



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the James Nicol Halkett Papers

NMAH.AC.1455

Alison Oswald

2023

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	1
Content Description .....	2
Arrangement .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Series 1: Personal Materials, 1930-1942 .....	3
Series 2: Companies, 1924-1950 .....	4
Series 3: Trade Literature, 1927-1942 .....	10

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	James Nicol Halkett Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1924-1950
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1455
<b>Creator:</b>	Halkett, James Nicol, 1895-1953
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Cubic feet (6 boxes, 7 map folders)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection documents the life and work of engineer and inventor James Nicol Halkett.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated to the Archives Center by James Nichol Halkett's grandchildren, Kim Gillet, Muffie Austin, Jan Truitt and Scott Halkett in 2018.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2023.

### Preferred Citation

James Nicol Halkett Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at [archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu) or 202-633-3270.

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

---

## Biographical / Historical

James Nicol Halkett (1895-1953) was born in Scotland. He served in the British Army (Royal Engineers) during World War I. He later transferred to the Munitions Factory of Messrs. Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Newcastle, England as Toolroom Foreman in their Factory at Alexandria, Scotland, fabricating shell and fuse parts. Halkett trained as an engineer in Scotland and immigrated to the United States in 1923, settling in Cleveland, Ohio. Halkett married Edith

Victoria Edler on June 3, 1919 and was naturalized a citizen in 1945. The couple had one child, James Alexander Elder "Jim" Halkett (1920-2015).

---

## Content Description

The collection documents the life and work of engineer and inventor James Nicol Halkett through blueprints, notes about machines and machinery work, lab notes, notebooks with some illustrations, formulas, reports, and trade literature. The bulk of the material documents Fisher Body Company (1923-1929); Crowe Name Plate Manufacturing Company (1929-1932) Globe Machine and Manufacturing Company (1940-1941); and A.S. Campbell Company (1940-1941). Halkett also worked for other companies which are also documented.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Personal Materials, 1930-1942

Series 2: Companies, 1924-1950

Series 3: Trade Literature, 1927-1942

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Industrial engineering
- Industrial management
- Industrial productivity
- Machinery industry
- Metallurgical engineers
- Motion study

### Types of Materials:

- Blueprints
- Laboratory notebooks
- Letters
- Reports
- Test reports
- Trade literature

### Names:

- Crowe Name Plate Manufacturing Company
- General Motors Corporation. Fisher Body Division

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Personal Materials, 1930-1942

Scope and Contents: This series includes resumes, certificate of naturalization (photocopy), tax and financial information, and business cards. The business cards were assembled and used by Halkett while working at Crowe Nameplate and Manufacturing Company. The cards are arranged alphabetically by type of business (e.g. elevators) and also include business reply cards, ephemera, and company brochures such as the Metropolitan Refining Company, Inc. which made steam boilers.

Box 1, Folder 1                      Biographical materials, 1941, 1945, undated

Box 1, Folder 2                      Financial and tax return information, 1941-1942

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Companies, 1924-1950

### Subseries 2.1: Alloy Engineering and Casting Company, Champaign, Illinois, 1945, 1950

Box 1, Folder 3

---

### Subseries 2.2: General Alloys Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1945

Map-folder 6

Scope and Contents: Air Technical Service Command, contract documentation.

---

### Subseries 2.3: Bridgeport Brass Company, 1942

Box 1, Folder 4            Bridgeport Brass Company, description of methods used in production of 20 MM cartridge case, 1942-02-23

Box 1, Folder 5            Bridgeport Brass Company, 20 MM Oerlikon Cartridge Case Committee, 1942-05-08

---

### Subseries 2.4: A.S. Campbell Company

Scope and Contents: Includes trade literature for Challenge Machinery Company, McDonough Manufacturing Company; Chandler and Farquhar Company; Harris Soap Company; Wm. W. Nugent and Company; Quality Tool and Die; Enthone Company; Precision Spring Corporation; and Carboloy Company, Inc. Also included is an address by Walter S. Tower of the American Iron and Steel Institute, *Steel in a Year of War*, 1942.

