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Marshalls of Leeds

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The firm was founded in 1788 by John (1765 - 1845), son of a Leeds draper, to take advantage of recent developments in the spinning of flax by machine. He set up a partnership with Samuel Fenton and Ralph Dearlove. The firm, called Marshall, Fenton & Co., leased a mill at Adel and later moved to Water Lane, between Holbeck and Leeds. Fenton and Dearlove withdrew in 1793, and Marshall was joined by Thomas and Benjamin Benyon, Shrewsbury woollen merchants. By 1795, these had a controlling interest, and built a mill at Shrewsbury for making thread. Marshall grew dissatisfied with his minority holding, and in 1804 bought control. As junior partners he appointed two men from the works, John Hives and William Hutton, who could be relied upon not to go against his wishes. They were later joined by a third, Moses Atkinson

The business prospered, mainly as a result of John Marshall's commercial ability and his concentration upon what he wished to achieve. Between 1803 and 1815, in conditions prevailing during the war with France, he made a fortune. In 1815, John's son, also named John (1797 - 1836), entered the business, and was made a partner in 1820. The remaining junior partners withdrew three years later, and Marshall's was a family firm from then on. John Marshall's other sons joined the business in the next decade, and he gradually retired from active participation. His son James Garth Marshall (1802 - 1873) became the dominant partner in the management of the business.

Unfortunately, conditions in the trade changed. Other firms were now producing yarn of the same quality as Marshalls, whereas before Marshall's had been the pioneers, and had possessed almost a monopoly. After 1850 the firm became unprofitable. John's sons lacked their father's drive, and the third generation had little interest in the business. In the 1870's matters were made worse by falling prices and rising wages, and labour troubles began to affect the firm. By 1884 only two partners, John III (1840 -1894) and Stephen (1843 -1904), were left. Stephen considered moving to America, but John was unwilling to continue, and the firm closed in 1886.

The papers listed were used by Professor Rimmer in his research for the history of the firm, published in 1960: W G Rimmer - *Marshall's of Leeds, flax-spinners 1788-1866*. They form Special Collections MS 200.

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- 1 Book 1 John Marshall's private ledger, 1791-1840.
- 2 Book 2 Leeds, 1793 -1804 and 1806.
Stock in trade, 1793 - 1804. Balance sheet, January 1806.
- 3 Book 3 Shrewsbury, January 1806 - 1851. Stocktaking and balance sheets.
- 4 Book 4 Accounts, Leeds 1806 -1871. Shrewsbury, 1823 -1871.
- 5 Book 5 Salop, stockbook, January 1828 - January 1849. List of debits and credits at end.
- 6 Book 6 Accounts, 1804 - 1824 and some to 1838
pp [i] Quarterly rewards
1 Accounts of New and Old Mill 1804 - 1807
12: Spinning account, 1806 - 1821
42: Bleaching account, 1806 - 1817
63: Various tables
67: Weaving account, 1806 - 1824
114: Spinning account, 1821 - 1824
119: Several statements etc.
134: Flax account, 1806 - 1824
173 Various tables.
- 7 Book 7 Shrewsbury, accounts 1813 - 1822 and some to 1833.
pp. 1 Yarn and thread account, 1813 -1823
109: Flax account, 1813 - 1822
187: Linen weaving account, 1813 - 1822
217: Hanwood accounts, 1815 - 1822
227: General statements, 1813 - 1833.
- 8 Book 8 Leeds and Salop Machinery Stocks, January 1850 - January 1884.
- 9 Accounts, 1872 - 1891.
- 10 General accounts, 1823 -1882.[?]
- 11 Salop check, 1851 - 1863.
- 12 Number 4 check, 1853 - 1882.
- 13 General accounts, 1864 - 1885. [?]
- 14 Envelope
 1. Questionnaire issued by the Commissioners [on] the employment of children in factories.
[no date; partially filled in].
 2. [Another copy of item 1, completed & with extra sheets continuing the answer to no. 29.]
 3. Single manuscript sheet explaining how Marshall made a trial of Kendrew machinery and what followed.

