

GREATER MANCHESTER COUNTY RECORD OFFICE  
CATALOGUE OF ARCHIVES

E19/ Davenport Family of Withington



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# Greater Manchester County Record Office

E19/ Davenport Family of Withington

## Introduction

This archive consists of many hundreds of letters, documents and miscellaneous items concerning the families of John Davenport senior and junior of Withington. The archive covers the first half of the nineteenth century and deals with their domestic activities as well as their business as rope makers.

The archive sheds light on an occupation that has seen little change for centuries and includes agreements for the original lease from Samuel Heginbottom for the business premises in or near Mason Street, Ancoats and other premises in Addington Street, Cable Street and Green Lane (formerly George Road). Sometime after 1825 the business moved to new premises on Ashton Road which, according to the directory for 1829, was the works; there was a shop at 14 Smithfield. Earlier directories list the business of John Davenport & Son as being at 1 Mason Street/Swan Street while John Davenport junior is noted as trading from 4 Mason Street. By 1838 it seems that John Davenport Senior had either retired or had died as the name & Son had disappeared.

Factory records show a wide range of goods manufactured- lacing cord, twine, engine yarn, sashcords, whip lashes, surgeons tow, bucket ropes, bed cords, fine and rough flax and bell ropes for the Cathedral

**PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY DOCUMENTS ARE IN A POOR STATE AND WILL ONLY BE PRODUCED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ARCHIVIST**

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E19/1 Bundle of documents dating 1801-1855 containing the marriage settlement of John Davenport and Ann Guest (18 June 1801) and the will of John Davenport Snr. Also includes correspondence and accounts concerning the affairs of the family who lived at Oak Bank, Withington. Some documentation is very fragile.

E19/2 Accounts for the Oak Bank household during the 1830s. Includes bills from wine merchants, the butcher, grocer etc. Monies paid to John Davenport by his tenants and tax assessments. Also John Davenports subscription to the Manchester subscription library (The Portico)

E19/3 Accounts for the Oak Bank household during the 1840s. Includes bills from wine merchants, the butcher, grocer etc. Bills for the repairs and upkeep of the family home. Receipt for land property and highways taxes levied on John Davenport. Also accounts for money paid to John Davenport by his tenants.

E19/4 Business Correspondence.

3 May 1823-22 Dec 1823

4 letters concerning the supply of hemp from St Petersburg to John Davenport

9 Feb 1825-30 Nov 1825

13 letters, some containing orders for ropes, others informing John Davenport of suppliers of hemp and its cost

10 Feb 1826-31 Mar 1827

10 letters concerning quality, price and origin of hemp. St.Petersburg, Italy and Hungary.

19 Mar 1827-31 Dec 1827

19 letters from merchants informing John Davenport that they have supplies of hemp and the cost of the same. 1 letter from the Court for Relief of insolvent debtors concerning William Bardsley, a former customer

7 Jan 1828-29 Dec 1828

13 letters concerning the buying of hemp and flax for rope making. 1 letter of complaint to John Davenport on the quality "being much too soft" of his gaskets.

28 Jan 1829-23 Sep 1829

4 letters containing details of hemp for sale including price lists for Riga and Londonderry flax.

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5 Mar 1830-1 Dec 1830

17 letters concerning the sale of flax and hemp to John Davenport. Letters from merchants to interest him in buying their merchandise. Also a letter concerning the arrival of ships from Riga carrying flax and hemp.

E19/4 2 Mar 1831-4 Oct 1831

7 letters concerning the price of hemp and flax from merchants in Hull. Letter also include details of payment and money owed by John Davenport

4 Jan 1832-9 Aug 1832

7 letters from various firms in Hull to John Davenport regarding the types and prices of hemp and flax that are available. Also includes requests for payment for merchandise already purchased.

16 Jan 1833-31 Dec 1833

5 letters. 4 concerning the arrival of shipments of flax and hemp into Hull. Cost of hemp and thanks to John Davenport for settling previous bill. The other letter describes damage to a factory rented out by John Davenport. Cause is given as strong winds which broke windows and damaged the roof.

10 Jan 1834-8 Oct 1834

9 letters. 8 concerning the price of hemp and flax and payments of bills for previous orders. The other letter dated 24 Sep 1834 gives notice that John Rothwell quit the premises, rented from John Davenport, in Cotton Street

12 Feb 1835-12 Dec 1835

15 letters concerning the price of hemp and flax. 2 letters are from ironmongers in Bolton, one for an order for sash cord the other enclosing payment for the cord.

