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NRA 22296



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Records of Wallis & Linnell Ltd.,
Clothing Manufacturers, of
Morley Street, Kettering.

Accession 1978/178

Frederick Wallis, born at Rothwell Lodge, Kettering in 1833, began work with a drapery firm at Nantwich, Cheshire before beginning his own business in 1855, manufacturing men's outer clothing from small premises in Ebenezer Place, Kettering. In these early days, he employed one cutter, three tackers, three machinists, three buttonholers, three chainstitch machinists and two pressers. In 1856 he was joined by William Toller, a Kettering draper and the business, known as Wallis & Co., moved to School Lane, Kettering.

John Linnell, born at Burton Latimer, was an apprentice to William Toller in Market Street, Kettering before moving to Manchester to obtain experience in warehouse work. In 1856, he returned to Kettering and entered the firm of Wallis & Co., becoming Frederick Wallis's partner when William Toller left. The business then became known as Wallis & Linnell.

The business soon expanded and a warehouse was opened in Birmingham, which became the firm's headquarters. Clothes made in the Kettering factory were sent to Birmingham to be sold. However, when Frederick Wallis died in 1885, John Linnell decided to centralise the business in Kettering and the Birmingham warehouse was closed. A fire at School Lane in 1864 seriously destroyed much of the factory, but enabled the premises to be rebuilt and considerably extended. Many extensions have been carried out at School Lane until the factory's closure in 1977.

Village factories were also opened in 1873 at Brigstock, in 1874 at Cottingham, in 1886 at Woodford and at Gretton in 1889. The Brigstock factory manufactures men's trousers only, however, the others manufacture all types of men's and boys outer wear. In 1924, a factory at Regent Street, Kettering was also purchased and equipped for the manufacture of clothing.

Frederick Wallis's son, Percy Wallis, joined the business in 1890. John Linnell died in 1916 and in 1920, his two sons, A.J. Linnell and H.G.B. Linnell, entered the business, becoming joint Managing Directors in 1945 when Percy Wallis died leaving no children.

During the Second World War, Wallis & Linnell Ltd. manufactured almost 100,000 garments for the W.A.A.F. and W.R.N.S. and 30,000 pairs of R.A.F. trousers as well as numerous officers' uniforms.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Records of Wallis & Linnell Ltd.

(cont.)

In 1966, the Regent Street premises were closed and by 1977, the School Lane premises were becoming too small for the Company, so, in June 1977, Wallis & Linnell Ltd. moved to Morley Street, Kettering. Today, these are the headquarters of the Company with other factories at Woodford, Brigstock and Blaenau Ffestiniog, Wales. Mr. A.J. Linnell remains the Company's Chairman and Mr. R. Harris is Managing Director.

The Company claims a record in that 101 employees over the years have given them over 50 years service. Wallis & Linnell specialize in the manufacture of men's and boys outer wear, sold under the brand name of Burleigh; clothes made include suits, evening wear, sports coats, blazers, raincoats, overcoats, overalls, trousers, uniforms and badges, sold at home and abroad.

1 Scrapbook of photographs, presscuttings,
brochures, etc. of the Company.

1956-1976

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Records of Messrs Wallis & Linnell
wholesale clothiers (with shops), Acc. 1980/70

ZB 57/1-136

ZB 57/

A. Formation of company and financing

1. Printed Memorandum and Articles of Association
Wallis and Linnell Ltd, 1913
2. Certificate of incorporation of W & L Ltd, 1913
3. Brass plate from entrance to company's office
4. Printed notice of extraordinary general meeting
Feb. 1954
5. Printed Memorandum & Articles of Association of
Wallis & Linnell Ltd, 1913 as revised in 1954
(with drafts)
6. Share ledger and register of members, incl. register
of transfers (to 1950), share lists (1913-19),
1913-22
7. Ordinary Share Certificate counterfoil book 1913-22
8. Preference Share Certificate counterfoil book 1913-35
9. Preference Share Certificate counterfoil book 1937-56
10. File of cancelled ordinary share certificates 1913-60
11. File of cancelled preference share certificates 1913-56 ?
12. Ledger loan accounts and investments 1945-53
- 12 B. Loan fund investors account books 1940-60

