

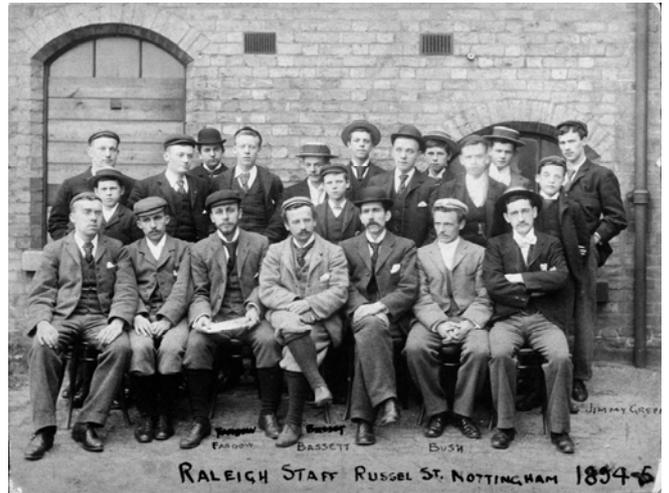
## FAMILY HISTORY IN THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ARCHIVES

**Did your ancestors work or were they involved in the fields of science, engineering, medicine or industry?**

If the answer is yes then we may be able to help!

The Science Museum archives holds a large collection of named archives which feature personal papers and company records of some of the most influential individuals and companies in history. However, along with these, we also have items in our named archives that show the people behind the science, including the names and details of staff, individuals and associates.

We also have smaller collections and sometimes just single items, such as photographs or letters, in what we call our 'MS' collection. These items include many 'ordinary' names and give a snapshot into the lives of the people who created them.



*Photograph of Raleigh staff at Russel Street, Nottingham 1894 (BIGGS3/1)*

### Using the Archives for your research

The best way to begin your research at the Science Museum Archives is with our online catalogue, which can be accessed on our website. You can use search terms such as individual and company names, themes, date ranges etc.

Lists of the named archives and archives by subject will also be available on our website in the near future, and this will help if you know the name of the company or individual your ancestor worked for. We also have finding aids for most of our named archives giving more detailed descriptions of the



items in the collection, these are available in our reading room and we are happy to forward these on via email.

The archives and library staff will also carry out 30 minutes free research on your behalf, and are always available to advise on the best ways to get the most out of our collections for your family history research.

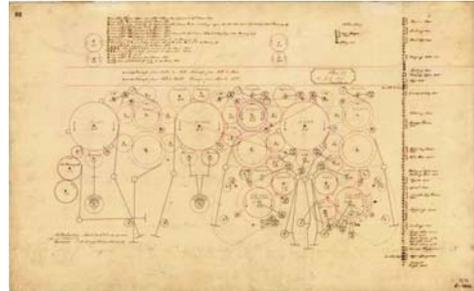
*Photograph of Mr and Mrs Benz in 1891 Benz Victoria (MS1549).*

## Names in the archive collections

Whilst the Science Museum Archives holds the archives of some of the most famous individuals in the fields of science, medicine, engineering and industry we also have records of the 'ordinary' people who contributed to and were involved in these fields. Below we list a few of the famous and 'ordinary' names included in the collections.

### Famous Names

- **Charles Babbage** - 'father of the computer' – we have his notebooks and drawings for his calculating machines!
- **Isambard Kingdom Brunel** – creator of the Great Western Railway – we have letters he sent!
- **Humphry Davy** – inventor of the 'Davy Lamp' – we have letters he sent!
- **Barnes Wallis** – inventor of the 'bouncing bomb' – we have his personal papers!



*Drawing of Babbage's Analytical Engine 1825 (BAB A89\*)*

### 'Ordinary' Names – The people behind the science

- **Robert Hamilton** – nephew of James Watt and apprentice for three years to George Harrison. We have his journal and recipe book, including a list of his family's birth dates. *Found on our online catalogue using a name search (Archive Ref: MS 449/1-2).*
- **Hugh Hansford** – attended the Free School in Gillingham, Dorset. We have his school exercise book dated 1818. Contains mathematical and geometrical rules. Shows his working outs for a number of 'problems'. *Found on our online catalogue using the themed search 'school' (Archive Ref: MS 337).*
- **E. J. Blake (Snr) and E. G. Blake (Jnr)** – both worked for Sir Barnes Neville Wallis in 1952 in the Research and Development Department. From the Barnes Wallis archive, using a list of names, addresses & telephone numbers of members of staff working for him at the time. *Found using the list of named archives and the finding aid. (Archive Ref: BNW A5/7).*

- **Florence Rose Stevens** – passed her final state examination to be admitted to the 'Mental Nurses Register' on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 1932 and was officially admitted to the list on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1932. From a small collection that includes her exam papers, cards and certificates; instructions on uniform and badges; and photos of Florence with her patients.



