

# **Brown Collection**

**Extent and Form:** 2 letter books

**Creator(s):**

Brown, William, fl 1730-1770, colliery viewer

**Scope and Content**

The collection comprises 2 letter books of William Brown as important viewer of the eighteenth century. The letters contain much information about contemporary technical developments and several are reproduced and discussed in Old Mining Records and Plans, by T.V. Simpson from the Transactions of the Institution of Mining Engineers, Vol 81, 1931

**Related Material**

TRANSACTIONS OF THE INSTITUTION OF MINING ENGINEERS VOL. 81, 1931

Old Mining Records and Plans by T.V. Simpson

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2

Letter Book of William Brown

**Creation dates:** 1765

**Extent and Form:** 48 pp

**Physical characteristics:** Paper bound volume, buckram half bound, 37 x 26cm. labelled Letter Book, 1765 on spine. Bookplate as Brown/1.

### **Scope and Content**

Volume containing copy letters from William Brown, 3 Jan - 3 May 1765.

Index of Names

Abercorn, Earl of 11, 14

Alsop - 6

Barclay, Alex 1, 6

Barkas, W 26

Barnes, Mr 3, 7, 22, 35

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Blackett, John 13

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Cleaver, Mr 18

Coulson, Esq 26

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Cuthberts, John 24, 43, 48

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Errington, William 2

Hamilton, Mr 20, 38

Hudon, Newark 47

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Milbank, Ralph 24

Murray, Mr 22, 35

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Smith, Mr 25, 29

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Spedding, James 40  
Swainston, Cuthbert 25, 26, 29  
Thompson, John 28  
Tulip, Mr 6  
Turton, Mr 32  
Ursop, John 2, 6  
Wilkinson, Henry 38  
Wrightson, John 19, 34

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/1](#)

**Creation dates:** JANUARY 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To [George] Douglas re shipping to Berwick and work at the Engine Pit [Murton, Berwick], 3 Jan 1765.

To Alex Barclay in London re difficulties in supplying coal, 5 Jan 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/2](#)

**Creation dates:** JANUARY 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To William Errington Esq at Sandhoe requesting that he discharge John Ursop, one of his colliery workers who is already bound to William Brown, 5 Jan 1765.

To Sir Charles [Sedley] re problems at Nuthall Colliery, (Nottinghamshire), 7 Jan 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/3](#)

**Creation dates:** 7 Jan 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Barnes giving directions re the management of Nuthall Colliery

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/4](#)

**Creation dates:** 7 Jan 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Matthew Ridley Esq in London re problems at St Anthony's Colliery and building regulations

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/5

**Creation dates:** 2 Jan 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Bell re problems with various employees

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/6

**Creation dates:** 13 Jan 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Tulip giving his refusal to return Alsop[Ursop], his worker  
To [Alex] Barclay re charges for shipping coal to London, 17 Jan 1765

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/7

**Creation dates:** 17 Jan 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Barnes re design of waggons at Nuthall Colliery

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/8

**Creation dates:** 21 Jan 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Matthew Ridley Esq in London re a lease of St Anthony's Colliery

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/9

**Creation dates:** 21 Jan 1765

**Scope and Content**

To William Cuthberts Esq in London re the results of Mr Rawling's prospecting [unspecified colliery ? Witton]  
To Mr Elderton re the dispatch of sleepers, 21 Jan 1765

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/10](#)

**Creation dates:** 21 Jan 1765

**Scope and Content**

To the Hon Lord Abercorn, London, re prospects for the newly-sunk Engine Pit [Hurton]

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/11](#)

**Creation dates:** 21 Jan 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Curry re sinking the Engine Pit [Murton]

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/12](#)

**Creation dates:** 24 Jan 1765

**Scope and Content**

To [George] Douglas at Berwick re the ordering of cribbs and other materials for sinking the Engine Pit at Murton

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/13](#)

**Creation dates:** 4 Feb 1765

**Scope and Content**

To John Blackett Esq at Wylam re flooding at the Engine Pit at Heworth and wayleave agreements

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/14

**Creation dates:** 7 Feb 1765

**Scope and Content**

To the Earl of Abercorn, in London re financial affairs

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/15

**Creation dates:** 7 Feb 1765

**Scope and Content**

To the Earl of Northumberland re provisions of the will of William Newton and borings at Newburn and Walbottle

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/17

**Creation dates:** 7 Feb 1765

**Scope and Content**

To [Matthew] Ridley Esq in London re conditions for the lease of St Anthony's Colliery

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/18

**Creation dates:** 7 Feb 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Cleaver re the lease of Shadfen Colliery and supply of coal to Morpeth

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/19

**Creation dates:** 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Capt Snowden re the shipping of sleepers and the purchase of interests in Shiremoor Colliery, 11 Feb 1765.

To John Wrightson Esq, Newcastle re costs of maintaining waggonways, 13 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/20](#)

**Creation dates:** 16 Feb 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Key re family matters, 16 Feb 1765.

To Mr Hamilton re various financial matters, 16 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/21](#)

**Creation dates:** 16 Feb 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Matthew Ridley Esq in London re the lease of St Anthony's Colliery, 16 Feb 1765.