9 Jan 1836-20 Dec 1836

12 letters from various firms in Hull explaining what materials they have for sale and the cost.

16 Jan 1837-19 Oct 1837

3 letters concerning the price of flax and hemp and the varieties available. 1 letter to John Davenport thanking him for payment of his account

20 Mar 1838-3 Sep 1838

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5 letters concerning the purchase of flax and hemp by John Davenport. His original order for hemp has to be delayed until the arrival of ships from St Petersburg.

25 Feb 1839-25 Nov 1839

4 letters. 3 from Richard Terry and Sons in Hull regarding supplies of flax and hemp from St Petersburg and Riga which John Davenport needs for the rope making business. 1 letter from Henry Jenkins in Liverpool which includes a list of hemp available together with its cost.

E19/4 12 May 1840-10 Feb 1842

Letters from merchants giving details of their merchandise and its cost. One of the letters dated 10 Feb 1842 includes "an account of the principal imports and exports at this place (Hull) for the last three years, as follows..."

E19/5 Accounts connected with rope making. These include estimates for work and repairs to be carried out on the Davenport's factory. Also specifications of buildings to be erected near the road leading from Ashton to Manchester. These specifications are very detailed and include details of masons and carpentry work. 1817-1836

15 July 1824

A fire insurance policy taken out with the Eagle Star Insurance Company by the Davenports for the factory. Gives the names and addresses of the firemen of the area.

10 Jan 1844-12 Jul 1853

Order Book

Mar 1830-Nov 1830

Order Book

LEASE

7 May 1810

1. Samuel Heginbottom of M/cr, Ropemaker
- 2a John Davenport Sr of M/cr, Ropemaker
- 2b John Davenport jr of M/cr, Ropemaker

Premises in Mason Street, Addington Street, Cable Street and Shudehill

Term 14 years Rent £50 pa with conditions  
Witness Wm Laughton Attorney

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1819-1820

Town and country account of John Davenport

E19/6 7 Feb 1803-11 Jun 1803

Various household bills paid by John Davenport

1811-1812

various household bills covering groceries, repairs to clothes, books, kitchen repairs and taxes

1815-1818

receipts for bills paid by John Davenport includes household food bills for paint, and clothes.

E19/6 1820-24

Household bills- including repair of coal box, paint and cost of labourers for a day. Also a bill for water rent. Documents concerning the rent of land in Ardwick.

1825-1837

Household bills and receipts for groceries and wine, oats, flour and milk. Also receipts for hire of coach to Withington. Lists of rents due on property owned by John Davenport (gives street name and tenants name) Documents concerning the will of Thomas Davenport (d Apr 1827). bills for the Church ley and poor rate and taxes for 1828

E19/7 2 Jan 1850-16 Dec 1850

receipts for repairs carried out on property owned by John Davenport. specifications for alteration to a building in Back Acton St.

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1851

Receipts for household items such as food, clothing, soap etc. Estimates and bills for work on premises in Sugar Lane. Business letter from Slater Heelis (solicitors) concerning the purchase of property at Shudehill

1852

Receipts from various merchants for bricks, groceries, corn, hay and for labour for carrying out repairs. Receipt for a half yearly subscription to the Manchester Subscription Library in Exchange Street.

1853

Receipts for this particular year are mainly concerned with items such as slates, gravel, nails, paint and lead. there is also an increase in the number of labourers bills for such things as "slating and pointing the roof" and "painting washing and whitewashing...To hanging 5 pieces of paper."

1854

Consists of a series of bills, receipts and estimates for repair work carried out on property in Grafton Street and Great Ormond Street. James Hughes, painter, Thomas Roebuck, Thomas Barber and Rupert Jackson carried out the work  
Also some household bills for milk and pork

1855

Bills and estimates for work carried out on several buildings in Manchester including Grafton Street (numbers 13&15), Brook Street and Great Ormond Street. A few other bills mainly from Samuel Higginbottom for milk

E19/7 1856-1859

Receipts for nails and planks for repairs and bills from James Hughes for work done on property in Great Ormond Street. Other various bills and receipts for a selection of goods (black tea for 3s 10d)

1850s

Assessments for property and income tax for Davenport's home and for other property he owns throughout Manchester. Water Rate assessment for various properties owned by Davenport. Receipts for highway rate, township rate and poor rate from the townships of Ardwick, Chorlton and Withington.