4. Case: indenture of lease, 5 January 1783 for Scotland Mill (Adel) from James Whiteley to Mary Marshall, John Marshall and Fenton [i.e. record of case for the opinion of Mr. Fenton] 1790.
5. Letter from John Marshall, Leeds, 10th January 1879 concerning accounts [Recipient unspecified. Two thin sheets.]
6. Partnerships indenture, 1st January 1897.
[One sheet, pencil.]
7. 'Extracted from J M's sketch of his life...'
[The story of the firm 1769-1828. Manuscript]
8. The experiment books [index of] volumes 1-3 (1788-1808).
[Seven sheets, pencil.]
9. Total property.
[Manuscript note, pencil, one sheet with ink slip pasted on].
10. Receipt bill - Mrs Elizabeth Metcalf : Marshall & Bensons, 23rd March 1799.
11. Receipt bill - 25th February 1806
12. Letter, Metcalfe to John Marshall - Glass House Mill, Pateley Bridge. 22nd November 1878.
13. Articles of agreement (29th June 1802) for the sale by Thomas Benyon, Benjamin Benyon and Charles Bage of their share in the partnership to John Marshall.
[Manuscript]

15 Envelope

1. Manuscript index of papers, not apparently relating to contents of this file.
2. Philippe de Girard: curriculum vitae
3. Index to John Marshall's book September 21st to May 25th.
4. Sorts spun and prices.
5. Letter. John Hives to John Marshall 13th December 1822 concerning Hives' retirement.
Draft of reply [by Marshall?] on same sheet.
6. *The Commonweal* 10th July 1886 - 'Some instructive facts'. Refers to Marshalls.
Newspaper cutting.
7. *Shropshire Conservative* 19th June 1852. Letter concerning Marshalls.
Newspaper cutting.
8. Manuscript letter, apparently from Marshalls to a newspaper - an attempt to deny blame for an industrial accident
9. Letter [?] to Marshalls concerning Mr Westly, relating to Kay's patent.
10. Description of an invention - 1814.
[Pencil. H Hall].
11. Further description of invention. Sheet- heckling machine.
[In pencil]
12. Letter, Alex Cooke Belfast, 10th February 1887 to Mr Marshall.
13. Two leaves from *The shoe & leather trades' chronicle*, August 15th 1882 concerning Marshalls.
14. Another copy of item 13, 1st leaf only.
15. Manuscript sheets.
(a) Kendrew's patent, 19th June 1737
(b) Murray's patents, 1st June 1790; 18th December 1793.
16. Manuscript scrap - concerning 1830.
17. Dates of occupation of mills.
18. Two leaves from *The British trade Journal*. 1st March, 1883. 'British industries' , article on Marshalls.

19. *Irish textile journal*
 - (i) 15th August 1886, pp. 95 -6
 - (ii) 15th September 1886, pp. 105-8
 - (iii) 15th January 1887, pp. 5 -6
 - (iv) Small cutting, no date
 - (v) 15th June 1807, pp. 77 -8
 - (vi) 15th July, 1887, pp. 85-6
20. *Textile manufacturer*, 15th December 1884 pp. 543 -4.
21. Yarn & thread price lists 1826 - 1842
22. Tow prices, 7th September 1823.
23. Manuscript note signed Stephen A Marshall 1897 concerning Paltington Flax Company.
24. Newspaper cutting. *Hunslet & Holbeck News* 28th August 1886.
25. Calculations, 10th August 1830.
26. Machinery & Methods
[Pencil note.]
27. Memo concerning flax spinning by John Marshall.
[Pencil.]
28. Pencil note concerning prices, 1835
29. Book list. Note on a Russian visitor on verso.
30. Manuscript note concerning a school built by Marshalls, 1822.
31. Manuscript report on Margaret Kendell, an employee.
32. Manuscript school prospectus.
33. Eleven hours time
[Printed notice, 1st March 1846].
34. Pencil notes (10 leaves) on Marshalls. December 1881.
35. Letter, Marshall. & Co. to Henry Dawson, Matlock, 28th August 1882 on gill drawing.
36. Hives' patent, 12th August 1809.
37. Memo relative to experiments tried on the Big Ben, 1815 - 1816
38. Schlumberger' patent, bought June 1853 - Manuscript notes, also some remarks on ledgers.
39. Sale catalogue, Hepper. Effects of Marshalls. 3rd December, 1888
40. *Spinning. Wet or Dry*
[Manuscript notes, including a letter from 'S' to John, 30th April 1882.
41. Two leaves. *The journal of domestic appliances & sewing machine gazette* October 1st, 1832 [the same article as Numbers 13 & 14 above]
42. Flax spinners & spindles in Leeds 1838 - 1842.
[Six Manuscript leaves.]
43. Number of spindles in Ireland, July 1851.
44. Four affidavits for the case Hives vs. Benyon. 17th January 1818

