## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ARCHIVES

### WILLIAM SOMMERVILLE AND SON LIMITED, PAPERMAKERS DALMORE MILL, AUCHENDINNY 1883–1988 [CURTIS FINE PAPERS]

#### GB584/WSS

#### Name of Creator: William Sommerville and Son Limited

Administrative History: Dalmore paper-mill was opened on 6 October 1837 by William Sommerville and Son. It was situated in the village of Auchendinny, Midlothian on the river Esk. It was the last of ten paper mills to be established in Midlothian since 1709. It was also one of the last to remain in production. The mill closed in 2004.

Formerly a meal mill, work started on the construction of the paper-mill in 1835. It opened in 1837 and produced close to 300 tons of paper in its first year of operation. During its lifetime, Dalmore mill made various types of paper, including computer tape and fine printing paper. It was used to print everything from whisky labels, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and Nigerian election papers.

From 1837 to 1898, Dalmore mill was run as a family partnership. On 31 October 1898, Charles William Sommerville, grandson of founder William Sommerville, dissolved the partnership and formed a limited company, Wm Sommerville and Sons. The company was floated on the Stock Exchange on 2 November 1898. In 1913, Charles Sommerville appointed Charles Gordon Wallace as manager at Dalmore, and Wallace's successors provided three generations of managing directors at Dalmore until its closure.

At the time of its closure in 2004, the mill was producing 10,000 tons of high quality paper each year and employed 120 people.

**Archival History:** Collection salvaged from waste and purchased by Midlothian Council from an archival trader.

**Scope and Content:** Pay and wages books (1883-1951); sales ledgers, closing accounts and out turn books (1901-1986); purchase ledgers and books (1912-1967); inventories (1895-1956); cashbooks (1913-1961); and daily records (1912-1988).

The collection comprises wages-books, sales and purchase ledgers, inventories, cashbooks and daily report books. The collection reveals operational details of a major industry in Midlothian. Dalmore mill was a key employer in the local area.

The records are a valuable resource for family and local historians. The wage books cover the period between 1883 and 1951, and record all employees and their pay. The daily report books provide operational details. These are supported by a wealth of financial information in the sales ledgers, purchase ledgers and cash books. In addition, the Inventories provide valuable insights into the working of the company between 1912 and 1956.

# System of Arrangement:

| Ref   | Description                                  | Dates       |
|-------|--|-------------|
| WSS/1 | Pay/Wages Books                              | 1883 - 1951 |
| WSS/2 | Sales Ledgers, Closing Accounts and Out Turn | 1901 – 1986 |
|       | Books  |             |
| WSS/3 | Purchase Ledgers & Books                     | 1912 – 1967 |
| WSS/4 | Inventories                                  | 1895 – 1956 |
| WSS/5 | Cash Books                                   | 1913 – 1961 |
| WSS/6 | Daily Reports                                | 1912 - 1988 |

Access: There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

## Conditions governing use: None.

Allied materials: Nigel Watson *The Last Mill on the Esk: 150 Years of Papermaking* (Scottish Academic Press, 1987)

| WSS/1        | Pay/Wages Books   | 1883 – 1951                     |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
|              | This series comprises detailed staffing records for<br>Dalmore mill. The wages and pay books in this series<br>include full listings of all staff. These are organised<br>alphabetically by departments, and record job<br>titles/roles and salaries paid fortnightly. Spanning<br>over a century of operation, this series provides a rich<br>source of genealogical and personal information,<br>much of it relating to the village of Auchendinny. This<br>series provides an insight into the development and<br>growth of the company throughout the period. |                                 |
|              | 11 volumes  |                                 |
| WSS/1/<br>1  | Pay Book (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 27 Oct 1883<br>– 05 Oct<br>1889 |
| WSS/1/<br>2  | Pay Book (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 19 Oct 1889<br>– 29 Feb<br>1896 |
| WSS/1/<br>3  | Wages Book<br>1 volume  | 14 Mar<br>1896 – 02<br>Feb 1907 |
| WSS/1/<br>4  | Wages Book<br>1 volume  | 16 Feb<br>1907 – 24<br>Feb 1912 |
| WSS/1/<br>5  | Wages Book No. 3 (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 09 Mar<br>1912 – 09<br>Dec 1916 |
| WSS/1/<br>6  | Wages Book No. 4 (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 23 Dec<br>1916 –<br>21Apr 1923  |
| WSS/1/<br>7  | Wages Book No. 5 (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 05 May<br>1923 – 09<br>Jun 1928 |
| WSS/1/<br>8  | Wages Book No. 6 (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 23 Jun 1928<br>– 25 Mar<br>1933 |
| WSS/1/<br>9  | Wages Book No. 7 (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 08 Apr 1933<br>– 23 Dec<br>1937 |
| WSS/1/<br>10 | Wages Book No. 8 (W.S. & S. Ltd)<br>1 volume  | 22 Jan 1938<br>– 19 Aug<br>1939 |
| WSS/1/<br>11 | Wages Transfer<br>1 volume  | 26 Aug<br>1939 – 31<br>Mar 1951 |

