

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Russel & Aitken Papers finding aid (14) Papers of the Duke of Hamilton, 1824-1887

The finding aid for the Russel & Aitken Papers has been divided into 63 parts. This part contains a list of records relating to work undertaken on behalf of the 10th Duke of Hamilton Alexander Hamilton, (1767-1852), the 11th Duke of Hamilton, William Alexander Anthony Archibald Hamilton (1811-1863) and the 12th Duke of Hamilton, William Alexander Louis Stephen Douglas-Hamilton (1845-1895).

Family history

Russel and Aitken acted locally for the Duke of Hamilton roughly from 1827-1890. The dispute about the division of the Reddingrig and Whitesiderig Muirs communities goes back to the feu granted to the Duke of Chatelherault in 1552. There is a reference to an Interlocutor of 1710 but the main references are to the Interlocutor of 1768. The Duke of Hamilton sought to be held as unqualified proprietor of these lands. Large numbers of actions for ejections were served

Scope & Contents Note

Papers relating to debt due to Commercial Bank, result of Henry Salmon's activities; connected with Redding Colliery; Papers relating to litigation about the division of the Reddingrig and Whitesiderig Muirs communities including correspondence, minute, court papers, circulars, contracts and accounts.

Date range: 1835-1844; 1824-1887

Reference Code: A1814

Item list

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A1814.001	1851-1854	Notices of meetings of representatives of Duke of Hamilton with those Heritors of the Parish of Polmont with rights of servitude over Reddingrig and Whitesiderig Muirs, also Proposals to be submitted to them at the meeting with regards to the Duke's intention to obtain a discharge of their rights of servitude and a renunciation of all their future rights in the said muirs , also a Circular detailing the outcome of the said meeting, also List of parties to whom notices of the above meeting had been sent, also List of valuations of the properties of those parties with rights of servitude in 1773 with proprietors in 1851, also Memorandum, also excerpt from Interlocutor in the Division of the Commonty of Reddingrig, 1768,
A1814.002	1767, 1854-1861	Papers relating to the division of Reddingrig and Whitesiderig Muirs. Includes minutes of meetings of parties claiming rights in Muirs, letters from individuals

- agreeing to proposals by Duke of Hamilton to buy out their rights to servitude and copy scheme of division of Muirs. Also includes list of Polmont feuars, 1767.
- A1814.003 1855-1898 Papers relating to litigation over the division of commonities of Whitesiderig and Reddingrig and the Court of Session ruling that the Duke of Hamilton & Brandon should be considered a joint proprietor (as opposed to sole proprietor) and entitled to draw a share in the division while being restricted from working coal on certain parts set off to the other Heritors, and later usage of the land owned by the Duke of Hamilton. Includes memorandum for the Duke of Hamilton, 1855; Articles of Agreement to lease houses on the commonities owned by him, 1859; Certified Copy of Interlocutor of 1768 in the Division of the Commonity, 1859; list of reputed owners and occupiers of houses and lands in Reddingrig and Whitesiderig, 1863; copy list of Polmont Feu Duties payable to the Duke of Hamilton 1875, copy excerpts from 1771 report as to the right of the parties interested in the division of the commonities, 1898; copy of 1770 Decree of Division of the Commonities of Reddingrig and Whitesiderig, 1898.
- A1814.004 1773, 1847-1867 Correspondence to Russel & Aitken relating to the Duke of Hamilton's claim to be sole proprietor of Reddingrig and Whitesiderig muirs on the basis of a charter granted to the Duke of Chatelherault in 1552, Also includes circulars to Polmont Heritors relating to Duke of Hamilton's proposal to buy out their rights of servitude; excerpts from the title deeds of the lands of Meadowbank including east and west Cleddans, Sunnybraes, Lochgairn and Paperhill, lands in Redding such as Croftland along with pasturage in the Muirs of Reddingrig and Whitesiderig; Printed Minutes of the Court of Session Robert Hunter and others against the Duke of Hamilton in the division of the Reddingrigg & Whitesiderigg muirs, 1773; and offer to lease ground in Whitesiderigg from the Duke of Hamilton, 1867., also correspondence relating to right to the coal on Reddingmuir on the lands bought by James Russell
- A1814.005 1853-1868 Lists relating to Whitesiderig and Reddingrig Muirs. Includes Lists of squatters on said lands, and Lists of reputed owners and occupiers of houses and lands on the said muirs, Lists of heritors with a right to servitude on the muirs, miscellaneous lists
- A1814.006 1853-1854 Legal papers relating to court of session case raised by the Duke of Hamilton to remove George Mackintosh from dwelling house in Redding muir. Includes Minutes for the Duke of Hamilton demonstrating, by reference to Title deeds, his right as proprietor of the land and copy Queries and Opinion and receipts for mason and wright work done

