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USER GUIDE 19A

COAL INDUSTRY

This User Guide details the various types of records relevant to a study of the history of the North-East coal industry. It lists in detail records held at Tyne & Wear Archives Service, but also includes general guidance on sources available at other repositories.

Prior to 1947 collieries were owned and operated by many different organisations, and the owners of coal royalties (right to exploit the coal) were often different from the owners or lessees of the land surface. Records relevant to the industry for this period are therefore scattered amongst a wide variety of sources.

On the 1 January 1947 the coal industry was nationalised and the task of running the mines passed to the Government in the guise of the Mines Department of the Board of Trade, later the Ministry of Fuel and Power. The Ministry established an hierarchical organisation in which individual coalfields were grouped into Divisional Boards, and Divisions were divided into a number of Areas each containing several collieries. Individual collieries were operated by colliery managers. The Northumberland and Durham coalfields came under the jurisdiction of the Northern Divisional Coal Board, which had 10 areas. Sources for the post-1947 period are therefore more centralised. The records of the NCB Northern Division for Durham coalfield are held at Durham County Record Office, and for the Northumberland coalfield at Northumberland Record Office. Records of the various relevant Ministries are held at the National Archives. (See also section 2, Public Records)

In the mid 1990's the rump of the coal industry was privatised and RJB Mining took over responsibility for the remaining deep mines and opencast operations in the region. Operational records for this period will be with the company.

For records relating to individual collieries see **User Guide 19B: Collieries**

For definitions of terms used in the coal trade, see [A Glossary of Terms Used in the Coal Trade of Northumberland and Durham](#) by G C Greenwell. There is a copy in the Search Room library.

Some records may have restrictions on access. In addition, it may not be possible to produce unlisted collections for consultation in the Searchroom. Please ask a member of staff for more details.

1. GENERAL SOURCES

Although only sources relating specifically to the coal industry are described in detail in this User Guide, relevant information may also be found in the following, more general sources:-

- * Family and estate records may include deeds, plans and sometimes business records of collieries
- * Records of solicitors, land agents and surveyors employed by such estates include a similar range of records
- * Manorial records, for areas where the tenure of the surface is copyhold
- * Local authority records deal with a wide range of relevant issues such as employment, law and order, welfare, health, redevelopment and reclamation in coal field communities. Building control plan series, for example, will contain plans of colliery buildings (see User Guide 13)
- * Local newspapers report significant incidents in the history of local mines, such as accidents, industrial disputes and closures.

2. PUBLIC RECORDS

Act to Regulate the Loading of Ships with Coals in Newcastle and Sunderland, 1766
[1074/73]

Mines Department, Catalogues of Plans of Abandoned Mines 1912, 1930-5 **[604/834-7; Search Room library]**

Royal Commission on the Employment of Children, evidence and report, 1842 **[Search Room library]**

Royal Commission on Accidents in Mines reports, 1890-3 **[3015, unlisted]**

Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, reports, 1903-5 **[3015, unlisted]**

Inspector of Mines, reports 1859-60, 1864-6 **[Search Room library; DF.WF/38]**

Durham and Northumberland Committee of the Physical and Chemical Survey of National Coal Resources, reports, minutes etc, 1927-35 **[1593, unlisted]**

NCB Durham Area; Wages Division, National and District Agreements, 1876-1971; Industrial relations circulars, 1947-56 **[1484/1-27]**

3. BUSINESS RECORDS

3.1 Mining

Ashington Coal Co Ltd, prospectus c1930s [**1845/DBC118 unlisted**]

Burradon & Coxlodge Coal Co Ltd, legal papers, 1910 [**1237/691/6 boxes 6, 9 (unlisted)**]

Easington Coal Co Ltd, tenancy agreement, 1924 [**DF.PEM1/30/3-4**]

Eltringham Colliery Co, Newcastle, minutes of Directors' meetings of Wm Harriman & Co Ltd regarding its partnership with Eltringham Colliery Co, 1883-90 [**1256/88**]

Elswick Coal Co Ltd, articles of association, mortgages register, deeds, trademarks, receivership papers, 1806-1952 [**DP.ELW**]

Londonderry Collieries Ltd, deeds, 1864-1902 [**DF.PEM1/16/1-2**]

New Brunswick Mining Co, minutes, letter books, shareholders records, 1856-70 [**DX62/1-4**]