*From a collection of papers re examination of nurses (MS1442)*

*Found using the online catalogue, in the MS collection using the themed search 'nurses' (Archive Ref: MS 1442).*

- **Dr Scott Mason** – bought a Hooper designed, four door saloon with a Bentley Mark VI chassis in November 1951. From the production records of the Hooper archive, we also have order books and financial records, all giving details of customers.  
*Found using the list of named archives and the finding aid. (Archive Ref: HOOP 2/12).*
- **W. B. Redgrave** – on board the cable ship Anglia in 1900-1901. Found in an album documenting the laying of the Porthcurno-Madeira-St. Vincent submarine cable. The album has a list of all officers, crew and cable staff on board.  
*Found using the online catalogue using the themed search 'submarine' (Archive Ref: MS 462/4).*
- **M. D. Hancock** – secretary for the Lancashire, Derby and East Coast Railway Company. Writes to S. Pearson & Son explaining that he has been entrusted to tell them that, after a meeting was held, it was decided that a bonus of £7000 will be paid to the company if the work is completed by 1<sup>st</sup> January 1896 and will decrease by £1000 every month until the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1896 when the bonus will 'cease to be payable'. From the Pearson archive, this contains details of contracts held on many different building and engineering projects carried out by Pearson & Son.  
*Found using the list of named archives and the finding aid (Archive Ref: PEA 18).*
- **Peter Budge** – sold leather to Richard Trevithick in August 1791. From Richard Trevithick's cost books for mines in Cornwall, this contains lists of accounts with numerous individuals for such things as beef, carriages and land and includes dates and prices.  
*Found using the online catalogue and the themed search 'mines' (Archive Ref: MS 627/1-4).*



*Photograph of staff of Vauxhall Motors Ltd at Luton 1905 (MSL296).*

## Companies in the archive collections

Not only do our archives provide information about the individuals, we also have a vast range of company archives from Hooper Coachbuilders to NASA and many more in between. As well as providing professional information on the company they also allow us a glimpse into the styles, trends and cultures of the ages.

### **Pearson & Son,** (*Archive Ref: PEA*)



*Pearson staff, Port Talbot c. 1900  
(PEA)*

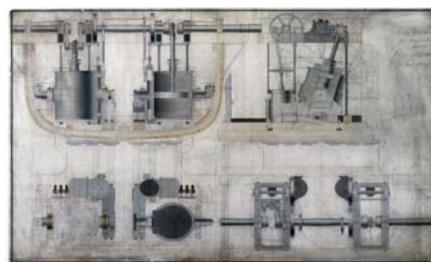
The engineering and building company Pearson & Son was founded by Samuel Pearson in 1844. In 1880 control passed to his grandson Weetman Pearson who in 1890 moved the business to London and turned it into one of the world's largest construction companies.

At the Science Museum archives we hold records of the company from around 1870 to 1955. These include contracts, specifications, agreements, correspondence, reports, accounts, notebooks and photographs relating to the companies civil engineering work, carried out throughout the world.

If your ancestor worked for or was involved in any of these projects or civil engineering as a whole, then this archive could prove to be invaluable to your research. Not only does it record individuals, it also gives an insight into the nature of the industry and the society they lived in.

### **Maudslay, Sons and Field** (*Archive Ref: MAUD*)

Maudslay, Sons and Field was created 1822, originating from Maudslay & Co., and consisted of Henry Maudslay, his two sons, Thomas Henry and Joseph Maudslay, and Joshua Field as partners.



*Engines designed for SS 'Great Britain' c. 1843  
(MAUD)*

They specialised in making marine engines but also made stationary steam engines of various patterns, machinery for mills, railway locomotives, waterworks pumping machinery and many more. Their most famous works are perhaps supplying the engine for Isambard Kingdom Brunel's SS Great Western, the first transatlantic steamship, in 1838, and contributing to the building of Marc Isambard Brunel's Thames Tunnel in 1825.

This archive provides a great insight into the engineering industry and where many of the tools and machines operated today originated from.

### **Kenwood** (*Archive Ref: KENW*)

Kenwood Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was founded by Kenneth Maynard Wood in 1936. It sold, installed and repaired radios and televisions. The company's most famous product was perhaps the Kenwood Chef, the food processor.

At the Science Museum archives we hold an archive that includes historical material relating to Ken M Wood himself and also Kenwood Manufacturing Co. Ltd., such as photographs, letters, press cuttings and trade literature.

This archive, apart from documenting the household name of the Kenwood Company, gives us a snapshot into the 1960s. The photographs especially remind us of the fashions and trends.