed "Time required for fitting up CC 20 horse and also for XX 20 horse."*

6. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 12 Feb. 1812.  
*Docketed "Another retort has failed. Suggests the erection of two."*

7. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 27 Mar. 1812.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Transcript of receipt for cast iron by W. Hawkes, carrier. 21 Mar. 1812.  
*Docketed "Explanation relative to the forwarding of the damper and frame for Meux Reid & Co."*

8. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Dec. 1812.  
*Docketed "Amos & Co.'s engine is put into a boat with the intention of being sent to Liverpool."*

9. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 10 Dec. 1812.  
*Docketed "A 10 horse cylinder upon the new construction cannot be ready in less than a fortnight."*

10. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). "Monday Evening"  
[14 Dec. 1812].  
*Docketed "Amos & Co.'s goods detained at Birmingham by the frost."*

#### 1813.

11. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Jun. 1813.  
*Docketed "Wishes to decline going out as our agent."*

#### 1814.

12. Memorandum. Experiment at Mr. Howard's. 28 Mar. 1814.  
*In John Murdock's hand.*  
*Docketed "Experiment made by Mr. Howard upon the evaporation of syrup in vacuo."*

#### OLD REFERENCES

1-12. All formerly B&W Box 30/2.

#### 3/289 William Mudrock, 1779-1814 (28 Items)

Letters from William Murdock from 1779 to 1814. William Murdock was Boulton & Watt's most famous employee. He initially worked in Cornwall, before moving to Soho Foundry. He travelled around the country working on various engines, and he is most remembered for his pioneering of gas lighting.

The letters in this bundle are extremely miscellaneous in nature, and were probably removed from other bundles. When this bundle was brought together is not recorded, but many of the letters show evidence of having previously been displayed in cases and scrap books. This is certainly not the complete extent of Murdock's correspondence with Boulton and Watt, but what happened to other letters by him is not recorded.

The letters are dated as follows:

No. 1.	1779
No. 2.	1782
Nos. 3-6.	1795
Nos. 7-8.	1797
No. 9.	1798
Nos. 10-12.	1800
Nos. 13-15.	1802
Nos. 16-17.	1805
Nos. 18-21.	1806
Nos. 22-23.	1807
Nos. 24-25.	1808
No. 26.	1814
Nos. 27-28.	Sketches - not dated.

**1779.**

1. Letter. William Murdock (Wanlockhead) to James Watt (Soho). 20 Jul. 1779.

**1782.**

2. Letter. William Murdock (Trevascus) to James Watt (Birmingham). 23 May 1782.

**1795.**

3. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 11 May 1795.

4. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane). 28 May 1795.

*Docketed as 29 May. Docketed "Bull's Poldice engine."*

5. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to John Southern (Soho). 7 Jun. 1795.

*On the same sheet: Sketch plan and section of an engine. Summarised (By Hazleton) "Murdock's direct acting engine over a pit's mouth." [North Downs (Halebeagle) engine].*

6. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt [London]. 14 Jun. 1795.

**1797.**

7. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt (Soho Foundry). 25 Feb. 1797.

*Docketed "Proposes setting out with Mr. Wilson for Soho the end of next week."*

8. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt (Soho Foundry). 22 Aug. 1797.

*On the same sheet: Sketch. Nozzles of the North Downs engine. Docketed "Nozzles for North Downs."*

**1798.**

9. Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt (Soho Foundry). 23 Sep. 1798.

*Docketed "Advice of his intention of setting out for Soho."*

**1800.**

**10.** Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 1 Mar. 1800.  
*Docketed "Difficulty of procuring workmen. Has been unable to dispose of his mines shares. Offers made to him."*

**11.** Letter. William Murdock (Chester) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Jun. 1800.  
*Docketed "Examination of Walker & Co.'s engine and supposed defects."*

**12.** Letter. William Murdock (Below Mill) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 30 Jun. 1800.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Sketches. Plan and section of Reid Cunninghame's engine house, beam etc.

