

## GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

**Reference code:** GB0214 HRA

**Title:** Hughesovka Research Archive

**Dates :** 1896-2006

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent and medium:** 0.2 cubic metres (6 standard boxes and 3 outside boxes)

**Name of creator(s):** The Glamorgan Record Office

### Administrative/biographical history

John Hughes was born in Merthyr Tydfil about 1815, the son of an engineer at the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. John worked at Cyfarthfa and then the Ebbw Vale works before moving in the early 1840s to the Uskside Engineering Works in Newport. By the early 1860s, he was a member of the Board of the Millwall Engineering and Shipbuilding Company in London.

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. Life could be hard, with very cold winters, hot summers, and occasional cholera epidemics, but some families remained in Hughesovka for many years.

The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 brought the Hughes family connection with the works to a close and the Hughes family and most of the British workers returned to Britain. The works were taken over by the Bolsheviks in 1919, and

the town was renamed first Stalino, in 1924, and then Donetsk in 1961. The works survived and prospered, and Donetsk is still a major centre of metallurgical industries. A few of the British workers had remained in 1917, and their descendents still live in Donetsk

### **Archival history**

The Glamorgan Record Office started collecting documents and information relating to Hughesovka in 1984, when some family papers and photographs relating to life in the settlement were deposited by a descendant of one of the Hughesovka families. During the following years, deposits of papers of other families followed. In addition, in order to gather together in one place as complete a picture as possible, copies of Hughesovka-related material held in other repositories were acquired by the Record Office.

In 1990, Susan Edwards, then First Senior Assistant Archivist, made a research visit to Donetsk, accompanying a group of Hughesovka family descendants. She visited institutions there and arranged for copies of some material to be sent the Record Office.

In 1991, the Record Office produced jointly with the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum a major exhibition on Hughesovka, and a documentary film on Hughesovka/Donetsk, which featured some of the records held by the Glamorgan Record Office was shown on both S4C and BBC2. The exhibition and the film, together with other publicity, resulted in the deposit of further material.

1992 saw an extended visit by Susan Edwards to the Ukraine and Russia, where she was able to carry out research in the Central State Historical Archive in St Petersburg, and again arrange for material to be copied. On this visit, Susan also took the exhibition for display in Donetsk, together with copies of the illustrated booklet on Hughesovka which had just been produced by the Record Office.

### **Immediate Source of acquisition**

The collection consists of a large number of different deposits from individual depositors (mostly descendants of the Hughes family and other Hughesovka residents), together with material collected in the course of research into the history of Hughesovka or as a result of the publicity activities of the Glamorgan Record Office.

## Scope and Content

The Hughesovka Research Archive is a collection in the true archival sense – material brought together from a number of different sources, all relating to one theme. It comprises about 75 different archival fonds, and includes material relating to:

- the British and Welsh families who lived in Hughesovka, and their descendants.
- John Hughes and his descendants
- the New Russia Company established by John Hughes, and the Hughesovka works and collieries
- a visit made by Hughes and other family descendants to Donetsk, 1990, accompanied by Susan Edwards
- research carried out by the Glamorgan Record Office, including copies of journal articles, and genealogical research material
- activities of the GRO to publicise the collection – in particular, a major exhibition (1991), publication of a booklet (1992) and a research visit made by Susan Edwards to Ukraine and Russia (1992).
- Copies of Hughesovka-related material held in Donetsk Archives and Museum

It contains both original and copy material, including material copied from originals held by other repositories, both in the UK and in Russia and the Ukraine, and relevant copies of articles in journals and newspapers.

The collection illustrates the achievements of one of the highly skilled Welsh emigrants who founded and developed industries around the world. It is indeed a useful comparator to other Welsh enterprises abroad – the Welsh colony in Patagonia for example - and an indication of the strength of Welsh industrial enterprise. The main strength of the collection lies in the light it throws on the members of the expatriate community in Hughesovka, but it also contains material relating to the career of John Hughes, to the New Russia Company and to the works, including some technical information. It is particularly strong in photographic material, including numerous photographs of the town and works, and of the British families. It also includes a number of photographs of present-day Donetsk.

## 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**

Because of the nature of this collection, it has not always been possible to follow archival principles fully. The collection as a whole has been regarded as the fonds. Within the collection, the material deposited by each individual depositor has been catalogued as separate sub-fonds. 'Artificial' sub-fonds have also been created to bring together the research material collected by the Record Office, and material resulting from its Hughesovka-related activities.

Some of the material deposited relates to families who lived at Hughesovka, usually deposited by descendants of the families. In some cases, material relating to the same ancestor was deposited by different descendants of the family. In these cases, the material has always been catalogued according to depositor, not the ancestor to whom it relates. This means that material relating to the same person may sometimes be found in a number of different sub-fonds. Cross references to such material can be found in the 'Related Material' area.

In order to make it easier to use the catalogue, the individual sub-fonds have been arranged in subject areas as follows:

1. Records relating to John Hughes' early career
2. Records relating to the New Russia Company Ltd.
3. Hughesovka Works and town, and the Hughes family
4. Records relating to the British families who lived at Hughesovka
5. Glamorgan Record Office collected research material
6. Glamorgan Record Office Hughesovka-related activities and publicity

This subject-based organisation has been adopted to help the user navigate the collection, but note that it provides only a general guide. Family papers, for example, may include information on the town as well as on individual families, and sometimes include technical information on the works.

## **Conditions governing access**

Open access

## **Conditions governing reproduction**

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

## **Language/scripts of material**

English and Russian

## **Physical characteristics and technical requirements**

Most in good condition, but some items in poor condition.

## **Finding aids**

Detailed list available for most of the collection. Two outsize boxes of material, mostly ephemera, remain unappraised and uncatalogued.

**Existence and location of originals**

Some of the collection is copied from originals held by other repositories or by private individuals. The existence of originals is noted in the description of each sub-fonds.

**Existence and location of copies**

Copies of a small amount of the material are held elsewhere. This is noted for each sub-fonds, where applicable

**Related units of description****Publication note**

The material in the collection was used to compile the book *Hughesovka. A Welsh Enterprise in Imperial Russia* by Susan Edwards, published by the Glamorgan Record Office, 1992

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

Compiled by Rosemary Boyns for the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to *Hughesovka. A Welsh Enterprise in Imperial Russia* by Susan Edwards, and articles by Susan Edwards in the *Annual Reports of the Glamorgan Archivist* for 1984-1985, and 1987-1992.

**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