

**Reference code(s):** GB 0214 DBR

**Title:** Dyffryn Estate, Aberdare records

**Creation date(s):** 1615-1940

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 0.35 cubic metres (121 items and bundles)

**Name of creator(s):** Dyffryn estate, Aberdare

## CONTEXT

**Administrative/Biographical history:** In 1749 William Bruce (1705-68) of Llanblethian, Glamorgan, navy agent and banker, bought the Dyffryn estate in Aberdare from John Jones. His son, the Rev. Thomas Bruce (d 1790) of Llanblethian and Dyffryn, was succeeded by his sister Margaret (d 1809) the wife of John Knight (d 1799) of Llanblethian and Barnstaple in Devon. Their son John Knight (1784-1872) assumed the additional surname Bruce in 1805 on succeeding to his uncle's Aberdare estate, and the surname Pryce in 1837 on succeeding to his cousin Frances Ann Grey's Dyffryn estate in the parish of St Nicholas. His second son, Henry Austin Bruce (1815-95) was Liberal MP for Merthyr Tydfil 1852-1868 and Renfrewshire 1869-1873, and held a number of political offices. He was created Baron Aberdare in 1873. Henry Austin Bruce was succeeded by his son Henry Campbell Bruce (1851-1929), 2nd baron, Clarence Napier Bruce (1885-1957), 3rd baron, who was succeeded by his son Morys George Lyndhurst Bruce (b. 1919), 4th baron, Minister of State in the Department of Health and Social Security, 1970-1974.

## CONTENT

**Scope and content/abstract:** Deeds, mainly relating to the Dyffryn estate, mainly in the parishes of Aberdare, 1615-1860, and Llanwonno (Llanwynno), 1693-1818; Dyffryn estate administration records, including plans, 1792-1844, valuations, 1749-1880, and papers relating to boundaries, 1815-1940; Bruce family and personal papers, 1753-1825, including diaries, 1838-1842, of Henry Austin Bruce, and letters to him from Queen Victoria, W. E. Gladstone, Edward Lear and others, 1830-1895; and miscellanea, 1746-1920.

## ACCESS AND USE

**Language/scripts of material:** English

**System of arrangement:** Arranged by record type and thence chronologically.

**Conditions governing access:** No restrictions

**Conditions governing reproduction:** Usual copyright regulations apply.

**Finding aids:** Hard copies of the catalogue are available at Glamorgan Record Office, National Library of Wales, and the National Register of Archives.

## ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

**Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information:** All records deposited at Glamorgan Record Office have been retained..

**Accruals:** Accruals are possible.

**Archival history:**

**Immediate source of acquisition:**

## ALLIED MATERIALS

**Related material:** Further deposits of material were made in 1970, 1974-75, 1979-80, 1982, 1987, 1988 and 1994.

## DESCRIPTION NOTES

**Note:** Title supplied from contents of fonds.

**Archivist's note:** Compiled by Stephen Benham for the HMC/NLW Family and Estates project modified by Richard Morgan. The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan County Record Office, Catalogue of the Records of the Dyffryn, Aberdare Estate; *Debrett's Peerage*, (London, 1990), *Guides to Sources for British History, 1: Papers of British Cabinet Ministers* (London, 1982).

**Rules or conventions:** This description follows ANW guidelines based on ISAD(G) Second Edition; AACR2 and LCSH.

**Date(s) of descriptions:** March 2002

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