**1802.**

**13.** Letter. William Murdock (Etruria) to M. R. Boulton (Soho). 19 Jul. 1802.  
*Docketed "Eccentric circle not arrived and supposes the canal is stopped. Mill will not be ready for 6 weeks. Has freed the engine and the valves opened with springs which answer well."*

**14.** Letter. William Murdock (Glasgow) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Aug. 1802.  
*Docketed "Backward state of Messrs. Fulton's blowing apparatus. Engine will not start for 10 days to come. Order for engines from Messrs. Houldsworth & Co. and Messrs. Stirlings. Estimate of a ram wanted for the latter. Mr. Pattison's complaints of his engine being short of power."*

**15.** Letter. William Murdock (Glasgow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 3 Sep. 1802.  
*Docketed "Has started Fulton's engine. Will set out upon the 4<sup>th</sup> inst."*

**1805.**

**16.** Letter. William Murdock (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Dec. 1805.  
*Docketed "Mr. Clegge enquires state of his order. Mr. Leach wants to know what the expense will be of a 16 horse engine with 18 horse boiler etc. Pipes for Mr. Lee's photogenous apparatus not arrived. Mr. Lee anxious to have it completed as early as possible. Mr. Kennedy's report of his engine."*

**17.** Letter. William Murdock [Manchester] to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 Dec. 1805.  
*Docketed "Impatient to receive intelligence of Mr. Lee's apparatus. Has sent his nephew along the canal to enquire about it." Marked (by Hazleton) "Mentions Clegg."*

**1806.**

**18.** Letter. William Murdock (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 1 Jan. 1806.  
*Docketed "Mr. Leach wishes to have the 14 horse engine forwarded. Mr. P. Marsland has some thoughts of substituting a 40 horse in lieu of his present 30 horse. Mr. Lee's photogenous apparatus gives satisfaction. Mr. Ridgway to let us know when he is ready for a hand."*

**19.** Letter. William Murdock (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 5 Feb. 1806.  
*Docketed "Defects of Mr. Wedgwood's engine remedied. James McMurdo left there. Mr. Wedgwood's intention of having another engine. Mr. Wood desires his last order for flat boxes to be suspended. Orders 60 new burners and desires the gazometer and tubes to be forwarded. Wants designs for chandaliers."*

**20.** Letter. William Murdock (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Feb. 1806.  
*Docketed "Ashton & Bury want price of a 24 horse engine. Wishes the third gazometer to be forwarded. Appoints James Watt [Jr.?] to be in Manchester on Tuesday."*

**21.** Memorandum. Mr. Murdock's memorandum of hands wanted for making boilers, gazometers and tubes at Soho Foundry. 2 Apr. 1806.

**1807.**

**22.** Letter. William Murdock (Redruth) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 14 Sep. 1807.  
*Docketed "Is improved in health and will be at Portsmouth on the 22<sup>nd</sup>."*

**23.** Letter. William Murdock (Portsmouth) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 23 Sep. 1807.  
*Docketed "Arrival there and conference with Commissioner Grey. Will want one or 2 men. Has received advice from Poole that he cannot attend him."*

**1808.**

**24.** Letter. William Murdock (Portsmouth) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 29 Jan. 1808.  
*Docketed "Refers to John Poole for particulars at Bradford. To start the engine the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> of next month. Will then proceed to Battle."*

**25.** Letter. William Murdock (Sion House, Clifton) to Boulton Watt & Co. [Soho]. 9 Aug. 1808.  
*Docketed "Orders a new damper pipe for Bally Ellen & Steart."*

**1814.**

**26.** Note. William Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. [?] (Handsworth).  
"Monday Morning" [29 Aug. 1814].  
*Docketed "With specimens of platina for Mr. Fischer."*

**Sketches - not dated.**

**27.** Sketch. William Murdock's scheme of expansive engine. Not dated.  
*Rough pencil sketch with no annotation. The docket is in James Watt's hand.*

**28.** Sketch. William Murdock's bellows, made in Cornwall 1781, afterwards in common use among the miners.  
*The annotation is by James Watt.*

OLD REFERENCES

**1-24.** All formerly B&W Box 30/3.

**25.** Letter. William Murdock to Boulton Watt & Co. 9 Aug. 1808. [B&W Box 30/5]

**26-28.** All formerly B&W Box 30/3.

**3/290 William Mudrock Junior, 1806-1831 (24 items)**

Letters from William Murdock Jr. from 1806 to 1831. William Murdock Jr. was one of the sons of William Murdock, and he worked for Boulton Watt & Co. at Soho Foundry. He did travel occasionally, usually to work on boat engines.