16 Envelope

1. Hadden vs Kay 3rd September 1835. Defences.
2. Letter, William Renshaw to Marshalls. Manchester, 2nd July 1836.
3. Letter, W K Westly to Marshalls. Manchester, 27th June 1836
4. Manuscript notes on the Kay patent case.
5. Letter, James Campbell to Marshalls, Belfast, 10th August 1836.
6. Barnsley, July 5th 1836. Manuscript notes on individuals [witnesses?]
7. Lawyers' bill for Kay vs. Marshall case.
3. Chancery brief, May 1836. Notes in Manuscript
9. Notes on Kay's patent case, 1834

10. Articles of agreement between flax manufacturers & John Atkinson, 13th January 1835.
11. Calculations from General statement.
12. Sales accounts.
13. Statement explanatory...on the trial at York.
14. Two letters. James G Marshall to Father, 13th August & 19th August 1836. [with copies of other letters].
15. More notes on Kay's patent.
16. Comparative statement of progress in spinning.
17. Letter, William Renshaw to John Marshall. Manchester, 29th July 1831.
18. Notes on Kay case,
19. Letter, J Hives to [Marshall?] Leeds, 16th July 1836.
20. More notes on Kay case.
21. Letter, Joseph Steel [to Marshall?] 24th November 1825.
22. Letter, D G to Marshalls on the Kay trial.
23. Memo on William Buckley, 6th July 1836.
24. Memo on Kay's patent October 16th 1824.
25. Letter, William Harvey to Marshalls, Barnsley, 17th June 1836.
26. Memos on Mr Dawson and Mr Younger.
27. Memo on gill spinning.
28. Specification of Murray's invention.
29. Newsheet: Yorkshire summer assizes, 23rd July 1836. Kay vs Marshalls
30. Grothe: Philippe de Girard. [Leaflet. Photograph inserted]
31. Memoire au roi sur la priorité due à la France dans l'invention des machines à filer le lin ... [etc.]. [Concerns Philippe de Girard] 1844.
32. Extract from the *Manchester Guardian*. 2nd December 1825 - a letter to the editor from Philippe de Girard, reproduced in French and English.

17 Envelope

1. Letter, John S Marshall to Henry, 19th August 1854.
2. Letter, Stephen Marshall to Henry [H G Marshall, Weetwood Hall, Leeds] 24th October 1843.
3. Letter, Comtesse ... de Girard, in French, Paris, 22nd June 1852.
4. Manuscript notes
 - (i) June 17th, 1830.
 - (ii) May, 1833
 - (iii) July 5th, 1833
5. Letter, to Father 10th February 1833. [Last page missing, from James G Marshall?]
6. Letter, John Marshall to James, 18th November 1829.
7. Letter, James G Marshall to Father 24th May 1838.
8. Letter, to Father. Salop, 21st February 1st, 1827.
9. Letter, John Marshall Jnr to Father, 15th March 1827.
10. Letter, Leeds, 14th April 1827.
11. Letter, to James, April 27th, 1827.
12. Letter, John Marshall Jnr. to Father, August 1st 1827.
13. Letter, John Marshall Jnr to Father, Headingley, September 9th, 1827.
14. Letter, to Father, September 16th, 1827.
15. Letter, to Father, September 20th 1827
16. Letter, to Father, Hallsteads., September 9th, 1827.
[but not in the same hand]
17. Letter, to Father, Headingley, 11th November 1827.

