

## FALKIRK ARCHIVES

### **Russel & Aitken Papers finding aid (18) Papers of the Rankine family, 1722-1922**

The finding aid for the Russel & Aitken Papers has been divided into 63 parts. This part contains a list of records relating to the Rankine family.

#### Family history

There were five generations of the Rankine family. John Rankine of Barns, a merchant, the first to be mentioned in these papers, acquired considerable property in Falkirk over the second half of the 18th century, in the Randygate, Robert's Wynd, the High Street, the Howgate, the West Port and the Pleasance, including the Assembly Rooms, known as Rankine's Folly, the Red Lion Inn and the Post Office building.

In 1786 John Rankine (1) conveyed properties to his son, John Rankine (2) of Bantaskine. Both were sequestrated in 1788. John Rankine (1) died in 1807 and John Rankine (2) died in 1814. John Rankine (2) married Janet Thomson or Anderson, who had three children from her first marriage, James, William and Mary Anderson.

The sons of John Rankine (2) were John (3), George, Robert and Charles. By 1814 they had acquired property. In 1817, George lived in London, Robert, a surgeon, was in London and thereafter was with the East India Company; and Charles was apprentice to Messrs Boyle & Gilfillan, Writers, Glasgow.

John Rankine (3) spent time in England as an engineer with the Eastern Counties Railway Co but by 1840 he was back in Falkirk and soon in severe financial trouble. He had no other work than managing his properties and was a heavy drinker. His personal problems included a Breach of the Peace conviction which resulted in his imprisonment and a Defamation action.

George Rankine died in 1850, pre-deceased by his brother Charles and survived by Robert, a beneficiary of his estate. George's will was challenged by John (3) and Counsel's opinion made it clear that his English will was deficient in form to convey Scottish heritage to Robert and therefore John inherited as the eldest brother.

John Rankine (3) had two sons, William Henry Rankine and James Anderson Rankine. James was an engineer, working in Woolwich and previously working with his brother in Falkirk. William was an engineer, working first in Falkirk (from 1857), then at the Naval dockyard in Chatham and then returning to Falkirk. He died in 1912 leaving a liferent to his wife Helen Dobbie or Rankine. When she died in 1922 the remaining Falkirk property was sold by the fiat, Col Robert Rankine (Australian Army) of Dunmore, St Kilda, Melbourne.

#### Scope & Contents Note

Writs, inventories of titles, on the Rankine family's property interests over five generations, largely in Falkirk; the financial difficulties of three generations; the personal problems of John Rankine (3) and a court action in which his son was involved.

Date range: 1722-1922

Item list

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A1818.001	1789-1814	Title deeds and inventories of writs relating mainly to property. Includes Conveyance, 1803, by John Rankine (2) of Bantaskine to his Trustee, James Aitken, following a second sequestration, of subjects including Wester Bantaskine (Tophill), lands of Dalderse (farm of Decocles), part of the lands of Randyford, Barns & fishings in the Black Loch; Disposition & Settlement (Will) of John Rankine (2) in favour of his wife and children, 1804; and instrument of sasine in favour of John, George, Robert and Charles Rankine of tenements in Falkirk.
A1818.002	1816-1819	Papers relating to sequestration of John Rankine (2) and subsequent property administration. Includes certificate of search for incumbrances on Rankine properties, 1819, with reference to sequestrations of John Rankine (1) and John Rankine (2) in 1788; missives of sales, 1819; interest account of John Rankine's heirs; and accounts of John Rankine's children, (John, George, Robert & Charles), with James Aitken, Writer, Falkirk, 1813-1816.
A1818.003	1819	Handbills for sales of Barns & Wester Holehouse and for sale of Falkirk properties. Handbill for Falkirk properties shows upset prices and prices realised.
A1818.004	1820-1854	Papers concerning Rankine properties. Includes Account showing sums drawn by John (3), George, Robert and Charles Rankine, 1821; Rentals and list of arrears for Rankine properties, 1820; Memorial for George, Robert & Charles Rankine on incumbrances affecting their properties, 1820; and note on incumbrances, 1829.
A1818.005	1798-1839	Titles & Inventories of Titles of Subjects in Pleasance. Includes Disposition by James & William Ferguson in favour of John Rankine (2), 1797 (the Fergusons had owned the tenement since 1722); Disposition by Elizabeth Hardie to John Rankine (2), 1803; Buildings insurance policy for Rankine properties, 1818; and Charter of Confirmation of houses in lane leading off Roberts Wynd by William Forbes of Callendar in favour of George Rankine, 1839.
A1818.006	1792-1805	Title deeds, rentals and inventories of Bantaskine. Includes Inventory of title deeds of lands sold to John Rankine by Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, 1799; and draft instrument of sasine in favour of Janet Thomson spouse of John Rankine, 1800.
A1818.007	1810-1828	Security Writs for various Rankine properties. Includes Instrument of Sasine in favour of George Scrimzeour of Thornhall on Bond & Disposition in Security by George Rankine, 1824; various assignations, including assignations to James Black of Hillend; and various Discharges & Renunciations to George & Charles Rankine.