North Durham Coal Co, partnership agreement, 1841 [**DT.SC/193**]

Priestman Collieries Ltd, Newcastle, correspondence, 1936 [**1256/41-3**]

Snibstone Colliery Co, Leicestershire, partnership papers, 1832-70 [**DT.SC/316-7**]

Stella Coal Co, deeds (unlisted), 17th century [**921, 968**]

T D Stewart & Co, North Shields, letter book, accounts, 1867-78 [**2135/1-3**]

Throckley Coal Co Ltd, legal papers, correspondence, c1890 [**1237/692/36, unlisted**]

Tyne Coal Co, papers, 1885-92 [**3415/CK/10**]

Wallsend & Hebburn Coal Co Ltd, legal papers, deeds, newscuttings, correspondence, valuations, balance sheets, 1731-1920 [**DF.WF/32/1-17; 1237/691/50 boxes 1-8 (unlisted)**]

Washington Coal Co Ltd, report & valuation, 1946 [**DX142**]

West Denton Colliery Co Ltd, deeds, correspondence, accounts, plans, liquidation papers, 1907-27 [**DT.SC/352-60**]

Bills for supply of candles to collieries, 1716-18 [**DF.HUG/2**]

Correspondence re collieries, including use of engine to extract water from mines, 1715-26 [**DF.HUG/42/1-8**]

Presidential Address to the Institution of Mining Engineers re coal mining by monks prior to the dissolution of the monasteries, especially in the Northumberland and Durham coalfield, 1910 [DF.HUG/179]

3.2 Colliery Viewers and Surveyors

William & Richard Brown, diary, 1767 [DX214]

John Buddle, correspondence, 1801-5 [35/171-2]

J King of Heworth, ledger, 1819 [DX196]

John Kirsopp of Lamesley and John Kirsopp junior, mining engineers, records, 1864-1921 [3015, unlisted]

Wilson family, Forest Hall, view books, 1823-36 [DF.WF/28/1-4]

Nicholas Wood, view book, 1736-1839 [DX198 – on microfilm]

3.3 Coal Trade

For records of employers organisations, see **User Guide 16: Trade Unions, Employers and Professional Associations**, and for records of the Newcastle guilds of Colliers and Hostmen, see **User Guide 7: Guild Records**

E R Newbiggin Ltd, coal exporters, accounts, articles of association, shareholders records, correspondence, 1918-75 [DX418]

Fawcett family, Lambton, account of coal landed at Lumley Park Staith, 1668 [DF.OX/1/3]

"Grand Allies" minutes, agreements, contracts, accounts, reports, correspondence, 1710-26 [3415/CK/3,13-14]

James A Brown & Co (Newcastle) Ltd, coal & coke exporters, minutes, accounts, share register, contracts, 1921-66 [DX63]

James D Johnson Ltd, Sunderland, coal merchant, financial records, sales and purchases, 1891-1938 [DX68]

Lithgo, Prince & Co; Prince, Tatham & Co, Newcastle; Renwick, Wilson & Co, coal exporters, records, c1920-60 [2158, unlisted]

Newcastle Commercial Exchange Co Ltd, minutes, shareholders records, accounts, coal shipment records, 1872-1962 [DT.NCE]

Pyman, Bell & Co, Newcastle, coal exporters, minutes, shareholders records, partnership agreements, financial records, correspondence, 1867-1961 [145]

R S Dalgliesh Ltd, coal exporters, minutes, shareholders registers, financial records, 1917-80 **[2388, unlisted]**

Shipping & Coal Co Ltd, Newcastle, financial records, shipment books, contracts, liner accounts, 1906-69 **[1011/1-70; MF744-7]**

F Turnbull & Co, Heaton, papers re coal handling plant, 1929-37 **[DX981]**

Andrew & John White, Sunderland, ship and coal owners, accounts and notebooks, 1813-50 **[730]**

William Young, South Shields, carting contractor, coal delivery agreement, 1927 **[504/3]**

Account of coal export dues received on the Wear, 1734-5 **[1753/7]**

Coal prices at Tyne Collieries, 1665-1827 **[35/167; 1074/22,24,28]**

Letter, 1846 **[503/1]**

Messent's Coal Shipping Apparatus, diagram, 1880 **[1215/5]**

Papers re The Wear Bill 1717, how coal owners will be disadvantaged by dues chargeable for making the river navigable to Durham **[DF.HUG/3-5]**

