

Northamptonshire Record Office

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Records of The Desborough Shoe Co. Ltd.,
Queen Street, Desborough

Accession 1978/84

In 1909 Mr. A.E. Elkington began The Desborough Shoe Co. Ltd. in Queen Street, manufacturing men's leather shoes sewn by machine, using the rivetted, screwed and stitched method of construction. Workers manufactured the shoes both in the factory and in their homes. A few Closing outworkers are employed even today in the Company.

During the 1920's, A.E. Elkington's brother, Mr. Walter Elkington, worked his way up from the position of Clicking Room foreman to become Managing Director of the Company and during this period another member of the family, Miss Ivy Elkington, was the Company's Chief Cashier.

In 1957 Mr. John Elkington, the son of Walter Elkington, became Managing Director. The Company had been making army boots throughout the two World Wars and the method of welting had changed to staple and cement welting. Cement welting was abandoned about 1970 and today the Company manufactures only men's leather and leather soled Goodyear welted shoes, named after Mr. Goodyear the inventor of this method of welting. The factory remains in the original premises, although a new office block has been added.

Mr. J. Draper has been the Managing Director of the Company since January, 1978.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The Desborough Shoe Co. Ltd.

1. Stocktaking Book: June 1920-July 1927
This book shows the quantity and value of stock in each factory department.
2. Stocktaking Book: June 1928-June 1934
Description as above.
3. Stocktaking Book: June 1935-June 1940
Description as above.
4. Stocktaking Book: June 1946-June 1952
Description as above.
5. Stocktaking Book: June 1953-June 1956
Description as above.
6. Wages Book: July 1912-June 1913
This book shows the wages paid weekly in each factory department, with the name of employee and the amount of wages paid, less contributions.
7. Wages Book: July 1920-Oct 1921
Description as above.

February, 1978.