

**Inventory**

**Acc.9872**

**William of Banniskirk, Sinclair of Southdun,  
Henderson of Stemster, Bower**

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This collection consists of the correspondence, accounts and papers of three Caithness families, the Williamsons of Banniskirk, the Sinclairs of Southdun and the Hendersons of Stemster, Bower. The papers span the seventeenth to twentieth centuries. The bulk of the papers relate to the Ulbster estates in Caithness, under Lieut Col Benjamin Williamson's and Captain David Henderson's respective factorships. There are letters relating to The Caithness Fencible Regiment and the Caithness Highlander Regiment, circa 1790-1815.

Letters of special interest include those of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster (1754-1835), first president of the Board of Agriculture and author of A Statistical Account of Scotland, mainly on Caithness agriculture and politics. There are letters from his son, Sir George Sinclair of Ulbster (1790-1868) and his daughter, the novelist Catherine Sinclair (1800-64) amongst others.

## **WILLIAMSON OF BANNISKIRK**

1. Contract, 2 December 1641, concerning William Sutherland, younger and David Sinclair, flor. 1680 & 1692.
2. Letters, formal documents and receipts, 1678-1704, concerning Donald Williamson, merchant, Thurso.
3. Letters and accounts, 1718-65, estate of Banniskirk, including letters from Sir George Sinclair (elder).
4. Letters to Benjamin Williamson (elder) 1759-63, from Donald Williamson, b. 1729.
5. Papers, 1758-89, concerning the army career of Donald Williamson, b. 1729.
6. Letters, accounts and receipts of the estates of Banniskirk and Spittle, 1760-1803, concerning Donald Williamson, b. 1729.
7. Letters, accounts and receipts, 1784-98, to Captain Benjamin Williamson from Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaskie, on factorship. Various on The Caithness Fencibles.
8. Papers and correspondence, 1791-3, relating to a property dispute between John Rose, Sheriff Clerk of Caithness and James Nicolson, surgeon in Ormly.
9. Letters, 1791-1801 from Donald Williamson, b. 1729; to Benjamin Williamson.

10. Letters, 1795-1812, from James L'Amy of Dunkenny, Advocate, to Lieut Col Benjamin Williamson.
11. Letters and accounts, 1795-8, to Captain Benjamin Williamson, paymaster of The Caithness Fencibles.
12. Papers, 1796-1818, concerning the Caithness Fencibles.
13. Army papers, 1803-14, belonging to Lieut Col Benjamin Williamson.
14. Letters, 1803-12, from Donald and James Williamson throughout their army careers, to their father, Lieut Col Benjamin Williamson. Some from Iberian Peninsula, circa. 1812.
15. Military documents and civic honours, 1802-10, of Lieut Col Benjamin Williamson.
16. Papers, 1803-20, concerning the building and management of Caithness roads.
17. Letters, 1806-22, from John Williamson, Jamaica, to Col Benjamin Williamson.
18. Letters, accounts and receipts, 1800-22, of Col B Williamson.
19. Letters, accounts and receipts, 1800-23, of Col B Williamson.
20. Road account book, 1809.
21. Business letters, 1814-17, from grain merchants to Col B Williamson.
22. Letters, 1816-17, from James Campbell, Inverness to Col B Williamson.
23. Road account book, 1818; Lathrion, Halkirk, Bower and Watten parishes, Caithness.
24. Correspondence, 1823-26, between Mrs Benjamin Williamson and various Army boards regarding compensation.

## **ACCOUNTS**

25. Rent account book, 1780; estate of Scarmelet, Caithness.
26. Farm account books, 1781-3; estates of Banniskirk and Scarmelet, Caithness.

27. Farm account book, 1805-6; estates of Stanstill and Bower, Caithness.
28. Account book, 1805-9; estate of Banniskirk.
29. Rent account book, 1808-12.
30. Rent account book, 1811-14, Banniskirk.
31. Farm account book, 1813-16, Banniskirk.
32. Accounts and business papers 1800; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
33. Accounts and business papers 1801; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
34. Accounts and business papers 1802; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
35. Accounts and business papers 1803; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
36. Accounts and business papers 1804; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
37. Accounts and business papers 1805; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
38. Accounts and business papers 1806; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
39. Accounts and business papers 1807; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
40. Accounts and business papers 1808; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
41. Accounts and business papers 1809; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
42. Accounts and business papers 1810; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
43. Accounts and business papers 1811; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
44. Accounts and business papers 1812; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
45. Accounts and business papers 1813; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
46. Accounts and business papers 1814; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
47. Accounts and business papers 1815; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
48. Accounts and business papers 1816; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.