Papers re the Mayor and Burgesses of Newcastle purchasing the Manor of Walker in an attempt to control the coal trade, 1718-23 **[DF.HUG/6]**

Photographs of coal staiths, 1968-c1980 **[G.URA/1/37 & 55, G.URA/2/1-2]**

Papers re Jarrow Quay and the ballast shore, 1653-98 **[DF.HUG/63-87]**

Records re coal trade, 1711-1841 **[DF.HUG/154-164]**

Tables of vends on the river Tyne, 1773-81; river Wear, 1816 **[DX198]**

Tyneside Keelmen's unrest; correspondence, informants' statements, petitions, lists of keelmen, 1659-1866 **[394; 3415/CJ/3]**

4. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

For records of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Durham Miners Association, see **User Guide 16: Trade Unions, Employers and Professional Associations**

Posters and cartoons re dispute between the pitmen and coal owners and the formation of the pitmen's union, 1832 **[DX17; 1074/304-5]**

Reminiscences, notes and newscuttings re the miners strike, 1926 **[DX198; DX278]**

For papers re Tyneside Keelmen's unrest see section 3.3 above

5. WELFARE AND SAFETY

John Buddle, correspondence re the invention of the miners' safety lamp, 1814-39
[DX1242 – on microfilm]

Hines Coal Fund, Sunderland, minutes, newscuttings, 1915-37 **[CHX1]**

Montague Retired Miners Coal Fund, minutes, accounts, rules, correspondence, 1948-68
[CHX23]

Northumberland Aged Mine Workers Homes Association, rules, 1902 **[604/83]**

Northumberland & Durham Miners Permanent Relief Fund Friendly Society, minutes, accounts, reports, rules, accident registers, applicants registers, legal papers, correspondence, 1862-1995 **[CH.MPR - part microfilm]**

Northumberland Mineworkers Convalescent Scheme, annual reports, 1953-4 **[1598/Box 10]**

Society For the Prevention of Accidents in Coal Mines, Sunderland, correspondence, technical papers, notes, newscuttings, membership lists, 1802-48 **[S.PAM]**

Joseph Swan, correspondence re miners' safety lamp improvements, 1880-7 **[1101/653-77]**

Throckley Group of collieries, Aged Miners Coal Fund, minutes, accounts, rules, photographs, 1911-69 **[CHX15]**

Washington Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground, balance sheets, 1932-3
[1598/Box 5]

Wearmouth Colliery Miners Welfare Recreation Grounds Charity, accounts, 1935-42
[1598/Box 25]

6. MAPS AND PLANS

The plans listed here are general plans of coalfields. For plans of individual mines, see Section 2 above (abandoned mines plans) and **User Guide 19B: Collieries**, under the name of the individual colliery.

Plans of coalfields and coal districts, 1787-1939 **[2472 (unlisted); DS.CAR; T279/LUD 153; D.NCP/21/1-4; DF.WF/43/10; DX145/3]**

Plan along the waggonway from Ouston to Heworth, 1820 **[DT.BEL/2/287]**

Map of the County Around Newcastle Included in a District of Ten Miles, 1838 **[1453/1]**

Plan depicting royalty boundaries along the north-east coast from Fulwell to Hartlepool, 1898 **[DF.PEM1/36/1]**

Northern Region Opencast Executive, map of unworked coal, 1976 **[DX710]**

NCB Area 6, plans showing positions of old shafts **[1190, unlisted]**

Surveyor's plans of Birtley, Gateshead, Lamesley, Ravensworth areas, c1820-1830s **[DT.BEL/2]**

7. FILM

Films are held by the Northern Region Film and Television Archive. All requests for access should be addressed in the first instance to the Director at Blandford House.

"Big Geordie" working at Radar North opencast site, Northumberland, 1970 **[DX741/2]**

8. MISCELLANEOUS

"A New Song in Praise of the Pitmen", c1835 **[DX17/1]**

Moses family photograph album, 1890s **[DX961/1]**

Photograph of John Maddison Fry, Preston, dressed to go down the pit, c1900 **[515/1]**

Daily Telegraph, British Coal Mining Industry Special Supplement, nd **[604/846]**

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