Box 1, Folder 6            A.S. Campbell Company, trade literature, 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 7            A.S. Campbell Company, 20 mm shells

Box 1, Folder 8            A.S. Campbell Company, shell data, 1942

Box 1, Folder 9            A.S. Campbell Company, 20 mm Oerlikon Committee Meeting, 1942-07-03

Box 1, Folder 10           A.S. Campbell Company, correspondence, notes and calculations, 1942-1943  
Notes:                    Includes a drawing for variation in hardness, Rockwell 30-T scale on 20 mm steel cartridge cases with increase in temperatures, 1943.

Box 1, Folder 11           A.S. Campbell Company, bonderizing, 1942

Box 1, Folder 12           A.S. Campbell Company, correspondence, 1942

Box 1, Folder 13           A.S. Campbell Company, inter-office communications, 1942-1943

Box 1, Folder 14           A.S. Campbell Company, correspondence and notes, 1942-1945

	Notes:	Includes a small notebook of notes and calculations, 1942.
Box 1, Folder 15		A.S. Campbell Company, Emerson Encasing can contracts, 1942-1944
Box 6, Folder 1		A.S. Campbell Company, business envelope
Map-folder 6		Method of production for 20 mm cartridge case, 1942-1943
Map-folder 6		Production of Signal Corps, Emerson Encasing Can, 1944

### Subseries 2.5: Crowe Name Plate and Manufacturing Company

Scope and Contents: James N. Halkett worked at Crowe Name Plate & Manufacturing Company from 1929-1932 as a plant engineer.

Box 1, Folder 16		Crowe Name Plate and Manufacturing Company, 1930-1932, 1940 Notes: See blue prints in map folder
Box 1, Folder 17		Crowe Name Plate and Manufacturing Company, formulas and efficiency information, 1930-1931
Box 1, Folder 18		Crowe Name Plate and Manufacturing Company, notebook, 1930-1931
Box 2, Folder 1		Crowe Name Plate and Manufacturing Company, notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 2		Crowe Name Plate Manufacturing Company, notes, 1930-1932
Map-folder 4		Crowe Name Plate, Safety Devices, and Other Plans, Blueprints, H.W. Caldwell and Sons, 1930 78 Blueprints (24 in x 36 in or smaller. )
Map-folder 4		Crowe Name Plate Factory floor plan 1 Drawings (visual works) (12 in x 23.75 in )
Box 4		Business Cards (A-P), 1930-1931
Box 5		Business Cards (R-W), 1930-1931

### Subseries 2.6: Eaton Manufacturing Company and Subsidiaries

Box 6, Folder 2		Eaton Axle and Spring Company, blank forms, undated
Box 6, Folder 2		Eaton Manufacturing Company, blank envelopes and forms, undated
Box 6, Folder 2		Eaton Detroit Metal Company, blank forms, undated