A1818.008	1722-1799	Papers relation to action, Ferguson v John Rankine (2). Relates to Rankine's decision to remove the moveable estate of the deceased Mary Grosart, the life-renter of property purchased by Rankine, following disputes about the property by her heirs. Includes Disposition & Assignment by John Ferguson to Margaret Ferguson (his daughter) and Answers for John Rankine to the Petition and complaints of Thomas & William Ferguson.
A1818.009	1843-1851	Papers regarding Executry of George Rankine. Includes correspondence, Business Account of the Heir & Executor of the late George Rankine to Russel & Aitken and Account of Charge & Discharge between George Rankine and Russel & Aitken.
A1818.010	1830-1864	Papers relating to personal and financial difficulties of John Rankine(3). Relates to challenge to his brother George's will; charge against him for breach of the peace concerning violence against a Pleasance neighbour and sentence of 30 days imprisonment; charge of defamation brought by a butcher accused by John Rankine of "improper intercourse with the defender's wife" and conversation in the butcher's shop in the presence of James Russel who was "somewhat deaf"; papers about debt due to the Falkirk Female Society and papers concerning problems in renewing licence for the Assembly Rooms with undertaking to stop public dancing. Includes Complaint of breach of the peace to Procurator Fiscal against John Rankine, plan of the Pleasance and Deposition by John Rankine.
A1818.011	1861-1864	Papers relating to Court of Session action, William Henry Rankine and John Russel, his Mandatory v Thomas Inglis, farmer, Carrickstone, Cumbernauld, concerning engine, boiler and threshing mill supplied to Inglis by W H Rankine. Includes draft precognition of James Anderson Rankine; correspondence from Burn, Wilson & Burn (advocates, Edinburgh) to Russel & Aitken concerning the trial and evidence; and proofs and notes concerning issues about the case and the evidence.
A1818.012	1860-1864	Papers relating to Court of Session action, William Henry Rankine and John Russel, his Mandatory v Thomas Inglis, farmer, Carrickstone, Cumbernauld, concerning engine, boiler and threshing mill supplied to Inglis by W H Rankine. Includes Report by Mr Alexander Slight (Engineer) of Inspection of engine and boiler at Carrickstone; Joint Print of Documents for the Parties; and Queries to be put to the Pursuer [W H Rankine] which includes a reference to John Rankine's "Uncle in London, William Symington".

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| A1818.013 | 1909-1922 | Papers regarding Executries of Mr William Henry & Mrs Helen Dobbie or Rankine, sale of house in St Andrew's Place and disposition of Pleasance property and Rankine's Hall. Includes W H Rankine's will, registered 1922; correspondence with Col Robert Rankine, Australian Army; Disposition & Settlement by William Henry Rankine, Accounts of Executors, Inventory of the Estate of the late William Henry Rankine and copy Charter of Novodamus by George Rankine of Havering Grange in favour of the Stentmasters of Falkirk, (18300 referring to feu contract of 1805 between John Rankine of Bantaskine and the Stentmasters. Also includes letter, Russel & Aitken to trustees of Margaret Russel or Aitken Trust concerning incumbrances on Rankine's subjects, 1867. |
| A1818.014 | 1832-1845 | Letters mainly from Major Anderson (a relative of the Rankine family) concerning (inter alia) the adoption of the Conservative candidate for Falkirk Burghs, 1840. [Note that Anderson had aspirations to be the candidate but the candidate chosen and subsequently elected was Mr Baird of Gartshore].                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |