

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Russel & Aitken Papers finding aid (23) Papers of the Cook family, 1671-1922

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

Family history

John Cook, a merchant in Falkirk, was born in c.1748. He was a shopkeeper in 1788 and purchased property in Falkirk High Street in 1792.

In 1778 he married Mary Gaff from Polmont who died in 1844. They had seven children: John Cook, the eldest son who was in business with his father and died in 1818; Mary, who married James Rennie of Gowanbank, the owner of Grahamston Mill (see part 24 of the Russel & Aitken finding aid) and who died in 1874; Agnes (who married Robert Wilson, merchant in Glasgow, and who died in 1841); Robert; Margaret; James and Elizabeth, (who died in 1851).

Robert Cook, also a merchant in Falkirk, may have been the brother of John Cook, merchant. He was born on 16 December 1751 and his parents were John Cook and Agnes Taylor. The first record of his activities is in 1781 when he and John Cook were involved in the insurance of a consignment from Riga to Alloa.

Robert Cook married Janet Wood, sister of John Wood, shipbuilder, Port Glasgow, who contracted with Henry Bell for the building of the Comet but died in 1811 before the vessel was completed. Robert Cook and Janet Wood had five children: John; Janet; Robert; Elizabeth (Betsy) and Agnes. He died in 1826, leaving his estate to Elizabeth and Agnes, under a burden of a payment of one fifth to Janet and James Walker.

John (jnr) studied at Glasgow (matriculating in 1792, aged 13) and Edinburgh Universities and in 1795 was apprenticed to Walter Scott WS Edinburgh (father of Sir Walter Scott, novelist and poet). His 1794 matriculation certificate was signed by John Anderson whose bequest founded Anderson's Institution, now the University of Strathclyde.

Janet married James Walker, FRS, civil engineer (1781-1862). He was a native of Falkirk, involved in the design and construction of the London Docks and in the building of 21 Lighthouses. He succeeded Thomas Telford as President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Janet Cook or Walker died in 1858.

Nothing is known of Robert (jnr) beyond the fact that he signed a discharge in favour of his sisters Elizabeth and Agnes following his father's death.

Elizabeth and Agnes were not married and lived together in Western Ave, Grahamston. On the death of the survivor of them their assets passed to the descendants of Janet and James Walker, whose daughters were Margaret (who married William Smythe, Advocate, Methven Castle, later Lrd Methven Senator for the College of Justice); Agnes (who married Captain, later Admiral, Alexander Boyle of Sundrum, Ayrshire) and Janet (who married Charles Edward Lefroy, Secretary to the Speaker of the House of Commons).

Scope & Contents Note

Papers relating to John Cook's dealing in shipping; title deeds of John Cook's property in Falkirk, Executry papers of John Cook, Mary Gaff or Cook and Elizabeth Cook; and papers of John Cook's testamentary Trust.

Papers relating to Robert Cook: shipping insurance, correspondence with John Wood, Titles to property in High St; papers relating to John (jnr) apprenticeship; Executry papers of Robert Cook, Elizabeth Cook and Agnes Cook with papers showing succession to the descendants of James Walker FRS and Janet Cook or Walker.