The letters in this bundle are extremely miscellaneous in nature, and were probably removed from other bundles.

The letters are dated as follows:

No. 1.	1806
No. 2.	1811
Nos. 3-11.	1812
No. 12.	1814
No. 13.	1822
No. 14.	1826
Nos. 15-17.	1827
Nos. 18-21.	1829
No. 22.	1830
Nos. 23-24.	1831

**1806.**

1. Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho) to William Murdock (Soho Foundry). — Sep. 1806.

**1811.**

2. Letter. William Murdock Jr. [Soho Foundry] to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 24 Sep. 1811.

*Not dated – date taken from the docket.*

*Docketed “Bingley & Son want to know the cost of iron borings.”*

**1812.**

3. Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 8 Jan. 1812.  
*Docketed “Particulars of bar iron wanted for the next 2 months. Large iron from Addenbrooke defective.”*

4. Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Jan. 1812.  
*Docketed “Farther account of the defective iron from Mr. Addenbrooke.”*

5. Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 8 Apr. 1812.  
*Docketed “Iron wanted for the ensuing quarter.”*  
*The letter has been crossed through in pencil.*

6. Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Jun. 1812.  
*Docketed “Applies for an addition to his salary.”*

7. Letter. William Murdock Jr. [Soho Foundry] to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 8 Jul. 1812.  
*Docketed “Bar iron wanted for the ensuing quarter and remarks upon the last.”*

8. Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 10 Jul. 1812.  
*Docketed “William Middleton wishes us to take another of his sons apprentice.”*

**9.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 13 Oct. 1812.

*Mis-docketed as John Murdock.*

*Docketed "Account of iron wanted for the quarter."*

**10.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 16 Nov. 1812.

*Docketed "Explanation of pins sent with the hot water pump of Caponfield No. 2."*

**11.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 30 Nov. 1812.

*Docketed "Proposes Thomas Hodditch should finish Bayliss' work."*

#### **1814.**

**12.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). "Sunday afternoon" [13 Nov. 1814].

*Docketed "A Mr. Lister has called with a scheme. Air regulator ready for inspection."*

#### **1822.**

**13a.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 26 Oct. 1822.

*Enclosing (b) below.*

**b.** Memorandum. Horton's prices of Iron Boilers etc. 25 Oct. 1822.

#### **1826.**

**14.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Liverpool) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 15 Oct. 1826.

*Docketed "Finds the Thetis preparing to make her passage to Holyhead. Breakage of the air pump flanch and state of the machinery and vessel."*

#### **1827.**

**15.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (on board the *Dolphin*, Liverpool) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 2 Feb. 1827.

*Docketed "Progress made in the alteration of Dolphin's working gear. Steadiness and good performance of the engines and vessel. Connection of boilers etc."*

**16.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 6 Feb. 1827.

*Docketed "Has completed the alteration of the Dolphin's working gear. Has secured the paddle eccentric wheel from getting loose. Frequent stoppages of the Dolphin in entering the Mersey. Capt. Smithett thinks the columns sufficiently steady without diagonal stays. Engineman does his duty, but has bad fireman. All parts of the engines in good order."*

**17.** Memorandum. William Murdock Jr., Soho Foundry, 20 Feb. 1827.  
*Docketed "Suggests a Belidor's valve in the tunnel or pump to regulate the engines. Approves also of pumps being worked from a rotative shaft." Murdock Jr. writing his father's suggestions, re. St. Katherine's Docks [?].*

**1829.**

**18.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to William Creighton (Soho). 16 Feb. 1829.

*Docketed "Sims Tildasley & Co. want estimate of pary of a 36 or 40 horse engine."*

