

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Forbes of Callendar Papers finding aid (1531-1974) Introduction

This collection consists of 36m of records of the Forbes of Callendar family from 1531-1974. The records have been arranged into twenty eight series (see next page for details) and the finding aid has been separated into these series to make it easier to download from our website.

History of Forbes of Callendar family

The Forbes family originated in Aberdeenshire and ran a coppersmith business in Aberdeen. In the 1760s and 1770s the business expanded to London, where William Forbes established a separate coppersmith business. William Forbes purchased Callendar Estates and Almond Estates in 1783, and added estates in Earlstoun in Dumfries, Sanquhar in Ayrshire and Herbertshire in Denny. Callendar House was bought as part of Callendar Estates but was sold in 1963 along with parts of Callendar Park to Falkirk Town Council. The family continue to own Callendar Estates.

The second William Forbes (1806-1855) was only nine years old when his father died and his estates were therefore managed by Trustees until he reached his majority at age 25 in 1831. He married Lady Louisa Charteris, daughter of the Earl of Wemyss. He was the Conservative MP for Stirlingshire , 1835-1837 and 1841-1855.

The third William Forbes (1833-1914) was born in Edinburgh and educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. He married Rose O'Hara in 1859 and the couple had two sons, William and John, both of whom pre-deceased their father. William's second wife was Edith Harvey, and they had three sons and four daughters. Their second son, Charles William Forbes, (1871-1948) inherited Callendar Estates. He was vice president of the Unionist Association, Commissioner of Supply, Commissioner under the Property and Income Tax Act, 1895, JP. He was also the first person to be given the Freedom of the Burgh of Falkirk in 1906.

The fourth Forbes to own Callendar Estates was Colonel Charles William Forbes (1871-1948). He married Jean Hotham in 1897 (daughter of Vice Admiral Sir Charles Hatham) and had three sons and four daughters (two died in Second World War). He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford and was Captain of Stirling County Cricket Club, 1896-1909. (Obituary in Falkirk Herald, 7 August 1948)

Arrangement

The correspondence was originally arranged in chronological order, regardless of topic. It has now been re-arranged into smaller bundles relating to particular topics. These bundles of letters to William Forbes of Callendar often include drafts or copies of his replies. Minor correspondence, particularly from tradesmen, will also be found among the receipts and vouchers in the estate papers.

<u>Finding Aid Part No</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date range</u>	<u>Bundle numbers</u>
1	A37/S1	Correspondence and personal papers of William Forbes (1743-1815)	1722-1815	A727.1-A727.1079
2	A37/S2	Correspondence and personal of Trustees of William Forbes (b.1806,d.1855)	1815-1830	A727.1080-A727.1187
3	A37/S3	Correspondence and personal papers of William Forbes (1806-1855) and Lady Louisa Forbes	1830-1855	A727.1188-A727.1370
4	A37/S4	Correspondence, personal papers and business papers of William Forbes (1833-1914)	1833-1899	A727.1371-A727.1406
5	A37/S5	Correspondence and personal papers of Charles William Forbes (1871-1948)	1932-1932	A727.1407
6	A37/S6	Coppersmith business records of William Forbes (1743-1815)	1752-1794	A727.1408-A727.1882
7	A37/S7	Conservative Party and political activities of William Forbes MP (1806-1855)	1830-1855	A727.1883-A727.1948
8	A37/S8	Stirling County local administration and communications	1770-1887	A727.1949-A727.2048
9	A37/S9	Estate and household papers - Callendar Estates	1718-1883	A727.2049-A727.3398
10	A37/S10	Estate Papers - Earlstoun	1747-1867	A727.3399-A727.3578
11	A37/S11	Estate Papers - Sanqhar (Ayrshire)	1784-1874	A727.3579-A727.3762
12	A37/S12	Estate Papers - other properties belonging to the Forbes family	1819-1860	A727.3763-A727.3770
13	A37/S13	Estate Papers - properties not owned or possessed by Forbes of Callendar	1770-1842	A727.3771-A727.3828
14	A37/S14	Financial papers of William Forbes (1743-1815), not relating to estates or copper business	1774-1861	A727.3829-A727.3855
15	A37/S15	Financial papers of Trustees of William Forbes	1815-1830	A727.3856-A727.3876
16	A37/S16	Financial papers of William Forbes MP (1806-1855)	1830-1855	A727.3877-A727.3910
17	A37/S17	Legal papers - Callendar Estates	1531-1901	A727.3911-A727.4107
18	A37/S18	Legal papers - Herbertshire Estate	1687-1928	A727.4058-A727.4107
19	A37/S19	Legal papers- Earlstoun Estate	1687-1928	A727.4108-A727.4143
20	A37/S20	Legal papers -Sanquhar Estate	1752-1833	A727.4144-A727.4160
21	A37/S21	Legal papers -personal executries, trusts and marriage contracts	1760-1873	A727.4161-A727.4195
22	A37/S22	Legal papers - other	1663-1887	A727.4196-A727.4266
23	A37/S23	Miscellaneous papers	1693-1914	A727/4267-A727.4289
24	A37/S24	Maps and plans- Callendar Estates	1781-1970s	Various: A727; A932; A1085; A1090;
25	A37/S25	Maps and plans- Herbertshire Estates	1785-1919	Various: A727; A932; A1085; A1090;
26	A37/S26	Maps and plans - Earlstoun Estates	1768-1916	Various: A727; A932; A1085; A1090;
27	A37/S27	Maps and plans - Sanquhar Estate (Ayrshire)	1785-1967	Various: A727; A932; A1085; A1090;
28	A37/S28	Estate papers for Callendar, Earlstoun, Herbertshire and Sanquhar Estates	1876-1964	A744.001-A744.265

Note on reference numbers: A large quantity of the Forbes of Callendar Papers were originally deposited in the National Archives of Scotland in the 1950s and then transferred to Falkirk Archives in 1994. Four institutions have given this collection separate reference numbers.

NRA survey number: 15476
NRA(S) survey numbers: 3626, 3632, 649
Former NAS number: GD171
Falkirk Council Archives number: A727

Additional records have been deposited in Falkirk Archives since 1992. Copies of some of the maps and plans held by Callendar Estates were made by the National Archives of Scotland and given RHP reference numbers. Many of the originals have now been deposited in Falkirk Archives and the RHP numbers where known are given in brackets.