49. Accounts and business papers 1817; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
50. Accounts and business papers 1818; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.
51. Accounts and business papers 1819-20; Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk.

#### **SINCLAIR OF SOUTHDUN**

52. Copyletters, Southdun estate, 1750-79.
53. Memorials and queries, 1760-75, Sir S Threipland to Miss Katherine Sinclair, Southdun.
54. Inventories, 1760-83, Southdun estate.
55. Letters, 1760-89, D Lothian and Sir S Threipland to Miss Katherine Sinclair, Southdun.
56. Accounts, 1760-1803, Southdun estate.
57. Rent papers, 1790-1820, Southdun estate.

#### **HENDERSON OF STEMSTER, BOWER**

58. Letters, 1802-47, from Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk, Catherine Sinclair, etc; to Alexander Henderson, Elder of Stemster and David Henderson, younger of Stemster.
59. Business letters and accounts, 1807-43, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, Robert Rose, etc; to Captain David Henderson, younger of Stemster.
60. Papers, 1810, 1822 and 1828, including letter from Francis R Hastings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Moira, (later 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Hastings) concerning the army career of Captain David Henderson of Stemster.
61. Letters, 1815-44, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, Col Benjamin Williamson of Banniskirk, etc; to Captain David Henderson.
62. Letters, 1817-27, from Lieut Robert McBeath, to Captain David Henderson.
63. Correspondence, 1818-28, between Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, and Captain David Henderson of Stemster, Bower.

64. Letters, 1819-33, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, Maxwell, Marshall and Lawson, solicitors, to Captain David Henderson.
65. Letters, 1820-65, from David, Alexander and William Henderson, chiefly from military stations in Iberia, India and South America. Letter from Admiral Sir Provo Wallis.
66. Business letters, 1823-43, from W Thompson, Corn Factor, Leith, to Captain David Henderson of Stemster.
67. Letters, 1825-47, mainly on Caithness elections and politics, to Captain David Henderson.
68. Letters and memoranda, 1825-35, from Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster to Captain Henderson.
69. Letters, 1827-37, from William Horne of Stirkoke, Advocate, James Campbell, Robert Ross etc, to Captain David Henderson.
70. Letters, 1829-34, from Alexander and Cecilia Henderson, Robert Rose etc, to Captain and Mrs David Henderson.
71. Letters, 1829-54, from Major Patrick Henderson, Stemster, Bower, 42<sup>nd</sup> Madras Native Infantry, from active duty in India to the Hendersons of Stemster Bower. Some passports included.
72. Autobiographical notebook belonging to ?Major Patrick Henderson of Stemster, Bower. *A Canto for self alone, A memoir of myself and for myself*, c. 1830-44.
73. Letters, 1829-40, from Robert Rose, J Murray etc, to Captain David Henderson, concerning the Ulbster Trustees, estates, roads and Church affairs in Caithness.
74. Letters, 1830-37, Robert Rose, Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, etc.
75. Business letters, 1830-38, from Robert Rose, of James Traill of Rattar, Advocate, etc; to Captain David Henderson of Stemster.
76. Letters, 1831-35, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, George Traill of Rattar, Robert Rose, etc to Captain Henderson of Stemster.