| WSS/2   | Sales Ledgers, Closing Accounts<br>and Out Turn Books  | 1901 – 1986                  |
|---------|--|------------------------------|
|         | This series of financial records detail the sales and<br>monies owed to the company by its many<br>customers. Comprising daily sales ledgers,<br>consolidated sales ledgers and annual closing<br>accounts of the company, this series provides<br>detailed descriptions of the goods, services and<br>customers of the company and income generated<br>through sales.<br>30 items |                              |
| WSS/2/1 | Sales Ledger (Bound under "Wages Book" Cover)<br>Consolidated customer accounts, organised<br>alphabetically by customer and recording the<br>amount of income received for goods and the<br>amount of monthly amount of money owed by<br>customers for orders placed with descriptions of the<br>quantities and types of paper required.<br>1 volume                              | 1915 – 1967                  |
| WSS/2/2 | Sales Ledger Transfer<br>Consolidated customer accounts, organised<br>alphabetically by customer and recording the<br>amount of income received for goods and the<br>amount of monthly amount of money owed by<br>customers for orders placed with descriptions of the<br>quantities and types of paper required.<br>1 volume  | 1917 – 1967                  |
| WSS/2/3 | Sales Ledger<br>Consolidated customer accounts, organised<br>alphabetically by customer and recording the<br>amount of income received for goods and the<br>amount of monthly amount of money owed by<br>customers for orders placed with descriptions of the<br>quantities and types of paper required.<br>1 volume   | 1928 – 1967                  |
| WSS/2/4 | Sales Book<br>1 volume   | Sep 1951 –<br>Feb 1959       |
| WSS/2/5 | Closing Account Ledger<br>Annual summary company accounts detailing<br>shared holder dividends, wages, expenses stock<br>expenditure and including a profit and loss<br>statement.<br>1 volume   | 31 May<br>1901 – Feb<br>1981 |
| WSS/2/6 | Extension of Closing Account Ledgers<br>Folder containing loose leaf records of annual<br>summary company accounts detailing shared holder<br>dividends, wages, expenses stock expenditure and<br>including a profit and loss statement.   | 1981 – 1986                  |

|         | 23 items  |                             |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| WSS/2/7 | Paper Out Turn Book<br>Detailed weekly account of paper produced from<br>number two machine at Dalmore mill. Recording<br>customer details, order descriptions and quantities<br>and type of paper produced<br>1 volume | 21 Jan 1950<br>– 7 Jul 1973 |

| WSS/3         | Purchase Ledgers & Books   | 1912 – 1967            |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
|               | This series of financial records detail the company's creditors. Spanning most of the twentieth century, this series provides insight into the changing nature of paper making through this period, recording in detail the many raw materials used in the process and their changing quantities and type. |                        |
|               | 1 volumes  |                        |
| WSS/3/1       | Purchase Ledger<br>Organised alphabetically by supplier name, the<br>purchase ledger records purchase accounts for<br>supplies required to operate the paper mail detailing<br>cash and goods balance.<br>1 volume   | 1917 – 1967            |
| WSS/3/2       | Purchase Ledger<br>Organised alphabetically by supplier name, the<br>purchase ledger records purchase accounts for<br>supplies required to operate the paper mail detailing<br>cash and goods balance.<br>1 volume   | 1917 – 1966            |
| WSS/3/3<br>-4 | Purchase Book Nos. 1 & 2 (Wanting)   |                        |
| WSS/3/5       | Purchase Book No. 3<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume   | Jun 1912 –<br>Aug 1918 |
| WSS/3/6       | Purchase Book No. 4<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume   | Sep 1918 –<br>Dec 1925 |
| WSS/3/7       | Purchase Book No. 5<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume   | Jan 1926 –<br>May 1931 |
| WSS/3/8       | Purchase Book No. 6<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume   | Jun 1931 –<br>Sep 1936 |
| WSS/3/9       | Purchase Book No. 7<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume   | Oct 1936 –<br>Apr 1943 |
| WSS/3/1<br>0  | Purchase Book No. 8<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume   | May 1943 –<br>Aug 1951 |
| WSS/3/1<br>1  | Purchase Book No. 9 (Wanting)  | Sep 1951 –<br>Feb 1959 |