## Subseries 2.7: Fisher Body Corporation

Box 2, Folder 3	Fisher Body Corporation, notebook, 1928-03
Box 2, Folder 3A	Fisher Body Corporation, notebook, 1928-09
Box 2, Folder 4	Fisher Body Corporation, production speed notebook, 1928
Box 2, Folder 5	Fisher Body Corporation, notebook, 1929-04
Box 2, Folder 6	Fisher Body Corporation, notebook, [1929]
Box 2, Folder 7	Fisher Body Corporation, E.W. Bliss Company, press blueprints, undated 6 Blueprints (8.5 in x 11 in )
Box 2, Folder 8	Fisher Body Corporation, employee list, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Fisher Body Corporation, floor space dimensions by department, 1929
Box 6, Folder 3	Fisher Body Corporation, Plant No. 23, Tool and Die Division, 1927-1928 60 Blueprints (11 in x 17 in ) Notes: Drawn by G. Aleznauer. Includes drawings for double-crank press and horn press.
Box 6, Folder 4	Fisher Body Corporation, sheet metal operation time study specifications, 1929
Box 6, Folder 5	Fisher Body Corporation, Classified Analysis of Punch Presses, 1929
Box 6, Folder 6	Fisher Body Corporation, press speed charts, 1929 1 Drawings (visual works) (11 in x 17 in )
Box 6, Folder 6; Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, machine efficiency chart Notes: Map folder includes blank efficiency charts for "Tools and Samples" and a "Die Chart."
Box 6, Folder 7	Fisher Body Corporation, efficiency forms (blank), undated Notes: Includes forms for: Press Department traveler; job time cards; Metal Division Salvage, rejected material traveler; salvage tag; piece rate change; operation card; sheet metal price card; record of piece work cost; machine efficiency record; defective die record; rejected steel shet; team work time statement; rejected material; machine efficiency form; grades of sheet steel based on runs; salvage report of sheet steel and sheet metal production record.
Box 6, Folder 8	Safety Device for #78 Toledo Press, R-1-14TR to R-10-14, 1928-02-23
Box 6, Roll 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Lay-out of Press Room Equipment, Cleveland Plant on Coit Road, 1926-1929



2 Blueprints (16 in x 7 feet; 17.25 in x 7 feet)

Notes: Depicted are power house, docks, railroad tracks, steel storage, press room, and press room annex.

Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Layout of Press Room Equipment, blueprint 2, 1926-1929 1 Blueprint (34 in x 105 in)
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Layout of Press Room Equipment, Cleveland Plant on Coit Road
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Layout for Conveyors, blueprint 3, 1925 1 Blueprint (72 in x 29 in)
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Gear or Belt Minimum, blueprint 5, 1929 1 Blueprint (34 in x 18 in)
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Steel Pillar Welding Department, blueprint 6, 1928-1929 1 Blueprint (45 in x 30 in)
Map-folder 2	Safety Devices, Blueprints 5-8, Fisher Body Ohio Company, Cleveland, Ohio, 1925 1 Blueprint (12 total drawings; 45 in x 34 in)
Map-folder 2	Fisher Body Ohio Company, Cleveland Ohio, Safety Device, blueprint 13,, 1926 1 Blueprint (18 total Blueprints; 45 in x 30 in)
	Office and Factory Staff, 1924-10 1 Photograph Notes: Halkett located near the right water tower leg, third down, wearing a dark suit and dark tie, below men in overalls.
Map-folder 2	Mechanical Knock Out Attachment Assembly, 1925-08-28 2 Blueprints (34.5 in x 43 in )
Map-folder 2	Mechanical Knock Out Attachment, details sheet, undated 1 Blueprint (31 in x 43 in )
Map-folder 2	Mechanical Knock Out Attachment, details sheets, 1925 8 Blueprints (10 in x 14 in )
Map-folder 2	Automatic Pierce and Countersink Attachment for 15 inch Barnes drill press, 1926-01-29 1 Blueprint (29 in x 46 in )
Map-folder 2	Detail of Auto Pierce and Countersink Attachment for 15 in Barnes drill press, undated 18 Blueprints (9.5 in x 13.5 in ) Notes: Drawings 84-1 to 84-18.
Map-folder 3	Safety Devices for Presses, back to front sweep, 1929-09-11

