

Reference code: GB 0214 D431

Title: Blackburn-Steel family of hughesovka papers

Dates : c1904-1984

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.010 cubic metres

Name of creator(s): Blackburn-Steel family

Administrative/biographical history

John Hughes was born in Merthyr Tydfil about 1815, the son of an engineer at the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. .

In 1868 John Hughes took up a concession from the Russian Imperial government – eager to develop the country’s heavy industry - to develop iron and steel works in the Ukraine. He set up the New Russia Company Ltd., and in the 1870s established on the Ukrainian steppes a large and self-sufficient industrial complex which included blast furnaces, collieries and iron ore mines. Over the next twenty years, the works prospered and expanded, and a town – Hughesovka – grew up around it. By the end of the nineteenth century, the works was the largest in the Russian Empire.

Hughes was accompanied to the Ukraine by his wife and family. After his death in 1889, his four sons, John James, Arthur David, Ivor Edward and Albert Llewellyn, took over the running of the company.

Hughes took with him a number of skilled men, many from Wales. Many of these men settled in Hughesovka, bringing out their wives and families. Over the years, although a Russian workforce was trained by the company, skilled workers from the United Kingdom continued to be employed, and many technical, engineering and managerial positions were filled by British (and especially Welsh) emigrants. A thriving expatriate community was established, living in good quality company housing, and provided with an English school and an Anglican church.

John Percy Blackburn married Mary Anne Steel in Hughesovka on 2nd April 1904. Mary had two sisters Phoebe and Edith. Phoebe moved to London after the Bolshevik revolution. Edith married Alexandre Bolotov. They had two sons Dnietroff (Kolka) and Alexandre Bolotov (Sasha) who were both cadet officers in the Tsars army. Dnietroff died in the Great War, Alexandre Alexandrovich married a girl from the Ukraine and had three children, Nikolai, Niusia and Idunka.

Immediate source of acquisition

Deposited by a private individual, 2006

Scope and content

Copies of family papers including correspondence, birth and marriage certificates, will and photographs, notes on the life of William James Blackburn in the Ukraine, tapestry patterns c1904-1984

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained.

Accruals

Accruals are possible

System of arrangement**Conditions governing access**

No restrictions

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material

English, Russian

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Good condition

Related units of description

HRA

Publication note**Note****Archivist's note**

Compiled by David Morris for the Glamorgan Record Office

Rules or conventions

This description follows Glamorgan Record Office guidelines based on ISAD(G) compatible cataloguing guidelines for fonds level descriptions used by the Archives Network Wales.

Date of description

September 2006; revised December 2006