

Reference code(s): GB 0214 DMG

Title: Melingriffith Iron and Tinsplate Works records

Creation date(s): 1770-1970

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 0.036 cubic metres (3 boxes)

Name of creator(s): Melingriffith Iron and Tinsplate Works

CONTEXT

Administrative/Biographical history: The iron forge at Melingriffith, in Whitchurch, Cardiff, Glamorgan, was first established in the 1750s near an old water-mill. By 1760, it had attracted the attention of the Bristol firm of Reynolds, Getley & Co., Quakers, who leased it from the Lewis family, of the Van (or Y Fan), Caerphilly, Glamorgan, for 200 years, at £80 per annum, and quickly transformed it into a prosperous tinsplate works, important enough to appear on Yates' map of Glamorgan, of 1799. The works managers for five generations were members of the Vaughan family, originally, from Gloucestershire, including Joseph Vaughan (1736-1796); and his brother, John Vaughan (d. 1806), who was manager at Machen forge, Gelliwastad. The grandson of Joseph, Thomas Vaughan (d. 1814), subsequently emigrated to Philadelphia, America, in 1790. At the start of the 19th century, the Melingriffith Tinsplate Works passed to another Bristol Quaker family, the Harfords, who worked it in conjunction with their partners, Partridge and Blakemore. In 1879, the company became bankrupt and was forced to close. It was reopened in 1888, and in April 1939, the assets passed to Richard Thomas & Co. After the Second World War (1939-1945), the Steel Company of Wales incorporated the Melingriffith works as one of its strip mills.

CONTENT

Scope and content/abstract: Records of the Melingriffith Iron & Tinsplate Works, 1770-1970: letters from Joseph Vaughan to Messrs Reynolds Getley & Co., 1774-1775; letters from John Vaughan to Joseph Vaughan, 1782-1784; accounts and correspondence from company, 1770-1774; pictorial material, 1927, 1960, 1962, [c. 1970]; general rules of Melingriffith, [c. 1920s]; and miscellaneous documents, 1926-1970.

ACCESS AND USE

Language/scripts of material: English

System of arrangement: Arranged according to type and date.

Conditions governing access: No restrictions

Conditions governing reproduction: Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Finding aids: A handlist is available at the Glamorgan Record Office.

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information: All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained.

Accruals: Accruals are not expected.

Archival history:

Immediate source of acquisition: Deposited by various sources at different dates.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material: Glamorgan Record Office, DX809 includes an accounts book, 1779-1780, and unlisted 18th and 19th century correspondence and accounts (2 boxes and 1 ledger). Additional records relating to the Melingriffith Iron and Tinsplate Works are held in the Trostre collection at Carmarthenshire Archive Service.

DESCRIPTION NOTES

Note: Title supplied from contents of fonds.

Archivist's note: Compiled by Hayden Burns for the ANW project. The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan Record Office, catalogue of records for the Melingriffith Iron and Tinsplate Works; Chappell, Edgar L., *Historic Melingriffith*, (Whitchurch, 1940); Clark, David 'A Newland/Whitchurch Connection' *Whitchurch News: monthly magazine of the Rectorial Benefice of Whitchurch*, Cardiff October 2005

Rules or conventions: This description follows ANW guidelines based on ISAD(G) second edition, AACR2, and LCSH.

Date(s) of descriptions: February-July 2004