B. Management

13. Directors minutes May 1913 - March 1929
14. Directors minutes March 1929 - Dec. 1947
15. Letter from Blackwell & Riddey, architects about
a new factory, 1913
16. Lease of shop in Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey
to Wallis & Linnell Ltd, 1938

- 17. Envelope Lease of shop in Parsons Street,
Woodford Halse, 1959
- 18. Land charges search form re 154-8 Wood Street,
Kettering, 1970
- 19. List of leases, c.1970
- 20. Matrix for embossed letterhead
- 21. Specimen of embossed letterhead
- 21 B. File marked 'paperwork' containing specimens of
headings, forms &c. also some used specimens
& costings 1961-2; also notes on paperwork
1955, notes on recording stock cutting, stock-
taking procedure and new sales tickets (1961)

C. General accounts

- 22. Private Ledger 1903-13
- 23. Private Ledger 1913-20
- 24. Private Ledger 1921-54
- 24 B. Private Ledger July - Dec. 1962
- 24 C. Balance sheet & factory trading account 1920
- 25. Balance sheet and accounts 1920, 1921
- 25 B. Balance sheet, factory & warehouse trading
account & profit & loss accounts 1922-1960
- 26. Trial balance July 1945
- 26 B. Analysis of factory trading account 1952-3
- 27. Balance sheet and accounts 1946-1961
- 28. Ledger: overheads, 1945-53
- 29. File of vouchers for costs of professional services,
transport &c. 1958-60

Note: for general accounts relating to subsidiary
companies see section G.

D. Employees

(1) Salaries and wages

- 30. Average wage machinists tackers Sept. 1903
- 31. Names of employees who started work before 1930
with date each began

D.

32. Records of employees taken on, discharged &c. at School Lane, Regent Street, Brigstock, Cottingham, Gretton & Woodford 1948-1960; also names and ages of all employees 1954
33. Salaries monthly totals, individual rates &c. 1947-61/62 (monthly details from 58/9)
- 33 B. Monthly lists of salaries, also commissions, bonuses, dividends &c. 1946-49, 1952-1954
34. Monthly salaries lists 1959
35. Bronze plaque recording names of employees who had served 50 or more years, 1856-1956
- (2) Income tax
36. Tax loose monthly tax deduction cards 1957/58
37. Ledger, various bank accounts, loose 1958-60
- (3) Benevolent fund, pensions &c.
38. Women's Sick Club rules (no date: watermark 1878)
- 38 B. Employees Benevolent Fund balance sheet & accounts, 1927
39. Employees Benevolent Fund balance sheets & accounts, 1930 & 1935
40. File re Pension Fund incl. quotations by Scottish Widows Fund 1951, proposed scheme 1952, receipt for premium 1952, guide &c. also National Insurance Act 1959 guide re nonparticipation 1960; also list of Old Age Pensioners 1951, comparison of cost with 'own' scheme 1951
- 40 B. Pension Fund Trustees minute book 1951-60
- (4) Training
41. Envelope - booklets, corr. &c. re training & careers in clothing
42. Envelope - catalogues of information films to be hired &c.
43. Guide to the Art of Dress by the House of Burleigh compiled by F A Downing, head cutter of Wallis & Linnell Ltd, 1950
44. Ditto, centenary edition 1950
45. Booklet: Facts about Man Made Fibres, 1956

D.

(5)

46. Balance sheet of employees party Jan. 1894
47. Balance sheet of employees holiday Jan. 1896
48. Balance sheet of employees holiday Feb. 1899
49. Balance sheet of employees party Feb. 1901
50. Balance sheet of employees party Feb. 1903
51. Balance sheet of employees party 1905
52. The Outfitter, July 14 1906 containing
article on jubilee celebrations of
Wallis & Linnell established 1856
53. Balance sheet of employees jubilee outing 1906
54. Balance sheet of employees garden party 1907
55. Photographs: Employees annual party 1925
56. Programme of summer outing, June 1930;
ditto June 1931.
57. Employees dinner dance menu and
ticket, 1932; ditto soiree Feb. 1935
58. Large photograph of staff outing 1931
59. Photograph of group at Overstone Sept. 1937
60. Photograph of large group at a meal
61. Photograph of similar group, Feb. 1939
62. Newspaper cutting showing plaque unveiled in 1956
63. Programme of centenary year celebrations at
Blackpool, 1956
64. Special service at Wilby church for same, 1956

E.

