

## **Hathorn Davey Ltd of Leeds, Yorkshire: A company history.**

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### Abstract

Hathorn Davey, manufacturers of heavy-duty pumping machinery for both mines and waterworks was established much later than their Cornish counterparts. Thanks to Henry Davey, an innovative mechanical engineer, the company quickly gained a reputation for excellence in the transitional period between the decline of the Cornish beam engine, and the introduction of electric pumps, and many examples of their engines still survive today.

The company, originally a partnership, was established in 1872 by Hugh Campbell, Alfred Davis and John Hathorn at Sun Lane, Leeds. Henry Davey who had patented the differential expansive pumping engine in 1871, came to work for the company a year later. In 1878 he became a partner in the Sun Lane works and the company became known as Hathorn Davey and Co in 1880.

Orders came initially from Yorkshire mines, for example Waterloo Main colliery, and Keldhead lead mine, followed by the South Staffordshire Mines Drainage Commission. They also exhibited their equipment at international exhibitions, and won awards. The company's growth coincided with an expansion of British mining interests abroad and they supplied heavy-duty pumping engines to the Kolar goldfields in India, Tasmania, Waihi in New Zealand, as well as Rio Tinto and Cordoba in Spain.

In 1901 Hathorn Davey became a limited company. Sulzer Pumps took it over in 1936 but they still retain the Hathorn Davey name as a registered company.

The paper describes the history of the company and provides details of some of the mine pumping engines that were exported worldwide.