

List of Records from North Eastern Railway Stanhope Mineral Agent's Office, Stanhope Station in David Littlefair Collection

David Littlefair's collection of material relating to railways in Weardale includes a large set of records recovered from the attic of the first Stanhope Station. This building was where the Stanhope Mineral Agent had an office. The records are the archive of material retained by the mineral agent, John Wears, and his clerk, Thomas Sinclair, between 1893 and 1899. Another part of this archive (19 guard's books and 1 clerk's notebook) was given to the Weardale Railway Trust and is now owned by them; these 20 books have all been digitised by Ernest Bate.

The Stanhope Mineral Agent's records consist of:

1. **About 1290 single sheets of paper**,
being letters, memos, forms, telegraph/telegram messages, telephone messages, notes (torn out of notebooks, calendars etc) and a few wagon labels.
2. **34 guard's train record books**,
of which 15 are in David Littlefair's collection and 19 in the Weardale Railway Trust collection.
3. **1 wagon number record book**,
for Stanhope and nearby, for 22 Feb 1894 to 31 Dec 1895.
4. **1 mineral wagon working record book for Wear Valley Branch**,
for 2 Mar 1896 to 5 Oct 1896.
5. **1 clerk's working notebook**,
used by Thomas Sinclair, clerk to Stanhope Mineral Agent, for 15 Mar 1897 to 14 Aug 1897, (which is in the Weardale Railway Trust collection).

Details of the guard's train record books are provided in the document "Stanhope Guard's Record Books in David Littlefair Collection" (file DL_Stanhope_Guards_Books).

The 1290 individual paper records have all been put into individual plastic pockets for protection and have been sorted into date order and filed in categories for ease of use. The filing details, date ranges and numbers of records are as follows.

Daily requirements of limestone at Blast Furnaces, Ironworks, etc [22]

1896 – 1899 [22]

Returns of Wagons standing laden with limestone at (Blast) Furnaces, etc [22]

1896 – 1899 [22]

Records of special interest [200], including:

- Alterations & changes to sidings, buildings, signalling & telephones
- Excursions and special arrangements
- Incidents & accidents
- Instructions on working, reporting etc
- Train timings & timetables
- Queries over workings
- Evidence of numbers of engines & vans
- Evidence of names of guards & drivers

- Equipment
- Unusual wagon returns
- Strikes

1894 – 1895 [28], Jan – Jun 1896 [42], Jul – Dec 1896 [25],
Jan – Jun 1897 [26], Jul – Dec 1897 [25], 1898 [44], 1899 [10]

All records relating to Wearhead [73], including:

- Shipments of ironstone to Tudhoe Ironworks
- Wagon requirements
- The Wearhead Goods train
- Methods of working Wearhead traffic

1896 – 1897 [46], 1898 – 1899 [27]

Staff matters [26], including:

- Holidays
- Passes and privilege tickets
- Uniform
- Pay
- Sickness
- Christmas, Easter & Bank holiday arrangements
- Employment records

1895 – 1898 [26]

Staff vacancies [20]

1895 – 1899 [20]

Wagon labels and examples of ornate memos [8]

1895 – 1898 [8]

Mineral Invoices & Mineral Way Bills [76]

1894 – 1896 [53], 1897 – 1899 [23]

Return of the Working of North Eastern Mineral Wagons at Fine Burn Quarry (Walton & Co) [96]

1897 [29], Jan – Sep 1898 [19], Oct 1898 [19], Nov – Dec 1898 [17], 1899 [12]

Daily Return of N. E. Hopper Wagons at North Bishopley Limestone (Quarry) [28]

1898 [28]

Routine and miscellaneous papers, not of special interest [720]

1893 – 1894 [6], Jan – Aug 1895 [34], Sep – Oct 1895 [30], Nov – Dec 1895 [41]

Jan – Mar 1896 [18], Apr 1896 [32], May – Jun 1896 [28], Jul – Oct 1896 [30], Nov 1896 [54],
Dec 1896 [61]

Jan – Mar 1897 [6], Apr 1897 [38], May – Jun 1897 [33], Jul – Aug 1897 [25], Sep 1897 [67],
Oct – Dec 1897 [30]

Jan 1898 [13], Feb 1898 [35], Mar – Aug 1898 [22], Sep 1898 [37], Oct 1898 [31],
Nov – Dec 1898 [30], 1899 [19]