To Mr Brougham complaining that he is employing one of Brown's bound employees, contrary to law, 16 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/22](#)

**Creation dates:** 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Curry re complaints re expenses and dissatisfaction with [Robert] Cargie, 16 Feb 1765.

To Mr Murray re Mr Barne's work at Sir Charles Sedley's collieries at Nuthall, 21 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/23](#)

**Creation dates:** 21 Feb 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Douglas re supplies of materials

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/24](#)

**Creation dates:** 23 Feb 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Sir Ralph Milbank re the lease of his colliery at Willington, 23 Feb 1765.  
To John Cuthberts Esq in London re results of Mr Rawling's explorations, 23 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/25](#)

**Creation dates:** 27 Feb 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr C[uthbert]Swainston recommending Mr Edward Smith of Collier Row, Houghton-le-Spring as a viewer and re the dispute between Mr Smith and Miss Lee, 27 Feb 1765.  
To Mr Smith re workings at T[anfield] M[oor] Edge Colliery, 27 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/26](#)

**Creation dates:** 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Coulson Esq re the postponement of a trip to the West Country because of problems at Throckley, 27 Feb 1765.  
To Mr C[uthbert] Swainston at Durham re the return of the partnership deed between W. Barkas, Henry Masterman Esq and Brown, 21 Feb 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/27](#)

**Creation dates:** 3 March 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Matthew Ridley Esq in London re conditions for the lease of St



Anthony's Colliery

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/28](#)

**Creation dates:** [March 1765]

### **Scope and Content**

To John Thompson re the delivery of a new cylinder, Tuesday morning 8 o'clock

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/29](#)

**Creation dates:** March 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mr Smith at Whitton Gilbert assuring him of support and informing him that he may use Brown as arbitor in his dispute with Miss Lee, 8 March 1765.

To Mr Cuthbert Swainston informing him that he may name Brown as arbitor in the dispute between Smith and Lee, 8 March 1765.

To an unspecified recipient re workings at North Biddick, 10 March 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/30](#)

**Creation dates:** March 1765

### **Scope and Content**

To Mortain Davison Esq re working the coal under the estate between South Moor and Shield Row [North Thorn], the lease held by Sir Matthew Ridley, 10 March 1765.

To Matthew Ridley Esq in London re St Anthony's Colliery and working North Thorn, Throckley, 14 March 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/31](#)

### **Scope and Content**

List of Collieries, lessors and lessees

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/32

**Creation dates:** 14 March 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Turton re order for timber

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/33

**Creation dates:** 1 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To George Douglas at Berwick re the shipment of goods, settlement of accounts and an accident at Walker Colliery

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/34

**Creation dates:** 31 March 1765

**Scope and Content**

To John Wrightson Esq re colliery administration

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/35

**Creation dates:** 31 March 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Murray re financial matters and the purchase of Brockstone Estate (Nottinghamshire) by Lord Middleton which upsets his plans for a waggonway to Nottingham, 31 March 1765.

To Mr Barnes at Nuthall re the purchase of the Brockstone Estate and the state of the collieries in Tyne and Wear, 31 March 1765.

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/36

**Creation dates:** 31 March 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Robson at Willington re the accounts for [Jarrow] Grange and the sinking of Murton Engine Pit

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/37](#)

**Creation dates:** 31 March 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Matthew Ridley Esq M.P. at Burlington Street, London re the completion of the arrangements for the lease of St Anthony's Colliery and problems at Tanfield Moor Edge

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/38](#)

**Creation dates:** 7 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Hamilton re his pleasure in the successful winning of the Splenty coal, 7 April 1765.

To Henry Wilkinson Esq at Durham re a wayleave agreement, 7 April 1765.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/39](#)

**Creation dates:** 7 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Matthew Ridley Esq re the lease of North Thorn

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/40](#)

**Creation dates:** 12 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To James Spedding at Whitehaven re the explosion and fire at Walker

Colliery and the description of an engine at Throckley

**Related Material**

Simpson pp.24 - 5.

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/41](#)

**Creation dates:** 14 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To [George] Douglas at Berwick recommending John Chicken, a carpenter, for work at Murton

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/43](#)

**Creation dates:** 14 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To John Cuthberts Esq re favourable boring reports from his [Witton] colliery

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/44](#)

**Creation dates:** 16 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To George Douglas at Berwick re sinking the pit at Murton, Berwick and financial matters

**Reference:** [NRO 3410/Brown/2/45](#)

**Creation dates:** 16 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Curry re sending Cargie to direct the sinking of the Engine Pit at Murton, Berwick and the Splenty coal

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/46

**Creation dates:** April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Messrs Roebuck and Co re Lord Abercorn's financial matters, 16 April 1765.

To Mr Lisle, attorney at law at Morpeth, re Shadfen Colliery and the supply of coal to Morpeth, 17 April 1765.

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/47

**Creation dates:** 21 April 1765

**Scope and Content**

To Mr Newark Hudson at Fatfield Heaths re the regulation of the coal trade

**Reference:** NRO 3410/Brown/2/48

**Creation dates:** 3 May 1765

**Scope and Content**

To an unspecified recipient [? John Cuthbert] re his colliery at Witton