



Inventory

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James Gilliland Simpson and Jane Simpson

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Diaries and letter books, 1806-1851, of James Gilliland Simpson (1751 – 1851), Merchant, London, and his wife, Jane, nee Horsburgh (1805 – 1873). With a typescript of an unpublished work, c.1985, by John Home Simpson, on James Gilliland Simpson and his wife, and their relationship with Edward Irving, preacher and theologian (1792-1834).

Although the diaries and correspondence record the daily business, social and domestic activities of a successful Scottish merchant and his family in London, the main interest lies in the account they give of the relationship between the Simpsons and Edward Irving.

James Gilliland Simpson began his business as a trader in hides in Edinburgh, but moved to London in 1806. In 1822, he heard Edward Irving preach and soon joined his congregation at the Caledonian Church in Hatton Garden. After their marriage in 1825 his wife, Jane Horsburgh, also became a devoted member of Irving's church. In 1830, members of Irving's National Scots Church visited the west of Scotland following reports of people 'speaking in tongues'. There were similar outbreaks among Irving's congregation after their return to London. In 1832, the Simpsons visited Port Glasgow and, soon afterwards, Jane Simpson began 'speaking in tongues'. Irving at first encouraged her, but this led to a split in the congregation and he later turned against her. Attempts at reconciliation failed and the Simpsons were expelled. The diaries give a detailed narrative of this period and the quarrel with Irving. Afterwards, the Simpsons worked for the education of the Jews and for the Deaf and Dumb Society.

Deposited, 2005

I-8 James Gilliland Simpson

Diaries

Most of the diaries have pages loosely interleaved. These have been left in place.

- 1 9 March 1806 – 2 July 1832
- 2 13 April 1822 – 14 May 1823
- 3 15 May 1823 – 9 April 1825
- 4 15 July 1832 – September 1838
- 5 6 September 1838 – 25 August 1845
- 6 4 August 1846 – 15 September 1847
- 7 27 November 1848 – 16 May 1851

Correspondence

- 8 Business Letter Book, 8 December 1814 – 31 August 1816

9-13 Jane Simpson

Diaries

- 9 25 December 1826 – 18 January 1828
- 10 27 March 1831 – 30 December 1831
- 11 Account of Mr and Mrs Simpson's visit to Port Glasgow, 1832

Correspondence

- 12 Letter Book, 14 April 1840 – 25 November 1841, consisting of copies of letters of Jane Simpson in her work in the Mission to the Jews

Miscellaneous

- 13 A Review of Scripture Passages Setting Forth Christ's Second Advent on Earth by Mrs Simpson, 1831 and 1835
- 14 **John Home Simpson**
 - 14 Typescript of work by John Home Simpson on James Gilliland Simpson and Jane Simpson and their relationship with Edward Irving, c.1985

Additional material deposited July 2005

- 15 Miscellaneous documents of and relating to James Gilliland Simpson and Jane Simpson, 1825-1991, n.d.
 - Contract of Marriage between James Gilliland Simpson and Jane Simpson, 1825
 - Letters of Edward Irving to James Gilliland Simpson, 1829, 1831 (2)
 - Letter of William Caird to Jane Simpson, 1831
 - Printed death notice of James Gilliland Simpson, 1851
 - Copy of Will of 1848 of James Gilliland Simpson, 1851
 - Letter of Anthony, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury to Jane Simpson, 1858
 - Letters of condolence concerning Jane Simpson's death, 1873 (2)
 - Typescript copy, 1991, of 'The Story of James Gilliland Simpson's Business Ventures, 1801-1840', extracted from his journals by John Home Simpson
 - Typescript copy, n.d., of an account by James Gilliland Simpson of a family holiday in Scotland, 1830