



The Chance Collection

Reference: MS67

The Chance Collection

MS67

The Chance Collection

1771-1875

This collection comprises the records of three companies associated with the Chance family of Birmingham: Chance and Homer, William Chance and Son, and Chance Brothers and Co.

Records comprise stock books of Chance and Homer, hardware factors, 1771-1880; ledger of William and George Chance, partners in the exporting firm later known as William Chance and Son, 1816-1824; private ledger of Sir James Timmins Chance, partner and manager of Chance Brothers and Co, glass manufacturers, 1838-1875; manuscript accounts of Robert Lucas Chance, partner and manager of Chance and Brothers, later known as Chance Brothers and Co, for 1831.

The collection is arranged according to what is thought to be the original provenance of the records.

6 vols., and 1 item

Open

Access to all registered researchers

Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections. Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Language: English

The collection was deposited by Sir Hugh Chance [great-grandson of William Chance, Jr], 6 May 1976. Additional material relating to the history of the companies, compiled by Sir Hugh, can be obtained from the provenance file for this collection. The

The Chance Collection

collection's former location in Special Collections was Business Records 14/1-2.

A microfilm of the stock books of Chance and Homer, 1771-1880, and the private ledger of Sir James Timmins Chance, 1838-1875, and a microfilm of the accounts of Robert Lucas Chance for 1821-1831 [not included in the collection], including additional notes compiled by Sir Hugh Chance are stored separately with the department's other microfilms.

Additional records of Chance Brothers and Co are held at Sandwell Community History and Archives Service.

MS67/1	Records of Chance and Homer, hardware factors	1773-1779
--------	---	-----------

Company stock books

The hardware factoring business of Chance and Homer was established by William Chance [1749-1828] and Edward Homer [1749-1825] in Birmingham in 1771. In 1804 a new partnership was formed with William Chance's son Robert Lucas Chance, and the company was then known as Chance, Homer and Chance. In 1807 Homer relinquished his shares in the business, and in 1809 William Chance's other son, William Chance Jr joined the partnership. In 1814 another son, Edward, was made a partner, and the company was renamed William Chance and Sons.

4 vols.

Open

MS67/1/1	Stock books	1771-1880
----------	-------------	-----------

Series of stock books compiled for Chance and Homer, hardware factors, in Birmingham. Volumes are labelled 1-4. Details of 'bad debts' are provided at the rear of each volume.

4 vols.

The Chance Collection

	Open	
MS67/1/1/1	Stock book, 1	1773-1779
	Inventory of stock in trade, 9 Jan 1773 - 30 Jan 1779	
	1 vol.	
	Open	
MS67/1/1/2	Stock book, 2	1779-1791
	Inventory of stock in trade, 30 Jan 1779-15 Feb 1791	
	1 vol.	
	Open	
MS67/1/1/3	Stock book, 3	1791-1805
	Inventory of stock in trade, 15 Feb 1791-8 Jan 1805	
	1 vol.	
	Open	
MS67/1/1/4	Stock book, 4	1804-1812
	Stock settlements for 6 Jan 1804, 27 Apr 1807, 15 Jan 1810.	
	Includes partnership agreements between William Chance Sr and Robert Lucas Chance, Jan 6 1804- 1 Mar 1807; and between William Chance Sr, Edward Homer and Robert Lucas Chance, 15 Jan 1810- 1 Jan 1812.	
	1 vol.	
	Open	
MS67/2	Records of William and George Chance, exporters	1815-1824
	Ledger	
	In 1815 William C. Chance and his brother George established an independent export	

The Chance Collection

company, based in Great Charles Street, Birmingham. George Chance managed the American side of the business from an office in New York, whilst William conducted affairs in Birmingham. The partnership was renewed in Jan 1822 for a further 14 years, at which point George Chance retired. William Chance's son, also named William [1815-1862] was then made a partner, and the firm traded under the new name William Chance and Son. After the death of William Chance Sr in 1856, William Jr proved unable to cope with the demands of the business, and John Southern Timmins, a relative, was brought in to manage affairs. After another period of difficulties, James Timmins Chance [1814-1902], partner in the family glass firm of Chance Brothers and Co, supervised the business. The company was finally sold to B. S. H. Thompson, Export Merchants, who had leased the business from 1859.

1 vol.

Open

MS67/2/1

Ledger

1815-1824

The inside cover contains typescript notes relating to the business affairs of William and George Chance, compiled by Sir Hugh Chance in the mid 20th century.

1 vol.

Open

MS67/3

Records of Chance Brothers and Co, glassmakers

1838-1875

Private ledger of J. T. Chance and manuscript details of accounts for Robert Lucas Chance

Although William Chance [1749-1828] and Edward Homer [1749-1825] became partners in the Nailsea Glassworks in 1793, it was Robert Lucas Chance's purchase in 1824 of the British Crown Glass Company on Spon Lane, Smethwick, which marked the transformation in the affairs of Chance

The Chance Collection

Brothers and Co from hardware factors to glass manufacturers. In addition to the glassworks in Smethwick, the partnership erected a chemical works at Oldbury in 1835. The company was one of the leaders in the field of glass making throughout the 19th century, second only to Pilkingtons in terms of quantity of glass production. In 1945 Pilkington acquired a 50% holding in the company, and by 1951 Chance Brothers had become a wholly owned subsidiary of Pilkington.

1 vol. and 1 item

Open

MS67/3/1

Private ledger of J. T. Chance

1838-1875

Private ledger of Sir James Timmins Chance [1814-1902, Manager of Chance Brothers and Co from 1865], 1838-1875

1 vol.

Open

With keys

MS67/3/2

Manuscript accounts of Robert Lucas Chance for 1831

nd [mid 19th century]

Compiled from ledgers and associated financial records of Chance Brothers and Co, identified on the front cover as the British Crown Glass Company [previous name of the glass works on Spon Lane, Smethwick, which were purchased by Chance in 1824]. Robert Lucas Chance was managing director of the glassworks throughout the early-mid 19th century.

1 item

Open