77. Letters to and from Sir George Sinclair of Ulbster, 1831-49, including Edward Gibbon Wakefield, colonial policy advisor.
78. Letters, 1832-35, from Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Sir George Sinclair of Ulbster, Camilla Sinclair and Catherine Sinclair to Captain David Henderson of Stemster.
79. Miscellaneous family letters to Captain David Henderson, from his brother William Honeyman Henderson; sons Benjamin and Alexander and from his daughters, 1832-44.
80. Letters, 1834-35, from William Horne of Stirkoke, Robert Rose, etc, mainly political.
81. Letters, 1834-37, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, etc, to Captain David Henderson.
82. Caithness deaths and funeral notifications, 1835-50, sent to Captain David Henderson.
83. Letters, 1836-37, from Professor Tulloch, Aberdeen, to Captain David Henderson.
84. Letters, 1836-37, to Captain David Henderson, about elections.
85. Political satire concerning Caithness elections, 1837.
86. Business accounts and letters, 1839-49; Captain David Henderson.
87. Letters, 1840-43, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, to Captain David Henderson of Stemster.
88. Letters, 1840-42, mainly political, to Captain David Henderson.
89. Business letters, 1841-43, from Donald Horne of Langwell, WS, etc; to Captain David Henderson.
90. Letters, 1841-43, from Robert Rose, etc, to Captain David Henderson.
91. Letters, 1850-55, from Major Benjamin Henderson, CB, Stemster, Bower, 48<sup>th</sup> Bengal Native Infantry, David Henderson, Lieut 10<sup>th</sup> Bengal Native Infantry, both serving in India, to the Hendersons at Stemster Bower.

92. Personal accounts and letters, 1832-33, Robert Rose etc, to Captain David Henderson.
93. Personal accounts, 1836-39 of Captain David Henderson, Oldfield, by Thurso.
94. Accounts, 1862-66, of Mrs David Henderson at Thurso, including four account notebooks.
95. Personal and estate accounts, 1833-46, of Captain David Henderson.
96. Pass book of Captain David Henderson of Stemster, 1851-62.
97. Stemster diary book, 1844.
98. Memoranda notebook, 1817-29.
99. Memoranda notebook, 1817-42.
100. Memoranda book belonging to M Henderson, 1842.

#### **ULBSTER ACCOUNTS AND ESTATE PAPERS**

101. Estate accounts, 1816-18, Captain David Henderson.
102. Accounts, 1818-28, Banniskirk.
103. Accounts and papers, 1818-31, Caithness roads and bridges.
104. Accounts, 1819-34, Banniskirk.
105. Accounts, 1822-44, Banniskirk.
106. Accounts, 1823-28, Brims etc.
107. Accounts and business letters, including farm estate papers, to Captain David Henderson, 1826-36.
108. Letters and accounts, 1827-37, including farm estate papers.
109. Accounts and papers, 1828-48, Banniskirk.
110. Letters, accounts and papers, 1828-30, regarding farm business.



111. Accounts, 1828-33, of the New Parish Church building at Thurso.
112. Accounts and papers, 1828-34, Thurso Church and Manse.
113. Accounts, 1829-33, Brabsterdorran.
114. Accounts and letters, 1829-32, of the Ulbster Trustees, regarding Halkirk Parish Church, etc.
115. Accounts and letters, 1829-38, of the Ulbster Trustees; roads, estate plans, farms and sales of produce.
116. Letters, business accounts and minutes, 1830-37, of the Ulbster Trustees.
117. Accounts, 1830-38, Ulbster farm estates.
118. Contracts and specifications, 1830-43, Ulbster estates.
119. Accounts, 1830-34, Brabsterdorran.
120. Work estimates, 1830-34, Brabsterdorran, including farm accounts.
121. Contracts and minutes, 1830-34; Thurso parish church.
122. Accounts and business letters, 1830-35, regarding farm estates.
123. Accounts and papers, 1831-37, of Thurso and Olig parish churches, etc.
124. Accounts and letters, 1831-47, Brabsterdorran.
125. Papers, 1831-32, Caithness roads.
126. Papers, of the Caithness roads trustees, 1831-36.
127. Papers, 1832-45, regarding Captain David Henderson's factorship of the Ulbster estates.
128. Estate papers, 1832-36, Ulbster farms.
129. Accounts and papers, 1832-35, of the Church and manse at Halkirk.
130. Accounts, 1833-37, Banniskirk.
131. Accounts, 1834-35, Parish of Thurso.

