

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Russel & Aitken Papers finding aid (33) Papers of the Mair and Rankine families , 1662-1859

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

Family history

Patrick Mair was born in 1763 in Ridge of Blairmucks in the Parish of Shotts. In 1763 he married Jean Aitken of Falkirk. He set up business as a printer originally in Bells Wynd, Glasgow in 1764 but by 1767 he was trading as a bookseller in Falkirk. He carried on a prosperous business as a printer and bookseller, publishing religious books and chapbooks as well as carrying out general printing work. He retired in 1797 and died in 1805.

Patrick Mair had heritable properties in Edinburgh and Falkirk and made provision for his wife and his daughters Isabel, who married John Rankine, bookseller and stationer in Falkirk, Margaret, who married Thomas Johnston, printer, Falkirk, and Marion, who did not marry. After a liferent to his wife, Isabel received a property in Smellie's Land on the south side of the High Street above the Bow in Edinburgh (which she later disposed to the Edinburgh Commissioners) as well as Patrick's whole stock of books. Margaret received a tenement of houses lying to the south side of Falkirk High Street in Logan's Close as well as all the printing equipment and materials. Marion received a tenement on the north side of Falkirk High Street and the west side of Kirk Wynd. Thus Thomas Johnston took over his father in law's printing business and John Rankine took over the bookseller and stationer's business. Whether his sons-in-law were formerly Patrick's employees is not apparent. Thomas Johnston died in 1835 and was succeeded by his son Archibald Johnston who purchased the Falkirk Herald in 1846, one year after it had been started by James Hedderwick, a Glasgow printer.

Patrick's younger brother, Thomas Mair of Pottishaw, (1743-1808) was a banker in Bathgate, being agent there for the Falkirk Banking Company. Following that he became a partner of the Falkirk Union Bank. He died before the Bank's failure. After a liferent to his wife, Thomas left half of his estate to his great-nephews, Thomas Johnston and John Johnston, and left a quarter to his great-nephew Thomas Rankine, and a quarter to his niece, Marion Mair.

Patrick's daughter, Isabel, and her spouse John Rankine of Loanrig had six children who were Janet (or Jessie, who married the Reverend A C Rutherford), Patrick, Thomas,(a seaman, who was estranged from his family for unknown reasons, lost touch and was eventually presumed dead), Jane, James and Isabella.

John Rankine of Loanrig, Isabel's husband, died in December 1832, having made a complicated will. He held ownership of various lands in the Parish of Slamannan which can be traced in this family's name in the Valuation Roll of 1691. His executors were his widow, his eldest son Patrick, and James Russel. Patrick was to be the eventual heir. Isabel Rankine had a liferent till her death but Patrick on her death was burdened with making payments to Jessie, Jane and Isabella. Isabel Rankine died on 28th July 1838 predeceased by the elder son and heir, Patrick, leaving James Russel as the only surviving Trustee. He accordingly assumed the Reverend A C Rutherford to act with him. James Rankine, the other son who is described as "sometime stationer" had been left with little discretion to deal with his small share of his father's estate for reasons which are not clear. Patrick had died

intestate and the result of this was that James was entitled to the whole residue of the estate subject to the burden of provision for his sisters. The executors were able to get James to execute the necessary deeds to provide this protection. This was not the end of the confusion. James was married to Euphemia Watson and had made a will in her favour. James died on 30th April 1839. A child was born to Euphemia in May 1840. The child was "believed to be illegitimate", but it was thought that the child might nonetheless have a claim on his or her supposed grandfather's estate. The Executors required to resort to the well-known Victorian expedient of raising in the Court of Session a Summons of Multiplepinding and Exoneration.

The John Rankine Trust estate included subjects in the Randygate, Awells, Grahams Road, High St, Loanrig, Westrig and Back Row. Russel & Aitken acted on behalf of the Trustees at least until 1842.

Thomas Rankine's share in the Thomas Mair of Pottishaw Trust was assigned to his mother, Isabel, as his factor and she sold it to Adam Smith, WS, Falkirk.

