

Reference code(s): GB 0214 DAB

Title: Solomon Andrews and Son records

Creation date(s): 1786-1998

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 4.2 cubic metres (35 shelves).

Name of creator(s): Solomon Andrews and Son

CONTEXT

Administrative/Biographical history: Solomon Andrews (1835-1908), a native of Wiltshire, settled in Cardiff, Glamorgan, in the 1850s, and founded a firm which was to have extensive interests in Wales and commercial contacts as far afield as Australia. Born in Trowbridge in 1835, he moved to Cardiff and learnt the trade of baker and confectioner. In 1856, he leased a shop in James Street, and set himself up in business. The venture was a success and in 1863, he was able to expand into transport. By 1865, he was operating nine vehicles and 1873, the fleet had increased to 35. By 1867, he had entered the omnibus trade and in 1875, he was operating seven horse buses. In 1872, he acquired a coach building works, where he was able to construct and repair vehicles of all types, including buses. In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Andrews became embroiled in a 'trading war' between the bus and tram companies of Cardiff. In the end, however, terms were agreed, whereby Andrews sold his bus interests in Cardiff and in Portsmouth, Hampshire, and Plymouth, Devon, but retained the routes to Penarth and Llandaff in Glamorgan. While the dispute was at its height, Andrews was contracted to operate a new tramway between Splott and Grangetown in Cardiff. In connection with this operation, he began to construct buildings, and built a depot at the southern end of Clive Street. The early 1880s saw the commencement of a considerable building programme in Cardiff, which included a number of large commercial buildings, the first of which was Market Buildings in 1884. As well as these large buildings, Solomon continued to erect smaller buildings, including most of the houses on the southeastern side of Penarth Road, from Curran Lane nearly as far as Corporation Road. Andrews continued to run his confectionery and bakery shops, adding fruit and vegetables, coffee taverns, undertaking and furniture removal businesses. He also ventured into drapery, with the formation of David Evans and Co in Cardiff, and men's outfitting, with Evan Jones and Co. Solomon also ventured much further afield, running buses in London, Manchester, Leicester, Nottingham and Belfast, taking on colliery ownership, and the David Evans store at Swansea and property developments at Penarth, Pwllheli and Arthog. Solomon Andrews died in 1908 and was succeeded by his son

Francis Emile (1858-1943) who entered the businesses in 1873, becoming a partner in 1884.

CONTENT

Scope and content/abstract: Records of Solomon Andrews and Son, 1786-1998, consisting of: records relating to early transport in Cardiff, 1865-1971; records relating to transport elsewhere, 1849-1975; records relating to London: the Star Omnibus Co. Ltd., 1884-[c. 1970s]; records relating to tramways and buses (general), 1790-1899; records relating to the Andrews' Carriage and Garage Business, 1869-1973; records relating to the car hire and garage business, 1900-1968; ironmongers, general business and miscellaneous family papers, 1867-1960; records relating to building department, public house and restaurants, 1883-1964; records relating to business premises, stock and suppliers, 1867-1957; records relating to business premises, 1786-1998; and architectural plans from Solomon Andrews and Son, 1884-1973.

ACCESS AND USE

Language/scripts of material: English

System of arrangement: Arranged according to date and type.

Conditions governing access: No restrictions. These records are stored in an outside repository. They should be ordered at least a week in advance of an intended visit so that they can be brought into the Record Office for consultation in the search room.

Conditions governing reproduction: Normal Glamorgan Office conditions apply.

Physical characteristics: Good to fair condition

Finding aids: A handlist is available at the Glamorgan Record Office.

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information: 1 box of assorted sheet and roll film and 1 box of 35mm roll film (41 films) were withdrawn by the depositor on 26 November 2002.

Accruals: Accruals are possible.

Archival history:

Immediate source of acquisition: Deposited by a private individual at various intervals.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material: The Andrews family firm also had extensive interests in North Wales. Documentary material relating to the development of Pwllheli tramroad is included in the Glamorgan Record Office collection; other north Wales records have been deposited with the Gwynedd Archives Service, Caernarfon (ref no XD/28).

Publication note: Andrews, John F., *Keep Moving: The Story of Solomon Andrews & His Family* (Barry, 1976); Andrews, John, F., *The Pwllheli and Llanbedrog Tramways* (Cowbridge and Bridgend, 1996).

DESCRIPTION NOTES

Note: Title supplied from contents of fonds.

Archivist's note: Compiled by Hayden Burns for the ANW project. The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan Record Office, Catalogue of records for Solomon Andrews and Son; Andrews, John F., *Keep Moving: The Story of Solomon Andrews & His Family*, (Barry, 1976); Andrews, John, F., *The Pwllheli and Llanbedrog Tramways*, (Cowbridge and Bridgend, 1996).

Rules or conventions: This description follows ANW guidelines based on ISAD(G) second edition, AACR2, and LCSH.

Date(s) of descriptions: March 2004