132. Accounts, 1834-36, Brabsterdorran.
133. Letters, accounts and estate papers, 1835, Ulbster farms, to Captain David Henderson of Stemster.
134. Letters and accounts, 1835-37, farm estates and property.
135. Papers, 1837-39, farm estates and property.
136. Accounts and papers, 1839-44, Ulbster estates.
137. Accounts and business letters, 1840-44, Thurso Church Trustees, etc, to Captain David Henderson.
138. Business correspondence and accounts, 1837-41, concerning Captain David Henderson.
139. Estate accounts and papers, 1841-46.
140. Minutes of Jack, 1846-47, Brabsterdorran.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

141. Printed items of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster and Sir George Sinclair of Ulbster, etc.
142. Printed items; Caithness Roads, 1830, Analysis of the Statistical Account of Scotland, 1825, On the proposed code of digest of Religion. On the Culture of White Pease, (all by Sir John Sinclair) Imperial Standard Weights and Measures for Caithness, Excerpts of the Minutes of the Caithness Road Trustees, 1835, On the prevailing Disease in Cattle, Professor Dick, Edinburgh, 1841.
143. Journal of the Stainland Girnelt, 1829.
144. The Northern Star and Caithness Advertiser, Nos.4, 9, 10. 1836-37.
146. Printed items; agricultural sales catalogue, W Drummond, 1837; Rules and Catalogue of the Thurso subscription Library, 1834; Fisheries Bill, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1847, 1 Vict.
147. Colburn's United Services Magazine, Feb 1856 (Includes obituary of Captain William Honeyman Henderson).

148. The Free Church and Her accusers on the Matter of American Slavery, 1866.
149. Printed items; Photographs and account of career of Sir Provo Wallis; Contents of a History of Scotland, Leave/Duty ration book, 1918 of Robert R Gore Brown, HM Navy, Glasgow, Poster of Ord's Circus, Wick. Centenary menu of the Caithness Agricultural Society, 1930; Christmas card of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seaforth Highlanders, 1916. Postal timetable for Caithness, 1847; Caithness election poster, 1880; Songsheet of the Edinburgh Caithness Association, 1841.
150. Military commissions (1867-1907).
151. History of the Caithness Highlanders. History of the Military service of the Hendersons of Stemster, Bower. Various material on the History of the Hendersons of Stemster, Bower. Genealogical tables etc. Illustration of William Sinclair (d. 1838) Birth certificates of James Honeyman Henderson (1858) Adalaine Henderson (1856) Margaret I O Henderson (1902), Marriage certificates of James Honeyman Henderson and Jane E Ottely (1900).
152. Miscellaneous letters to the Hendersons of Stemster, Bower, 1801-1906.
153. Locks of hair, c. 1830, belonging to Alexander, Margaret, Elizabeth and Isobella Henderson (children of Captain David Henderson, younger of Stemster, Bower).
154. Account of the Estate of Patrick Henderson, (d. 1807) including biographical notes.
155. Three photographs, two of oriental vases, one of Imperial robes, 1902.
156. Family trees: Williamson of Banniskirk, Henderson of Stemster, Sinclair of Southdun, Sutherlands of Forse, of Langwell and of Swinze, Horne of Stirkoke. Map of Caithness area with relevant estates circled.

**ACCESSION 9872 (ADDITIONAL MATERIAL, 2<sup>ND</sup> DEPOSIT)**

157. Account book of the Caithness Fencibles, 1775-95.
158. Rental book, 1778-88.
159. Rental book of the estate of Fortingall, 1784.

160. Rental book belonging to Col B Williamson, 1786-90.
161. Account book of the Caithness Fencibles; Col B Williamson, paymaster, 1795-8.
162. Account book, 1805-8.
163. Account book, 1809-14.
164. Paymaster payment book, 1809-22.
165. Farm accounts and personal accounts of Col B Williamson, 1787-1810.
166. Caithness farm accounts: seed prices etc; 1833-48.
167. Miscellaneous papers of the Caithness Fencibles, 1796-1810.
168. Correspondence and papers, 1783-1866.
169. Correspondence and papers, 1784-1864.
170. Correspondence, 1795-1862.
171. Papers relating to the funding, contracting and building of Caithness roads, 1801-35.
172. Correspondence and papers, 1806-36.
173. Correspondence and business papers of Captain David Henderson of Brabsterdorrان, 1832-36.
174. Letters to Captain David Henderson, mainly on legal matters, 1835-39.
175. Correspondence, 1838-60.
176. "Ulbster Letters"; to and from Captain David Henderson, January 1838 – December 1839.
177. Letters, mainly to Captain and Mrs Henderson of Brabsterdorrان, from their sons whilst serving in India, 1843-61.
178. Bills of lading and receipts of Mrs Henderson of Caithness, 1862-4, n.d.