Patrick's unmarried daughter, Marion Mair, inherited a tenement on the north side of Falkirk High Street and the west side of Kirk Wynd which was managed by the Trustees of Patrick Mair's Trust. Marion Mair along with Russel & Aitken, managed her own assets including her house (originally John Rankine's) in Graham's Rd. She left her estate principally to charities but left her house and some funds to her great nephew, James Rutherford, the son of Janet Rankine and Rev Alexander Cumming Rutherford, Minister of the Burgher (Auld Licht) congregation in Falkirk.

Note:- see Love vol.2 p.131 on Patrick Mair and vol.3 p.285. ff. on the Rev A C Rutherford and the Evangelical Union Church.

Note: There seems to be no direct connection with the Rankine family papers in Finding Aid 18.

Scope & Contents Note

Executry and Trust Papers of Patrick Mair, Thomas Mair of Pottishaw, and descendants. Documentation for the purchase and sale of subjects at Smellie's Land, West Bow, Edinburgh. Trust Dispositions and Settlements of Patrick and Thomas Mair. Inventories of Rankine properties in Falkirk. Papers relating to the estate of John Rankine and the Trust of Mrs Isabel Mair or Rankine. Correspondence from Rev A C Rutherford about disputed succession. Summons of Multiplepinding and Exoneration. Vouchers of Miss Marion Mair. Papers, vouchers and discharges relating to Miss Marion Mair's executry. Papers relating to Thomas Mair of Pottishaw's Trust properties and accounts and vouchers relating to that Trust. Administration of the continuing executry until the beneficiary became of age. Affidavits as to the presumed death of Thomas Rankine.

Date range: 1808-1859

Reference Code: A1833

Item list

| <i>Reference No</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Brief Description</i> |
|---------------------|-------------|---|
| A1833 | 1808-1859 | Papers of Miss Marion Mair and the Miss Marion Mair Trust including Miss her executry papers, papers relating to heritable properties over which the Trustees held security and papers relating to the Patrick Mair Trust, Thomas Mair of Pottishaw Trust, John Rankine Trust; papers relating to |

- subjects included in the estate of the latter Trust and to disputes over division of the estate.
- A1833.001 1662-1834 Papers relating to subjects in Smellie's land, High St, Edinburgh. Includes Articles of Roup of house lying above West Bow of Edinburgh belonging to Robert Johnston, merchant, Edinburgh, 1769; Letter, 1793, Patrick Mair to Samuel Campbell, bookbinder, Edinburgh, agreeing to purchase house in Smellie's Land, West Bow, Edinburgh, for 2,000 copies of the Synod's catechism in sheets; Disposition, 1798, by William Balloch in favour of Patrick Mair, stationer and bookseller in Falkirk of a further house in Smellie's Land with search certificate of 1769 and prior writs from 1662; draft Disposition by Mrs Isabel Mair or Rankine, relict of deceased John Rankine, Bookseller, with consent of James Rankine, Bookseller, Jessie, Jane and Isabella Rankine, 1833; and Extract Trust Disposition and Settlement of Patrick Mair, 1812
- A1833.002 1812 Patrick Mair's Trust Disposition and Settlement of estate which included dwelling house in Logans Close Falkirk, tenement in Smillies land on the south side of the High St and other subjects lying on the High St of Falkirk. Dated 9 Dec 1803 and Registered in Stirling Sheriff Court Books, 30 Jan 1812.
- A1833.003 1806-1839 Thomas Mair Trust papers. Includes copy extract registered Trust Deed of Settlement by Thomas Mair 1806; Feu Disposition by Mair's Trustees to Relief Congregation of Bathgate, 1823; accounts of charge and discharge between the Trustees of Thomas Mair Trust and James Aitken, writer, Falkirk, 1808-1810; Affidavit as to the unknown whereabouts of Thomas Rankine by James Boyd Coubrough, 1837
- A1833.004 1806-1850 Papers relating to Thomas Mair of Pottishaw Trust. Includes Trust Disposition and Settlement, 1806; various vouchers regarding Bathgate and Pottishaw; and Opinion of Counsel relating to Mair's bequest [to the poor of Bathgate] as to who were the successors of MrConnal's congregation which had taken responsibility for the distribution to the poor.
- A1833.005 1764-1839 Miscellaneous documents relating to inherited subjects belonging to John Rankine of Loanrigg. Includes Inventory of documents connected with the affairs of John Rankine of Loanrigg delivered to Adam Smith in implement of Mandate by his family, 1839 ; Inventories of writs and title deeds for subjects in the Randygate, Grahams Rd, High Street, Loanrig, Westrig, Awells and the Back row; extract decret for dispute between John Wilson and James Sword over the former's right to build a wall and to carry materials for repairs to his house through the disputed area between the properties of each party in Falkirk; and letter.
- A1833.006 1837-1842 Papers relating to disputes about division of estate of John Rankine. Includes Memorial for James Russel for defence of action of Multipepoinding relating to claim of a child born to Euphemia Rankin after her husband's death, 1841; and copy decret and act of factory in favour of Isabella Mair or Rankine as factor loco absentes to Thomas Rankine, 1833.
- A1833.007 1838-1842 Papers relating to John Rankine of Loanrig Trust. Includes

