



Finding Aid for

BLACK ROCK FOUNDRY RECORDS, 1829-1839

Accession 85.10.1

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 85.10.1

CREATOR: Black Rock Foundry

TITLE: Black Rock Foundry records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1829-1839

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: The Black Rock Foundry, situated in Black Rock, New York near Buffalo manufactured a variety of steel, iron and brass parts and casings. The records are primarily financial.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The records are open for research.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

ACQUISITION: Acquired by The Henry Ford, 1985.

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 85.10.1, Black Rock Foundry records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Collection processed by staff of The Henry Ford.

DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Original collection inventory prepared by staff of The Henry Ford and published in June 1988. Finding aid reformatted in July 2011 by Brian Wilson.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Black Rock Foundry, Black Rock, New York, operated under the name of Gibson, Johnson & Ehle in 1830, as Gibson-Grayson & Co. in 1832, as Gen. Peter B. Porter & Bull in 1834, and in 1836, Gen. Peter B. Porter, Trustee. The company manufactured a variety of steel, iron, and brass tools, machinery parts, and castings to order. The firm also dealt heavily in steam engines, boilers, parts for steamships, and parts for the Buffalo Marine Railway and the Buffalo Railway. In addition, the foundry supplied parts for sawmills in the east and upper Canada, for threshers, barking machines, wagons and other vehicles.

The town of Black Rock was situated on the Niagara River just a few miles from Buffalo, New York. Both towns were important centers of boat building and Great Lakes commerce in the nineteenth century. Black Rock was attacked and burned by the British in the War of 1812. The town became part of Buffalo in the 1840s.

Gen. Peter B. Porter (1773-1844), an influential national and local leader, was closely associated with Black Rock and the foundry there. He was a pioneer in early transportation and the economic development of the region, with a distinguished record in public service. He served in Congress from 1809 to 1813 and became a major general of militia in the War of 1812. He led troops in defense of Black Rock and gained military renown in campaigns on the Niagara frontier. The General was prominent in the unsuccessful fight to make Black Rock, rather than Buffalo, the terminus of the Erie Canal. His business interests in the 1820s and 1830s also included development of railroad and steamship operations, with Black Rock Foundry and Black Rock Harbor Company corollary operations.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists predominantly of orders, bills, and receipts, including those for raw materials such as ore and coal used in the foundry business. There are also receipts for food, clothing, board costs for employees, wage and banking accounts, scrap metal purchases, and various other items. A small amount of correspondence is also included.

ARRANGEMENT

The materials are arranged in chronological order with bills, drafts, orders and receipts intermixed.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Black Rock Foundry

Porter, Peter B. (Peter Buell), 1773-1844.

Subjects

Iron foundries--New York (State)

Steel foundries--New York (State)

Geographic

Buffalo (N.Y.)

Genre and Form

Financial records

CONTAINER LIST

Box no. **Description**

Box 1

Bills and Drafts, 1829
Bills, January-March, 1830
Bills, April-June, 1830
Bills, July-September, 1830
Bills, October-December, 1830
Bills, April-June, 1831
Bills, July-September, 1831
Bills, October-December, 1831
Bills and Orders, January, 1832
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, February, 1832
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, March, 1832
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, April, 1832 (2 folders)
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, May, 1832
Bills, July-September, 1832
Bills, October-November, 1832
Bills, December, 1832
Directions: Fixing Centerheads on a Sawmill, 1832
Bills and Orders, January, 1833
Bills, and Orders, February-March, 1833
Bills and Orders, April-June, 1833
Bills and Orders, July-August, 1833
Bills and Orders, September, 1833
Note and Orders, October, 1833
Bills and Orders, November-December, 1833
Estimate, Horizontal Engine, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, January, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, February, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, March, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, April, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, May, 1834
Bills and Orders, June, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, July, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, August, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, September, 1834
Orders, October, 1834
Bills, Drafts, and Orders, November, 1834 (2 folders)
Accounts, Bills, and Orders, 1835
Accounts and Bills, 1836
Correspondence, 1836
Bills and Orders, 1837, 1838
Bills, 1839
Bills and Drafts, undated