

Welsh Railways Research Circle Members' Studies

Issue 1 *Summary of information originally compiled and donated to the Circle by* Page
John Kear **1 of 2**

The Papers principally relate to the Rhondda & Swansea Bay Railway (R&SB) and the Neath area, 1867-1970.

Two 'red boxes' contain separate files with these contents:

Box 1 files:

File 1. R&SB Rly - Parliamentary; including Glyncoffwng, Rhondda & Swansea Junction Rly (GR&SJ). A detailed list for this file is below.

Summary of Box 1, file 1:

1/1: Handwritten notes on R&SB Rly Acts, 1882 to 1898: brief details of the purpose of each Act (2pp)

1/2: Cuttings from *The Cambrian* 15th and 29th Oct; 12th and 19th Nov 1880 re the proposed scheme

1/3: R&SB 1881 scheme: handwritten notes (2pp) and plans (2pp) of railways 1, 2 & 3

1/4: Extracts from *Engineering* 1882: R&SB

1/5: Extract from the R&SB 1882 Act plus handwritten notes (2pp)

1/6: Handwritten notes relating to the GR&SJ and R&SB 1882 Acts (4pp)

1/7: Sketch map of the GR&SJ and R&SB dated January 1882

1/8: Report from *The Cambrian* of the First Annual Meeting of the R&SB, August 1882

1/9: (back of 1/8) Cutting from *The Cambrian* of the abridged prospectus of the R&SB, 1882

1/10: Notice of intention to apply for Act of Parliament: R&SB, 1882 session

1/11: Notice of intention to apply for Act of Parliament: GR&SJ, 1882 session

1/12: Plans of the GR&SJ and R&SB railways referred to in the above notices (1/10 & 1/11)

1/13: Extract from the Board of Trade Report to the House of Commons of 1st Mar 1882 on the R&SB Railway Bill

1/14: Paper on the comparative merits of the GR&SJ and R&SB Railway schemes. No marked original source but from the text appears to be the former, dated January 1882

1/15: Share prospectus, share issue details and application form for the R&SB, 1882

1/16: Handwritten notes on the R&SB (Swansea Extension) Act, 1883 plus an extract from the Act

1/17: Hand written notes on the R&SB Act of 16th Jul 1885 to allow £60,000 additional capital to be raised and power to borrow sum not in excess of £20,000

1/18: Cuttings from *The Cambrian* of (a) R&SB Rly half-year meeting Feb 1883; (b) Notice of the second ordinary general meeting of the proprietors, circ. Aug 1883; c) Note relating to opposition to the R&SB dated 8th Jun 1883

1/19: Extract from the R&SB Act 1886

1/20: Handwritten note on cost of work to carry Railway No.2 over the river by a viaduct of six fixed and one opening span - R&SB Act of 1891

1/21: Paper from Gwyn Lewis (Harbourmaster) to the Commissioners of Neath Harbour reporting on the R&SB Bill deposited for the 1891 session

1/22: Sketch of Neath Harbour improvement (no date but possibly part of previous item 1/21)

1/23: Report of the Board of Trade to House of Commons on the 1891 R&SB Bill

1/24: Parliamentary Notice relating to the deposited R&SB Bill dated 19th Nov 1891 for the 1892 session

1/25: Handwritten note relating to clause 58 of the Neath Harbour Act 1874 and clause 6 of the 1900 Act

1/26: Schedule to the Neath Harbour Act of 1900 containing the agreement between Neath Harbour Commissioners and the R&SB dated Jun 1895

1/27: Report of the Board of Trade to the House of Commons on the GWR (Neath River Crossing) and R&SB Bills of 1892.

File 2. R&SB Rly - General history; opening dates; stations and signal boxes; local traders; timetables; etc; etc (handwritten and photocopied extracts from a wide range of publications).

File 3. R&SB Rly - Locomotives and rolling stock; engine sheds; shed allocations; etc (again, handwritten and photocopied extracts from a wide range of publications).

File 4. R&SB Rly - Timetables; accidents (handwritten and photocopied extracts from *The Cambrian & Bradshaw*; copies of the WTT from July 1914 & October 1921 and the GWR WTT from July 1929, various other publications).

File 5. Vale of Neath Rly; Swansea & Neath Rly; Aberdare Valley Rly; Briton Ferry Dock & Railway (handwritten and photocopied extracts from other publications: Acts of Parliament, opening and closing dates, WTTs, locomotive details and shed allocations etc).

File 6. Port Talbot; Port Talbot Railway & Dock Co. (handwritten and photocopied extracts from other publications: Acts of Parliament, opening and closing dates, mileages; WTTs, locomotive details and shed allocations etc).

Summary of Box 1, File 6:

6/1: Port Talbot Railway & Dock Co.: photocopy of a booklet published circa. 1976, author & publisher unclear

6/2: Paper on the Port Talbot Rly & Dock Co. by Arthur Rees

6/3: GWR signal box register for the Port Talbot Rly

6/4: Port Talbot - Early Iron & Tinsplate Industries.

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File 7. Port Talbot & Rhondda Rly; Port Talbot Harbour & Rhondda Valley Railway; Afan Valley Rly; Rhondda Valley & Hirwain Junction Rly; South Wales Mineral Rly.

Summary of Box 1, File 7:

Documents:

7/1: Handwritten notes (single sheet) and sketch plan (two sheets) on the Port Talbot & Rhondda Rly proposal for the 1880 parliamentary session

7/2: Handwritten notes (single sheet) and sketch plan (single sheet) on the Port Talbot Harbour & Rhondda Valley Railway proposal for the 1872 parliamentary session

7/3: Handwritten note on the Afon Valley Railway acts

7/4: Rhondda Valley & Hirwain Jct Rly (1867): handwritten notes, sketch and gradient sketch

7/5: South Wales Mineral Railway: handwritten notes and copies of published articles, including The South Wales Mineral Railway Act, 1853, and 'The South Wales Mineral Railway in 1906' by Arthur Rees.

File 8. Swansea Docks; Swansea Vale Railway - Swansea District Line; Swansea Harbour Trust (handwritten list of Acts and other notes, copies of articles and timetables from various publications, typed notes from various sources, copy of the GWR notice of opening of the Swansea District Line {NW410}, details of Swansea Harbour Trust locomotives at grouping {copy of relevant pages from the RCTS publication}).

(To be completed)

Initially listed by George Conway of the WRRC Archiving team in January 2013, with further sorting and filing by John Mann (Aug 2014) and extended listing by Chris James in 2015, these papers are available for inspection at Rhiwderin.
Date: August 2015

When any of John Kear's material is used in anything other than Circle publications this acknowledgement should be used:
'WRRC; Kear Papers'