- letter with intimation of John Rankine's death, 1832; correspondence concerning disputed succession and rights of Janet Rankine or Rutherford, Jane Rankine and Isabella Rankine; Deed of Assumption of A C Rutherford as Trustee and mandate granted for delivery of papers to Adam Smith
- A1833.008 1822-1844 Vouchers and accounts for Miss Marion Mair for clothing and other miscellaneous items and for building, paving and painter work at her house in Grahamston. Includes illustrated letterheads for William Wilson, High Street, Falkirk, Woollen and Linen Draper, Silk Mercer, Furrier and Hatter, Carpets, Bed and Table Linen, Family Mourning; Thomas Miller, Tea Dealer, Grocer and Wine Merchant; H.Young, silk mercer, woollen draper, haberdasher ; and J.W. Gillespie, Silk Merchant, Haberdashers and Hosiers.
- A1833.009 1832-1843 Vouchers for Marion Mair for miscellaneous items including poor rates, property tax, household furniture, repairs and plaster work at her house in Grahamston, and glass for shop window.
- A1833.010 1808-1854 Accounts and correspondence of Marion Mair and her Trustees. Includes Extract Baptism Certificate of Marion Mair, accounts with Russel & Aitken, correspondence, feu duty receipts from John Burns on behalf of William Forbes for property in High St, account with Adam Smith and memorandum on account charged by Adam Smith, back letter by Marion Mair to James Ritchie, Gardenhead relating to bond. fire insurance policy and receipts. Also includes printed Summons of members of the Mair family to court over a disputed Disposition and Settlement by Marion Mair's relation Thomas Mair of Pottershaw, 1808
- A1833.011 1845-1854 Executry papers of Marion Mair. Includes Confirmed Testament Testamentar, Inventory and Valuation of household furniture, bed, table linen and other effects, draft Inventory of personal estate, accounts, discharges by legatees of Marion Mair's estate including the Asylum for the Blind, Female Society of Falkirk and the Falkirk Charity School, receipts, correspondence relating to conveyance of subjects at Pottishaw, correspondence between Russel & Aitken and Adam Smith and accounts relating to affairs of Thomas Mair of Pottershaw.
- A1833.012 1846-1859 Papers of Marion Mair Trust. Includes Birth certificate for James Rutherford, correspondence from Rev. A C Rutherford and his son James Rutherford as to payment of James Rutherford's entitlement, Inventory of writs for Marion Mair's house in Graham's Rd, Falkirk, transferred to James Rutherford, discharges by charitable beneficiaries, and Trust accounts. Also includes State of Pottishaw Rents.
- A1833.013 1849-1856 Papers of Marion Mair Trust relating to properties over which the Trustees held securities including Molehill or Molehall (Bannockridge, near Dalkeith). Includes Inventory of Titles of Molehill, accounts of Andrew Flechter and his spouse, tenants at Molehill, draft Trust Assignment of Tack of subjects in Molehall to the Trustees and copy Assignment of the same by the Trustees to the Reverend Alexander Cumming Rutherford.