Purchases, production and stock

65. File stocktaking sheets June 1957 (note: most
of goods referred to only by numbers).
- 65 B. Stocktaking sheets - totals with coded reference
numbers 1957, 1958 & 1959, 1961
66. File stocktaking sheets June 1960, March 1961
& draft trading accounts 1959-61.

E.

- 66 B. File on stocktaking procedure (detailed), connected with investigation into improving same 1961-2; also graphs of monthly sales, stocks and work in progress &c. 1958-61.
- 66 C. Costing particulars of manufacturing July/Aug. 1962
- 66 D. Card with standard instructions for making a boy's school raincoat.
- 66 E. Standard costing forms (blank)
- 67. Record of weekly turnover 1893-1973
- 67 B. File marked 'Trim and Work in Progress', Dec. 1964, 1965 & 1966 giving quantities of each garment, price & total value.
- 68. Photograph of interior of factory showing women at benches using sewing machines.
- 69. Films

F.

- Customers, sales and price lists.
- 70. Price list mainly boys suits marked 'Burton' 1890
- 71. Price list 'buttoning', 1890
- 72. Price list 'making reckoned', mainly suits, 1890
- 73. Price list 'pressing off', 1891
- 74. Price list E department, 1901
- 75. Fragment of price list of A department (printed)
- 76. Price lists for cords, moles &c., 1901, 1904, (1906), (1911), 1914
- 77. Price lists of made to measure garments 1906, 1910, 1913, 1914
- 78. Diary with price list 1937
- 78 B. Record of goods despatched, sheets 276-292, Aug & Sept 1970
- 79. 'Day Book' Jany 1898 - June 1953 Credit, chiefly from 1950 over-
- 80. 'Day Book' July 1953 - Aug. 1961 seas i.e.
- 81. 'Day Book' July 1961 - June 1964 amounts due to company
- 82. 'Day Book' July 1964 - Sept 1971

F.

- 83. File names of customers arranged under towns with their reference numbers
- 83 B. Record of bad debts 1874-1939
- 84. Photographs of male models modelling suits, jackets &c.
- 85. Envelope of original pen & ink cartoon or advertisement drawings by W.B. (W.E.B.) (most have no obvious connection with the firms) - one of factory called Burleigh

G. Subsidiary companies

- (1) Records relating to all (or several) companies
- 86. Ledger subsidiary companies 1933-53
- 87. File: stocktaking calculations, F.G. Hawkins & Associated Companies, 1949-1966
- 88. Analysis ledger containing summary of expense accounts, cash banked &c. for various shops & for W Edgar Ltd, F G Hawkins Ltd &c. 1963-73
- 89. Income Tax: monthly summary sheets of tax deducted, Hawkins, Edgar & Bloxsome 1961/2-1965/6
- 89 B. Monthly deduction cards of directors and salaried staff 1966/7-1969/70
- 89 C. Income Tax monthly deduction cards, directors & salaried staff 1970/71-1971/72
- 90. Income Tax, monthly summary sheets of tax deducted and refunded and net tax paid 1964-69 (F G Hawkins, Wm Edgar Ltd & Touch (outfitters) Ltd; also Walter Bloxsome Ltd to 1968)
- 91. Income tax, tax remittance papers 1971/2, 1972/3, Hawkins, Edgar & Touch.
- 91 B. List of insurances with amounts for buildings & contents relating to premises of subsidiary companies
- (2) Walter Bloxsome Ltd.
- 92. Cash Book Walter Bloxsome Ltd Jan 1947 - Sept 1965
- (3) William Edgar Ltd.
- 93. Travellers agreements with Wm Edgar Ltd. 1927 & 1930

G.