A1814.007	1853	to dwelling house. Legal papers relating to Sheriff Court case raised by Duke of Hamilton to remove Thomas Baxter Collier residing in dwelling house at pit no. 6 Redding. Includes Petition for removing and ejection, copy interlocutor sheets and account of defender's expenses.
A1814.008	1853-1854	Legal papers relating to Sheriff Court case raised by Duke of Hamilton to remove John Chalmers, Collier residing in dwelling house at Easter Divoties Wallacestone. Includes Petition for summary ejection, correspondence, copy interlocutor sheets, Minute of abandonment for the petitioners and Bill Chamber Decreet for expenses.
A1814.009	1854-1862	Legal papers and correspondence relating to Sherriff court cases raised by Duke of Hamilton to eject people from Whitesiderig and Reddingrig muirs including William Brown (senior Collier at Blackbraes Colliery), Margaret Forfar or Munnoch, the widow of Robert Munnoch (Miner at Blackbraes) and others, George Watson (Collier residing at Middlerig Row near Redding) and Mrs Margaret Chisolm or Lamont, widow of James Lamont (Miner at Redding Colliery), George Kay, farmer, West Newlands, David Wilson, collier, Easter Shieldhill , William McPherson, collier, Wallacestone, Thomas Nimmo, cater, Blackbraes and others, Includes petitions for ejection, letters for Horning and extract decreets, also List of parties against whom Decrees of Declarator and Removing have been granted
A1814.010	1862	Papers relating to Sheriff court cases raised by Duke of Hamilton to eject squatters' widows from Reddingrig commonty. Includes petitions for ejections and correspondence relating to interdicts and ejections against squatters and related correspondence
A1814.011	1850-1863	Printed circulars by Duke of Hamilton including proposals to be considered by those with rights of servitude on the muirs of Whitesiderig and Reddingrig, Notice to colliers to quit their dwelling houses after deserting their work at Redding Colliery, also list of those to whom this notice had been sent, notice to occupiers of subjects on muirs that if they want to continue occupation and not be forced to remove they must make an offer of rent, draft circular to squatters
A1814.012	1861-1868	Offers of rent made to Duke of Hamilton by various individuals for property on Whitsiderig Muir and Reddingrig Muir, also correspondence relating to the offers and negotiations relating to rent
A1814.013	1847-1869	Correspondence concerning the matter of the removal of squatters by the Duke of Hamilton on Reddingrig and Whiteside Muirs, also letter and printed form from James Thomson Rankine. Airdrie