**19.** Memorandum. William Murdock Jr., Soho Foundry, 20 Oct. 1829.

*Docketed "Thinks boat boilers may be made of iron at £12 per ton. Advises making the water spaces parallel."*

**20.** Memorandum. William Murdock Jr., Soho Foundry, 13 Nov. 1829.

*Sent to William Creighton at Soho.*

*Docketed "Dolphin paddles 4 inches askew. Thetis proposed the same but executed 10 inches. The above from Dangerfield etc."*

**21.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 7 Dec. 1829.

*Docketed "Sims Tildasley & Co.'s 40 horse engine ready for delivery. Boilers were sent last month."*

**1830.**

**22.** Memorandum. William Murdock Jr., Manchester, — Aug. 1830.

*Docketed "Conferences with Messrs. Fairbairn, Ewart and Kennedy respecting the application of high pressure engines to canal boats."*

**1831.**

**23a.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Penzance) to William Burdon [Soho]. 25 Feb. 1831.

*Kept with (b) below.*

*Docketed "About Benjamin Stevens' wages and qualifications."*

**b.** Account of Benjamin Stevens' debt to Boulton Watt & Co.  
*In William Burdon's hand.*

**24.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. (Penzance) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 29 Mar. 1831.

*Docketed "His health much improved since he went to Cornwall."*

OLD REFERENCES

**1.** Letter. William Murdock Jr. to William Murdock. Sep. 1806. [B&W Box 20/23/19]

**2-24.** All formerly B&W Box 30/4.

**3/291 James Pearson, 1781-1796 (19 items)**

Pearson was the chief cashier and bookkeeper for the steam engine business. His office was at Soho Manufactory.

1. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 1 Mar. 1781.
2. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Cusgarne). 2 Mar. 1782.
3. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Cusgarne). 16 Mar. 1782.
4. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 10 Mar. 1784.  
*Docketed "Balance B & W."*
5. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane). 18 Oct. 1785.
- 6a. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 8 Nov. 1785.  
*Kept with (b) below. Docketed "About Mr. Dick's bill of £40."*
- b. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 8 Nov. 1785.
7. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 14 Nov. 1785.
8. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 23 Feb. 1786.
- 9a. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Ann Watt (Harper's Hill). 16 Dec. 1786.
- b. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Ann Watt (Harper's Hill). 16 Dec. 1786.  
*Docketed "About N. R. [New River] account."*
- 10a. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Ann Watt (Harper's Hill). 22 Dec. 1786.  
*Kept with (b) below.*
- b. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Ann Watt (Harper's Hill). 28 Dec. 1786.
11. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 9 Feb. 1787.
12. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane). 31 Aug. 1787.
13. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to William Matthews (London). 16 Jan. 1792.  
  
*On the same sheet:*  
  
Account. Harris Harris & Plant debtors to Boulton & Watt.  
*Docketed "Harris & Plant's account. Plate Glass Co. etc."*
14. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to James Watt (London). 10 Jun. 1793.
15. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to M. R. Boulton (care of G. Lee, "Salford Engine Twist Co.", Manchester). 2 Jun. 1796.  
  
*On the same sheet:*  
  
Account. Salford Engine Twist Co. debtors to Boulton & Watt.  
*Docketed "With copy of account against Salford Twist Co."*
16. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Boulton & Watt [London]. 5 Dec. 1796.  
*The outside of the letter is addressed to M. R. Boulton.  
Docketed "State of remittances."*

17. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Boulton & Watt [London]. 8 Dec. 1796.  
*The outside of the letter is addressed to M. R. Boulton.*  
*Docketed "Sundry accounts."*

18. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Boulton & Watt [London]. 12 Dec. 1796.  
*Docketed "Receipt of £1000 from H. P. Whately."*

19. Letter. James Pearson (Soho) to Boulton & Watt [London]. 15 Dec. 1796.  
*Docketed "Account of sundry remittances. Watson & Co. enquiries about their air pump."*

**3/292 James Pearson, letters and notes to him, 17801815 (73 items)**

Matthew Boulton.

1. Account. Boulton's travelling expenses, 1782—1783. 2 sheets.  
*Summarised by Henry Hazleton: "List of Matthew Boulton's travelling expenses during the year 1782."*  
Matthew Robinson Boulton.