- [John Marshall Jnr 's hand]
18. Letter, John Marshall to John, 8th April 1829
 19. Letter, John Marshall to John 7th October 1829.
 20. Letter, John Marshall to John 12th October 1829.
 21. Letter, John Marshall to John May 9th, 1836.
 22. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, 24th May 1836.
 23. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, 12th July 1836
 24. Letter, [from James G Marshall] to Henry, 10th September 1841
 25. Letter, John Marshall to Henry 27th Apr. 1836.
 26. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, July 17th [?]
 27. Letter, James G Marshall to Father, June 6th 1836.
 28. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, October 23rd, 1836
 29. Manuscript statement, 23rd October 1836.
 30. Memo, Kay vs. Marshall
 31. Letter, Miles Berry to James G Marshall, 21st July 1836.
 32. Copies [on one sheet] of letters from James Davis to Messers Hawkins, Bloxam and Stocker, London. Dublin, 17th December 1839; 19th December 1839, 21st December 1839.
 33. Letter, Atkinson, Dibb & Bolland to Marshalls. Leeds, 19th January 1839.
 34. Copy of a letter from Hawkins, Bloxam and Stocker to Atkinson, Dibb & Bolland, December 23rd 1839.
 35. Letter, Mulholland to Marshalls, Belfast, 2nd February 1839.
 36. Letter, Atkinson, Dibb & Bolland to Marshalls, 16th July 1839.
 37. Letter, Hawkins, Bloxam and Stocker to [Marshalls]? 8th May 1839.
 38. Copy of a letter from Hawkins to Atkinsons, 9th May 1839
 39. Letter from Bloxam to Marshall, 17th July 1839
 40. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, 15th July 1836.
 41. Letter, William Thackeray to Marshalls - Ripon, 7th July 1835.
 42. Pencil slip, notes, 1825.
 43. Kay vs, Marshall, Manuscript list of addresses.
 44. Manuscript notes, 28th January 1837.
 45. Letter, Richardson to Marshalls, Barnsley, 24th June 1836.
 46. Letter, Houldsworth to Henry Ashworth, 16th July 1836.
 47. List of jurymen in manuscript, July 1836.
 48. Kay vs Marshall manuscript notes, 1836
 49. Kay vs Marshall, judgement, 1st February 1836
 50. Letter, Peter Horsman to [?], Salop, 16th February 1833.
 51. Letter, Thomas Lawson to Hives & Atkinson, Lille, 16th September 1852
 52. Letter, Thomas Ainsworth to Marshalls, Strasburg, 22nd October 1852.
 53. Letter from [?] to Arthur. Basle, August 29th 1852.
 54. Manuscript notes by James G Marshall
 55. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, 11th March, 1853.
 56. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, 15th February 1856.
 57. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, Leeds, 13th September 1856.
 58. Letter, James G Marshall to Henry, 28th August 1827
 59. Part of letter to John Marshall.
 60. Part of another letter to John Marshall.
 61. Letter, William P Smith to Marshalls. Gaebuiller, 22nd October 1857.
 62. Letter, William Schlimberger to Marshalls. Gaebuiller [?] 9th September 1852.

18 Envelope

1. Letter, Percy Blakelock to Stephen Marshall. Sheffield, 17th August 1882.

2. Letter, Henry Dawson to Marshalls. 26th August 1882.
 3. Two letters, David Thompson to Marshalls, Belfast, 5th & 18th April 1882.
 4. Letter, Marshall & Co. to Dakeyne & Co. Leeds, 8th May 1882.
 5. Letter, Marshall & Co. reply to Thomson. Leeds, 14th April 1882
[2 copies].
 6. Letter, Marshall & Co to Heynes, *British trade journal* Leeds 13th September 1882
 7. Letter, Marshall & Co. to Dawson, Matlock. Leeds, 23rd August 1882
 8. Envelope containing notes on the Derwentwater property 1832.
 9. Eleven hours time
[printed notice, March 1846, same as Item 15/33]
 10. Manuscript not on Kay's patent, 1825
 11. Replies to queries by Inspector of Factories, 1833
 12. *Shropshire Conservative* 10th April 1852. Newspaper cutting on reduction of wages in Shrewsbury
 13. Manuscript notes on preparation of china grass.
 14. Manuscript notes on experimental spinning frame, number 54, 20th December 1839
 15. Manuscript notes on experiments upon flax straw, March 1840
 16. Letter, Marshall & Co to W L Basham, Cambridge. Leeds, 26th April 1852.
[Four thin sheets]
 17. Sale catalogue Hall Wateridge & Owen, 20th December 1886 - effects of Marshalls, Shrewsbury
 18. Statistics
- 19 Envelope
1. *Irish Textile Journal*
 - i 15th March 1887 pp33-36
 - ii 15th October 1887, cutting
 - iii 15th February 1887, cutting
 - iv Cutting, no date
 - 2 *Textile manufacturer*, 15th February 1885, cutting.
 - 3 *The Commonweal*. 28th August 1886 half leaf.
 - 4 Resolutions of the Committee of Master Cotton Spinners, June 18th 1833
 - 5 Printed letter from Holland Hoole, 19th April 1838, concerning Factory Bill.
 - 6 Manuscript note on Philippe de Girard's invention.
 - 7 *Leeds Mercury*. Supplement, 2nd edition. 27th March 1820. Trial of Henry Hunt.
 - 8 Jennings specification on flax etc. 3rd May 1853.
 - 9 Kendrew & Porthouse's patent. [Office copy, Fenton, Boar Lane]
 10. Girard samples
- 20 Sale Catalogue, Hepper, 21st May 1896. Marshall Mills Estate [including three loose plans]
- 21 Another copy of item 20
- 22 *Leeds Intelligencer* January 12th 1832
- 23 Photograph [of one of the Marshalls?]
24. Documents relating to the Kay vs Marshall case.
25. Plans of machinery etc