Date range: 1671-1872

Reference Code: A1823

Item list

Accession No	Primary Prod Date	Brief Description
A1823.002	1810-1833	John Cook Papers. Includes John Cook's Account to Russel & Aitken relating to his dealings with owners of the Lady Keith and State of Debt: John Cook against Mr James Auld.
A1823.003	1811	Papers regarding Vendition of 1/4 of Ship, Canada of Montreal by Robert Hunter of Greenock in favour of John Cook. Includes Vendition and related accounts.
A1823.002	1671-1792	Titles of Property in High St. next to the Tolbooth owned by John Cook. Includes Sasine of All & Hail that Tenement of land high and laigh lying on the North side of the Street of Falkirk in favour of Thomas Jamieson and his spouse and Petition & Deliverance thereon John Cook to the Justices of the Peace and Trustees for the Turnpike Roads in the County of Stirling relating to property at Tolbooth of Falkirk which Cook purchased from Agnes Aitken (Spouse of Robert P Cooper in Glasgow).
A1823.004	1829-1837	John Cook's Executry Papers. Includes confirmed will and testament of John Cook, Trust Disposition & Settlement by John Cook to John Callander and others, Inventory of his personal estate and Statement with regard to the affairs of the late John Cook and his Trustees Management thereof.
A1823.005	1835-1838	John Cook's Executry Papers. Includes Account of the personal estate, and of monies arising out of the Real estate of John Cook (Merchant, Falkirk), Invitation by Mary Cook to her husband's funeral and Minutes of Meetings of the Trustees of Mr John Cook Trust.
A1823.006	1850-1851	John Cook Trust - Continuation of Statement with regard to the Trust affairs of the late Mr John Cook. Also includes letter and memo about residue account.
A1823.007	1844-1847	Executry Papers of Mary Gaff, widow of John Cook. Includes Inventory of personal estate

A1823.008	1851-1852	Miss Elizabeth Cook's Executry Papers. Includes Account of the Personal Estate of Miss Elizabeth Cook (exhibited by Mary Cook or Rennie) and Inventory & Valuation of the household furniture and the effects which belonged to the late Miss Elizabeth Cook.
A1823.009	1724-1800	Progression of title of subjects on south side of High St purchased by Robert Cook from the Taylor family (who acquired these in 1724), with Inventory of writs, 1783. Includes Sketch plan of property on High St, Falkirk drawn by John Shaw, produced by Robert Cook, draper [in legal proceedings] (Fragile)
A1823.010	1783-1872	Progression of title of subjects on Falkirk High St, purchased by Robert Cook from the heirs of James Taylor. includes inventory of writs
A1823.011	1781	Insurance document for cargo on the Lady Mar of Alloa for voyage from Riga to Alloa, in favour of John and Robert Cook
A1823.012	1783-1797	Letters from John Wood to Robert Cook (addressed to "dear brother") about family matters such as the birth of his baby daughter. Includes full transcription of above letters.
A1823.013	1794-1799	Papers relating to John Cook, son of Robert Cook, merchant, Falkirk. Includes Indenture of John Cook to Walter Scott WS Edinburgh witnessed by Walter Scott's son (later Sir Walter Scott, novelist); and John Cook's Glasgow University and Edinburgh University class tickets.
A1823.014	1787-1798	Papers relating to Walter Scott WS. Interest account of Walter Scott WS with Eden Ridley Cookson Widdingloss & Co; Calculation of Valleys Periodical Interest, 1796-99; and Copy Trust Disposition & Settlement by Walter Scott, 21 May 1798 with John Cook as witness.
A1823.015	1791-1807	Court papers relating to Walter Scott WS
A1823.016	1724-1800	Executry papers of Robert Cook. Includes Minute of family meeting, draft statement of funds and scheme of division, extract disposition and settlement, roup roll of shop goods; valuation of moveable effects listed by room, discharges by John Cook and Robert Cook (jnr) in favour of Agnes Cook and Elizabeth Cook
A1823.017	1850-1852	Correspondence between James Walker , Great George St, London and Elizabeth and Agnes Cook, resolving a difference about a small sum due by them to James Walker.
A1823.018	1850-1852	Executry papers of Elizabeth Cook. Includes Valuation of moveable effects; confirmed Testament Dative; Excerpt from Valuation Roll, 1867.
A1823.019	1850-1871	Executry papers of Agnes Cook. Includes confirmed Testament Dative; Valuation of household effects; excerpt from Valuation Roll; Memorial to Counsel and opinion as to succession with inventory of productions; details of rentals for High St properties; Inland Revenue succession duty assessment;

		Appointment of James Aitken of Darroch as Commissioner and Mandatory by heirs of Robert Cook
--	--	--