2. Letter. M. R. Boulton (—) to Charles Pearson [*sic*] [Soho]. — Jan. 1800.  
*Not dated – date taken from the docket. On the same sheet:*  
Account of bread procured by Mr. Boulton from the Union Mill for the use of the Soho Soup Shop, Dec. 1799—10 Jan. 1800.

3. Note. M. R. Boulton (Soho) to James Pearson [Soho]. 9 Dec. 1800.

4. Note. M. R. Boulton (Soho) to James Pearson (Soho). 27 Jul. 1811.

John Murdock.

5. Letter. John Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Pearson [Soho]. 5 Oct. 1811.

William Murdock.

6. Account. Boulton & Watt debtors to William Murdock. 24 Nov. 1806.

7. Note. William Murdock (Soho Foundry) to James Pearson (Soho). 29 Dec. 1808.

8. Account. Boulton Watt & Co. debtors to William Murdock. 21 Jul. 1812.

John Rennie.

9. Account. Boulton & Watt debtors to John Rennie. 17 Jun. 1797.  
*Includes costs of a model of Hornblower's engine.*

10. Account. Boulton & Watt debtors to John Rennie, 3 Apr. 1802—21 Nov. 1804; John Rennie debtor to Jos. Ball, 16 May 1803.

*Docketed as 30 Sep. 1806. Docketed by James Pearson. The 1804 entry was added later.*

John Southern.

11. Letter. John Southern (—) to James Pearson (Soho). 27 Sep. 1787.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Note of readings of Mr. Woods' counter.

Ann Watt.

12. Letter. Ann Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson (Soho). 21 Feb. 1785.
13. Letter. Ann Watt (Birmingham) to James Pearson (Soho). 1 Mar. 1785.  
*Summarised by Henry Hazleton "Notes from Mrs. Watt to Mr. Pearson, Cashier at Soho."*
14. Note. Ann Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 7 Dec. 1786.
15. Letter. Ann Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 22 Jan. 1798.
16. Letter. Ann Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 14 Feb. 1800.
17. Letter. Ann Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 21 Dec. 1801.
18. Note. Ann Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson [Soho]. 22 Dec. 1801.

Gregory Watt.

19. Accounts. Boulton Watt & Sons debtors to Gregory Watt; Boulton & Watt Jrs. debtors to Gregory Watt. 22 Dec. 1799.
- 20a. Note. Gregory Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 8 Mar. 1800.  
*Kept with (b) below. Not dated – date taken from the docket.  
Note requesting Pearson to draw a bill.*
- b. Note. Gregory Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. Not dated.  
*Not docketed.  
Note requesting Pearson to draw a bill.*

James Watt.

21. Letter. James Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson (Soho). 16 Dec. 1780.  
*With a note attached by Henry Hazleton which reads "Notes from James Watt Senior to Mr. Pearson, cashier at Soho, concerning his expenses etc." Hazleton used this letter as a cover for all of the notes from Watt to Pearson.*
22. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 12 Jan. 1781.
23. Note. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson [Soho]. 17 Jan. 1781.
24. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 6 Feb. 1781.
25. Note. James Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson (Soho). 15 Mar. 1781.
26. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 2 Apr. 1781.  
*Docketed "Answered same day."*
27. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho).  
*"Monday afternoon" [2 Apr. 1781].*
28. Letter. James Watt (Birmingham) to James Pearson (Soho). 10 Apr. 1781.
29. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 16 Apr. 1781.
30. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 23 Apr. 1781.
31. Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 24 Apr. 1781.  
*Docketed "Answered."*