26. Historical notes on the firm, with calculations inserted.
27. Register of employees and of school children. Some notes at end.
28. Record of new machinery made, 1810 - 1823.
29. Rough notes [probably by Stephen A Marshall, 1900]
30. Statistics and prices 1801-
31. Two notebooks [of John Marshall Jnr?. Two volumes]
32. Notebook [of Henry Cowper Marshall?] November 1821 - May 1825
33. Notebook [of Henry Cowper Marshall?] 1834, with insertions in James Garth Marshall's hand.
34. Notebook [of Henry Cowper Marshall?] 1834 -
35. Notebook [of Henry Cowper Marshall?] 1858 -
36. Notes on processes [by James Garth Marshall?] 1826 -
37. Salop. Notes on process etc. [by James Garth Marshall?] 1829-
38. Notebook [hand unidentified]
39. Coal consumed and yarn spun at Marshalls, 1823.
40. Memoranda on heckling, September 20th - October 24th 1825.
41. Rules and regulations of Marshall's Mill Club, Leeds 1846 & 1850; Shrewsbury 1848 [Three pts.]
42. Notes on Booth's philosophical lectures. December 1750.
43. Marshall & Benyon's shop regulations, Holbeck, 10th March 1795.
44. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge ; The manufacture of linen yarn. London, 1846
45. Particulars of sale of Marshall's property, Leeds
46. Particulars of sale of Marshall's property, Shrewsbury [with plans].
47. Interleaved copy of sale catalogues
 - i) Machinery at Shrewsbury, 2nd - 4th November 1886
 - ii) Machinery at Leeds, 19th - 22nd & 25th October 1886
48. Sale catalogue (with prices marked) Marshall's machinery, Leeds 19th - 22nd & 25th October 1886

49. Sale catalogue (with prices marked) Marshall's machinery, Shrewsbury 2nd - 4th November 1886
50. Copper photography plates [of Philippe de Girard?]
51. Two metal plates - of the Leeds building in Marshall / Water St.
52. Ten medals dated 1851, 1858, 1862, 1873, 1876 and 1880.
53. Notebook of experiments on spinning tow from June to October 1788, and other experiments on spinning and weaving, December 1788 and June 1790.
54. Notebook of experiments on spinning, July 1790 to June 1801
55. Notebook of experiments on bleaching, 1797 to 1802
56. Notebook of experiments on spinning, August 1803 to 1823
57. General notebook, c. 1790 to c. 1830
58. Minutes of meetings of the Leeds & District Association of Factory Occupiers, 1872 to 1875.
59. Strike book, 1871 to 1872. Inserted are a number of letters between various members of the Marshall family, 1871 to 1872
60. Printed summary of Kay vs. Marshall, 1836 to 1839
61. Letter from John Marshall to Thomas Gataker, dated 19th November 1801 [Photocopy of original in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Presented by H D Gibbon Esq, 88 Earlswood Rd, Belfast 4.]
62. Tour book, Scotland, 1800; Ireland 1803.
63. Tour book, Cumberland and Scotland 1800 and 1827; Ireland 1803
64. Tour book, Scotland 1807 and 1821; Ireland 1829.
65. Envelope
 - 1 Proposals of Thomas Benyon to Mrs Henry Benyon, in reference to the mill and flax business. 13th February 1850.
 - 2 Benyon's settlement accounts, 14th December 1864.
 - 3 Letter from Cunliffes, Charlewood and Bury, Manchester, to R E Payne, Leeds, relating to Benyon's partnership settlement, 23rd May 1850.
 - 4 Benyon's first and second settlements, January 1865.

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