		on the procedure to take in the ejection of unemployed colliers
A1814.014	1839-1845	Correspondence concerning the division of Weeding Moss, also Scheme of Divisions of Weedings listing names of heritors with interest in the moss, also valuation of Summerhouse Colliery
A1814.015	1834-1850	Accounts of Duke of Hamilton. Includes accounts to Russel & Aitken, notes of expenses and letter relating to Weedings Feu duty.
A1814.016	1855-1870	Draft accounts of Duke of Hamilton to Russel & Aitken for 1855, 1856, 1859, 1862, 1869, 1870.
A1814.017	1824	Contracts between Duke of Hamilton and miners at his coal works at Brighton and Redding.
A1814.018	1838	Blank Petitions for an unknown sheriff court case raised by Duke of Hamilton to remove colliers from dwelling houses near collieries in Reddingrig and Whitesiderig.
A1814.019	1844	Papers regarding debt alleged to be due by the Duke of Hamilton to the Commercial Bank of Scotland (H Salmon). Includes Articles of Roup of Subjects belonging to the Commercial Bank of Scotland and Memorandum anent the Commercial Bank of Scotland claim against His Grace the Duke of Hamilton.
A1814.020	1845	Papers relating to sheriff court case raised by the Procurator Fiscal against the Duke of Hamilton for contravening the terms of the 1843 Act prohibiting the employment of women and girls in mines and collieries by employing females to work at Redding Colliery particularly at pit no.6. Includes copy petitions, precognition and correspondence.
A1814.021	1849-1859	Correspondence relating to various matters in Redding including a threatened action against the Duke of Hamilton by John Griffen (Labourer near Blackbraes) for pulling down his building, the Midland Railway Co's proposal to shut down public road which would crop the railway near the west end of the village of Redding (letter contains sketch), William Galloway's offer to sell his house on Redding muir upon being discharged from Gartnavel Asylum and dispute between Duke of Hamilton and Mr Turnbull, also letter concerning unauthorised removal of stones from a quarry
A1814.022	1851	Correspondence as to supply of railway sleepers at Redding Colliery. Includes letters from McDonald to John Austin (Manager, Redding Colliery) about finishing the sleepers.
A1814.023	1851-1861	Papers relating to purchase of lands of Middlerig by William Leighton (as factor for Duke of Hamilton) from William Johnston. Includes Minute of Agreement and related correspondence.
A1814.024	1853	Papers relating to sheriff court case against the Duke of Hamilton over Alexander Weir (eight year old child of James Weir, Collier at Blackbraes) being killed at

- Gardrum Pit and eventual settlement of £15. Includes precognition and correspondence.
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| A1814.025 | 1870-1875 | Papers relating to court of session case raised by Carron Co to prevent the Duke of Hamilton and others from making or using any railways, tramways or other roads or accesses upon the lands of Muirpark (in Polmont) and Gardrum (in Falkirk) belonging to Carron Co. Includes Closed Record and Joint Print of Documents for the parties concerned. |
| A1814.026 | 1880-1887 | Legal papers relating to Sheriff Court case raised by Duke of Hamilton to remove Alexander Taylor (Pitheadman, Redding) from land in Reddingrig Muir and relating to rent due by William Nielson (tenant of Shieldhill farm). Includes correspondence, excerpts from Kinneil rent ledger, Shieldhill rent account, extract Decrees and Terms of Removal of Alexander Taylor and spouse from Reddingrig muir. , Collier residing in dwelling house at Easter Divoties Wallacestone. Includes Petition for summary ejection, correspondence, copy interlocutor sheets, Minute of abandonment for the petitioners and Bill Chamber Decreet for expenses. |
| A1814.027 | 1899-1901 | Papers relating to agreement between Duke of Hamilton and James Nimmo & Co Ltd (Coalmasters in Glasgow) as to improvement of colliers houses at Redding Colliery. Includes copy Minute of Agreement and Lease with list of houses sold by the Trustees of the 12th Duke of Hamilton to James Nimmo & Co Ltd including those on Redding Rows, Canal Row, Wallacestone Brae, Wallacestone Rows no.s 5 and 6 pits, California Row, Middlerig Row, at Burnside Railway embankment, Reddingmuirhead Row, Wester Shieldhill and Stone Row and related correspondence. |
| A1814.028 | Circa 1900 | Plan showing the Duke of Hamilton's property got in lieu of the Hangmans Acre and the railroad from Redding Colliery scale 1 inch to 1 imperial chain. |
| A1814.029 | 1877 | Papers relating to Inch, Polmont Parish, containing a letter from Hamilton Estates Office to Russel & Aitken relating to feu duties on the property and asking whether Alex Smith of Weedings is the proprietor of the property, also plan showing Inch and surrounding properties |