| WSS/3/1<br>2 | Purchase Book No. 10<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume | Mar 1959 –<br>Aug 1964 |
|--------------|---|------------------------|
| WSS/3/1<br>3 | Purchase Book No. 11<br>Daily record of operational purchase recording<br>supplier details, description of goods and costs.<br>1 volume | Sep 1964 -<br>Nov 1967 |

| WSS/4    | Inventories   | 1895 – 1956           |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
|          | This series comprises stock inventories providing detailed accounts of raw materials used in the paper making process. WSS/4/4 records the stock levels of paper product generated by the mill. |                       |
| WSS/4/1  | 4 volumes<br>Inventory 1895/1911 W.S. & S. Ltd  | 19 Mar                |
| VV33/4/1 | Stock inventory of raw materials for paper making.  | 1895 – 31<br>May 1911 |
| WSS/4/2  | Inventory General   | 31 May                |
|          | Stock inventory of raw materials for paper making.<br>1 volume  | 1912 – 31<br>May 1932 |
| WSS/4/3  | Inventory General   | 31 May1933            |
|          | Stock inventory of raw materials for paper making.<br>1 volume  | – 31 May<br>1956      |
| WSS/4/4  | Inventory – Paper   | 31 May                |
|          | Running account of paper stock levels, organised by<br>paper type as generated at Dalmore Mill<br>1 volume  | 1912 – 31<br>May 1956 |

| WSS/<br>5 | Cash Books  | 1913 – 1961 |
|-----------|---|-------------|
|           | This series records the daily cash expenditure and receipts of Dalmore mill, recording suppliers and customer information, descriptions of goods purchased and received, and cash totals accordingly. |             |
|           | 5 volumes   |             |
| WSS/      | Cash Book   | 01 Feb      |
| 5/1       | 1 volume  | 1913 – 31   |
|           |   | Mar 1923    |
| WSS/      | Cash Book   | 03 Apr      |
| 5/2       | 1 volume  | 1923 – 30   |
|           |   | Jan 1932    |
| WSS/      | Cash Book   | 01 Feb      |
| 5/3       | 1 volume  | 1932 –      |
|           |   | 31Jan 1941  |
| WSS/      | Cash Book   | 01 Feb      |
| 5/4       | 1 volume  | 1941 – 29   |
|           |   | Feb 1952    |
| WSS/      | Cash Book   | 01 Mar      |
| 5/5       | 1 volume  | 1952 – 28   |
|           |   | Nov 1961    |

| WSS/6  | Daily Reports  | 1912 – 1988           |
|--------|--|-----------------------|
|        | This series provides a daily account of operations in<br>the mill, including quantities and types of raw<br>materials in use, boiler activity, machine logs,<br>quantities of paper produced, and remarks and<br>comment on issues affecting daily output. Spanning<br>most of the twentieth century, these daily reports<br>provide a detailed and fascinating account of the<br>operation of the mill throughout the period. |                       |
|        | 7 volumes  | 40 Eak                |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports  | 10 Feb                |
| 1      | 1 volume   | 1912 – 10<br>Sop 1921 |
| WSS/6/ | Doily Reports  | Sep 1921<br>12 Sep    |
| 2      | Daily Reports 1 volume   | 12 Sep<br>1921 – 22   |
| 2      | 1 volume   | Nov 1930              |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports  | 24 Nov                |
| 3      | 1 volume   | 1930 – 16             |
|        |  | Mar 1940              |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports  | 18 Mar                |
| 4      | 1 volume   | 1940 – 28             |
|        |  | May 1949              |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports  | 30 May                |
| 5      | 1 volume   | 1949 – 17             |
|        |  | May 1958              |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports (WANTING)  | 1958 –                |
| 6      |  | 1967                  |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports  | 28 Jun 1967           |
| 7      | 1 volume   | - 30 Oct              |
|        |  | 1976                  |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports (WANTING)  | 1976 –                |
| 8      |  | 1986                  |
| WSS/6/ | Daily Reports  | 12 Jan 1986           |
| 9      | 1 volume   | – 12 Jun              |
|        |  | 1988                  |