94. Customers ledger Wm Edgar Ltd. 1947-72
 95. Envelope. Assignment to Wm Edgar Ltd of tailors business at Haverhill, Suffolk, 1945
 96. Envelope. Assignment of lease of shop in Market Place, Banbury to William Edgar Ltd. 1945 with Corporation Licence of stall space outside shop 1956 & letter re lease, 1965
- (4) F. G. Hawkins Ltd.
97. Cash Book Feb. 1941 - May 1948
 98. Cash Book F.G. Hawkins Ltd. June 1948 - May 1952
 99. Cash Book ditto June 1952 - Dec. 1958
 100. Cash Book ditto Jan. 1959 - May 1964
 101. Cash Book ditto June 1964 - March 1970
 102. Cash Book Aug. 1962 to Feb. 1963
 103. Customers ledger F G Hawkins Ltd. 1957 to Feb. 1963 ('transferred to Wallis & Linnell's')
 104. Envelope Leases of shop in Cheam Common Road, Worcester Park, Surrey 1921-63, the last to F G Hawkins Ltd, with assignment of goodwill of business to same, 1957
 105. Lease of shop in Cornmarket, Thame, by F G Hawkins Ltd. 1966
 106. Envelope Lease of shop in Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon to F G Hawkins Ltd, 1947
 107. Envelope Leases of shop at 69 High Street, Banstead, Surrey (assigned 1946 to F G Hawkins) 1935-41, covering letter 1955, also lease of 69 High Street, 1957
 108. Envelope Leases of shop in Causewayhead, Penzance 1931-46 the last to F G Hawkins Ltd, insurance policy 1957.
 109. Envelope Agreement with F G Hawkins Ltd to purchase goodwill of shop in High Street, Walton on Thames, Surrey, 1937 with letters of 1943-6
 110. Envelope Leases &c. of shop in High Street, Chesham, Bucks, to F G Hawkins 1954-62
 111. Envelope Leases of shop in Priory Street, Monmouth to F G Hawkins 1948, underlease 1954, Monmouth School's exclusive agreement to supply uniform 1957, and contract with M. County Council 1962
 112. File re shop & maisonette in High Street, E. Grinstead, Surrey 1961-70

G.

- (5) L. Lobley Ltd. ✓₆₀₁
113. Memorandum & Articles of Association of L. Lobley Ltd, 1932
114. Share ledger and register of members. incl. register of transfer &c. L. Lobley Ltd. of Knaresborough, Yorks, 1932-47
115. Counterfoils of ordinary shares of L Lobley Ltd, 1932 (only 2 issued)
116. Ditto of preference shares 1932-3 (only 3 issued) and a share certificate &c.
117. Matrix of company seal
118. Specimen of company seal of L. Lobley Ltd.
119. Directors minutes L Lobley Ltd March 1933 - Feb 1943
120. Balance sheet & accounts of L Lobley Ltd 1933-36 with correspondence about same; weekly analysis petty cash
121. Envelope: Balance sheet & accounts of L Lobley Ltd 1935/6 with corr. about sale to L Lobley in July 1937 & proposed liquidation of company; also photocopy of return to Registrar of Companies for 1942
122. Bank book L Lobley Ltd, 1935-37
123. Cheque book, L. Lobley Ltd, 1937-8
124. Account book, monthly lists of payments Dec 1932 - Sept 1936.
125. Balance sheet & accounts of James Davison (Branch of L Lobley Ltd) for half year to June 1934; & ditto 10 July 1935; also weekly analyses of petty cash
126. Account book, monthly list of payments, Hexham branch, Nov 1933 - Dec 1935

H.

- Midland Clothiers
127. Midland Wholesale Clothing Manufacturing Association receipts & expenses 1910-61 (mainly subscriptions, costs of meetings and Wholesale Clothing Manufacturers Federation levies). ✓₅₁
128. Balance sheets 1935-7, 1939
129. Booklet. County Borough of Northampton Youth Organisations 1957 with letters referring to advertising in it by the Kettering Wholesale Clothiers Group.

I. Miscellanea

130. Through the Eye of a Needle, the story of the English Sewing Cotton Company (1897-1947), by H E Blyth, 1947
131. Buttons & Sew On, centenary booklet of James Grove & Sons Ltd, Halesowen, 1857-1957.
132. Handbook of Local Industries by Kettering & Corby Scientific Societies, 1951
133. Coventry street plan
134. Notice of death of Mrs Linnell, 13 March
135. Envelope with misc. oddments inside
136. Tin hat marked W & L.

Note: a scrapbook of photographs, presscuttings and brochures 1956-1976 was received on deposit as Accession 1978/178.

April 1980