- 32.** Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson (Soho). 11 May 1781.
- 33a.** Letter. James Watt (Birmingham) to James Pearson (Soho). 6 Jun. 1781.  
*Enclosing (b) below.*
- b.** Note of various bills of exchange.
- 34.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson (Soho). 30 Jun. 1781.  
*Docketed "With account of expenses."*
- 35.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson (Soho). 16 Aug. 1781.
- 36.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson (Soho). 9 Jan. 1782.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Account of expenses in Cornwall to the end of Dec. 1781.
- 37.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson (Soho). 16 Feb. 1782.
- 38.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson and John Buchanan (Soho).  
20 Feb. 1782.  
*Docketed "Answered 2 March."*
- 39.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson (Soho). 7 Mar. 1782.  
*Docketed "Answered 16 March."*
- 40.** Letter. James Watt (Cusgarne) to James Pearson (Soho). 23 Mar. 1782.
- 41.** Letter. James Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 21 Apr. 1782.
- 42.** Letter. James Watt (Birmingham) to James Pearson [Soho]. 28 Dec. 1782.  
*The letter is signed by Watt, but the text is in Zaccheus Walker's hand.*
- 43.** Letter. James Watt [Harper's Hill] to James Pearson [Soho]. 14 May 1783.  
*Not dated – date taken from the docket.*
- 44.** Letter. James Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson (Soho). 2 Oct. 1783.
- 45.** Letter. James Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson (Soho). 21 Oct. 1783.
- 46.** Note. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 2 Jan. 1784.  
*Misdated as Jan. 1783. On the same sheet:*  
Account. Boulton & Watt debtors to James Watt.  
*Expenses of various visits in 1783, to a mill at Deritend, Broseley, Ketley etc.*
- 47.** Note. James Watt (—) to James Pearson (Soho). 13 Apr. 1784.
- 48.** Note. James Watt (—) to James Pearson (Soho). 4 May 1784.
- 49.** Note. James Watt (—) to James Pearson (Soho). 8 Jun. 1784.  
*Marked on the back "Dft. for T. H. [Thomas Handley]."*
- 50.** Letter. James Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson (Soho). 7 Jan. 1786.
- 51.** Note. James Watt (Harper's Hill) to James Pearson [Soho]. 17 May 1786.
- 52.** Note (press copy). James Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 3 Jan. 1788.

53. Letter. James Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 6 Feb. 1790.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Account of Watt's charges to Boulton & Watt for 1789.
54. Note. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 13 Jan. 1795.
55. Note. James Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 14 Nov. 1798.
56. Note. James Watt (—) to James Pearson [Soho]. 15 Nov. 1798.
57. Account. Law expenses debtor to James Watt. Apr. 1800.  
*Docketed by Watt "Boulton & Watt to James Watt. Law expenses 1796 Dec. – 1800 Apr."*  
*Docketed by Pearson as 31 Dec. 1799.*
58. Note. James Watt and Gregory Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 30 Jul. 1800.
59. Letter. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 28 Dec. 1801.  
*Docketed "Answered same day."*
60. Note. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 8 Feb. 1802.
61. Note. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 21 Jan. 1812.
62. Letter. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 24 Feb. 1812.
63. Note. James Watt (Heathfield) to James Pearson (Soho). 18 Apr. 1814.
64. Letter. James Watt (Heathfield) to "J. D. Brown" (Soho). 25 Jan. 1815.  
*The docket is in James Pearson's hand.*  
*Summarised by Henry Hazleton "Concerning account against him for £40 by J. Watt & Co."*
- James Watt Jr.**
65. Note. James Watt Jr. (Soho) to James Pearson [Soho]. 15 Jan. 1798.
66. Note. James Watt Jr. (Soho Foundry) to James Pearson [Soho]. 19 Mar. 1800.
67. Note. James Watt Jr. (Soho) to James Pearson [Soho]. 20 Sep. 1803.
68. Note. James Watt Jr. (Rookery) to James Pearson [Soho]. 27 Oct. 1803.
69. Note. James Watt Jr. (Soho) to James Pearson [Soho]. 16 Nov. 1804.
70. Note. James Watt Jr. (Soho) to James Pearson [Soho]. 8 Mar. 1811.
71. Note. James Watt Jr. (Soho) to James Pearson [Soho]. 27 May 1811.
72. Note. James Watt Jr. [Soho] to James Pearson [Soho]. 4 Jun. 1811.
73. Letter. James Watt Jr. (London) to James Pearson [Soho]. 18 Mar. 1814.  
*Docketed "Answered 21 Mar. 1814."*