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18 June 1851-17 Jan 1859

Receipts or reserved debt due to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington for land in Staley rented by Davenport.

E19/8 Bundle One

17 April 1851

Letter to J. Davenport informing him of vacant property near Oxford Road

14 May 1851

Letter concerning the death of Henry Ridgeway stating that Mr Gibson will undertake the work formerly carried out by "Ridgeway & Gibson"

1 Oct 1854

Request for rent due in lieu of tithes on the land in Withington from the Dean and Canons of Manchester-full amount due 3s 8d

5 Mar 1855

Letter from Robert Jackson to John Davenport stating the Jackson will carry out the alterations at Mr Heavens premises "for the sum of five pounds"

No Date

An incomplete letter of condolence from Davenport to an unnamed person

Bundle Two

19 Jul 1841

Letter from Isiah Suson informing Davenport of the death of Susan Lloyds brother Sylvanus. The writer then goes on to ask Davenport if he will break the news to Betsy. Details of the funeral are given but Betsy is not expected to attend.

E19/8 26 Jul 1841

Letter of condolence addressed to Davenport re the death of a female relative.

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### Bundle Three

5 Jan 1818

Letter from Samual Higinbottom to John Davenport concerning two chief that are due to be paid.

No Date

Document explaining the will of Thomas Davenport (Very Fragile)

20 May 1826

Receipt and bill from Sergeant Milne for "drawing and engrossing the affidavit of your debt under Mason's commission and oath"

20 May 1826

Copy of the above for a lease of land at Ardwick for 999 years

21 Mar 1827

Letter concerning the nephew of John Davenport (Very Fragile)

15 Jan 1830

Document giving a list of legacies and the duties to be paid on the legacies which are mainly to children.

### Bundle Four

20 Jan 1830

Letter to John Davenport concerning the death of a friend in Wolverhampton. Gives details of the funeral but distance may prevent him attending

7 Apr 1832

Letter to J. Davenport from J. Adshead about a delayed journey from Bangor and a visit to Withington to see Davenport.

25 Aug 1832

Letter from the Committee for building Withington chapel concerning the laying of the first stone.

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24 Apr 1833

Letter from J. P. Himstone stating the latter's intention of visiting Withington

E19/8 25 May 1833

Letter from Joseph Adshead to Davenport hoping that Mrs. Davenport is better and that J. Davenport will accept a stilton cheese from him.

1 Dec 1838

Letter from Joseph Adshead to John Davenport stating that he can not come to Withington as he has a cold but he will try to attend the funeral of Mr Wilks.

10 July 1839

Letter from Issac Wright to John Davenport, stating that Wright will take the house in Brook St, provided that suitable terms can be reached.

20 Mar 1859

Two letters one from Anne Beardman to Mrs Adshead, saying that she will be happy to attend dinner at Withington, the second letter from L. Hunter to Mrs Adshead re acceptance of Miss Annie Beardman to attend Oak Bank.

no dates

Part of a religious discussion and two letters (Very Fragile)

Bundle Five

12 May 1821

Letter from J. J. Guest to Davenport re £20 for Mr Halls

10 Jun 1828

Letter from John Onions to Davenport re sale of good quality iron

10 Mar 1829

Letter from the Stamp Office Somerset Place London reminding Davenport that legacy duty must be paid on Thomas Davenport's will.

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9 Oct 1829

Letter from Robert Bennett Jun. to John Davenport re payment of a bill by the late Thomas Davenport

13 Jul 1839

Letter from Issac Wright to John Davenport stating that he will not be able to take the house due to high rents and taxes (see letter in bundle four)

E19/8 19 Oct 1842

Receipt from William Walmsley cashier Town Hall Manchester for the value of £27 13s 8d for paving sloughing and otherwise completing Back Acton St and back Pump St.

17 Apr 1846

Letter from William Jones to Davenport will come to Ashton to collect the money. Tells Davenport that business has been bad.

28 Jun 1852

Receipt for the payment of Tithe commutation (settled 7 Jul 1852)

From Number 1 from the Stamp Office for the "receipt and discharge for any specific, pecuniary or other legacy" from the will of Thomas Davenport who died 11 April 1827