1 Blueprint (35.5 in x 44 in )

Map-folder 3	Safety Device for Toledo #78 press, 1928-02-23 14 Blueprints (9.75 in x 13.5 in )
Map-folder 5	Air Safety Control for Straight Side Press, 1924-11-24 1 Blueprint (19.25 in x 25 in )
Map-folder 5	Air Control of Clutches, C-1-14 to C-8-14, 1926-01-08 1 Blueprint (30.5 in x 42 in )
Map-folder 5	Air Control of Clutches, C-9-14 to C-14-14, 1926-01-11
Map-folder 5	Clutch Control Bracket for "C" Presses, 1926-03-08 1 Blueprint (26 in x 30 in )
Map-folder 5	Air Cylinder for Control Clutches and Air Cylinder for Control Clutches (details series C), 1926-01-05
Map-folder 6	Fisher Body Corporation, Press Room Office Proposition, 1929-03-29
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Air Clutch and Mechanical Knock out Assembly, 1924-10-10 1 Drawings (visual works) (15.5 in x 36 in )
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, Air Clutch, 1924-10-12 1 Blueprint (18 in x 38 in )
Map-folder 1	Fisher Body Corporation, undated 1 Drawings (visual works) (32 in x 46 in )
Map-folder 7	Office and factory staff, Fisher Body Ohio Company, 1924-10 1 Photograph (10 in x 58 in )

### Subseries 2.8: Globe Machine and Manufacturing Company

Box 2, Folder 10	Globe Machine and Stamping Company, notes and calculations, circa 1940s
Box 2, Folder 11	Globe Machine and Stamping Company, 32MM shells, 1924, 1940-1941
Box 2, Folder 12	Globe Machine and Stamping Company, .375 Holland cartridge case, 1940
Box 2, Folder 13	Globe Machine and Stamping Company, correspondence and notes for 37 MM shell, 1940-1941
Box 2, Folder 14	War Department, Office of Chief of Ordnance, Cartridge Case Committee, meeting minutes, 1941-01-10

Box 6, Folder 8      Globe Machine and Manufacturing Company, 37 MM shell, double size, 1940  
1 Drawings (visual works) (11.75 x 17.5 in )

Map-folder 5      Three draw method production for 37 MM cartridge case, 1940-10-16

Map-folder 5      Cup draw, first, second and third for United States Government shells (37 mm),  
1940-10-23

---

### Subseries 2.9: The Travelers, 1924-1931

Box 2, Folder 15      The Travelers. Safety in Power Press Operation, 1924

Box 3, Folder 1      Travelers Insurance Company, Engineering and Inspection Division, drawings,  
1925-1930

Box 6, Folder 9      The Travelers, Engineering and Inspection Division, drawings, 1930-1931

---

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 3: Trade Literature, 1927-1942

Scope and Contents: Includes the following companies: C.G. Armstrong Manufacturing Company; Benjamin Electric Manufacturing Company; Chicago Eye Shield Company; Frontier Meter Works (Jones Automatic Safety Guards); Geuder, Paeschke & Frey Company; L.F. Grammes and Sons; Hill-Curtis Company; Postive Safety Manufacturing Company; Safetee Glass Company Safety Appliance and Machine Company; Standard Safety Manufacturing Company, Inc.; Surty Manufacturing Company, Inc.; Taylor-Shantz Company; V & O Press Company; Walsh Press & Die Company; and Wiesman Manufacturing Company.

Box 6, Folder 10 Trade Literature

Box 3, Folder 3 Steel-related trade literature and ephemera  
Notes: Includes the following companies: Peninsular Steel Company; Poldi Steel Company, Inc.; Joseph T. Ryerson & Son; and Timken Roller Bearing Company. An undated issue of *Graphitic Steel News* for Timken Roller Bearing Company is also included.

Box 3, Folder 4 E.W. Bliss Company, Bliss computations for sheet metal working operations, 1931, 1943

Box 3, Folder 5 E.W. Bliss Company, sheet metal machinery catalogs, 1927-1929

Box 3, Folder 6 Cyclops Steel Company, product catalog inserts, 1934-1936

Box 3, Folder 7 Danly Machine Specialties, Inc., Die Makers Supplies, 1929

Box 3, Folder 8 E.I. Du Pont Nemours and Company, molten salt baths, 1942

Map-folder 5 Stewart Industrial Furnace Division of Chicago Flexible Shaft Company

Box 3, Folder 9 Toledo Machine and Tool Company, Toledo presses and other machinery dies and special tools, circa 1940s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)