

DUNDEE CENTRAL LIBRARY, REF. D45

DUNDEE MARITIME HISTORY

Charters, writs and Public Documents
Of
The Royal Burgh of Dundee

The Hospital and Johnston's Bequest
1292 – 1880
with inventory of the Town's Writs annexed

Printed by order of the Provost, Magistrates & Town Council
Dundee
1880

P111 – 112

No. 119 Of Inventory

Act of Privy Council in favour of the Masters and Seamen of Dundee for erecting Lights at the mouth of the Tay, 24 February, 1687

P162

An anchor-smith, 1720

Copy of document in file

An shipbuilder, 1721

Copy of Document in file

P162 – 163

Shipsmith at Dundee 1728

Copy of document in file

Inventory
Of
Charters, writs & Public Documents of the Burgh of Dundee,
And of the Hospital and Johnston's Charity
IN THE TOWN REPOSITORIES
1879

Branch 1. – Town's Charters and Writs

D45.001

Letter of Arrestment, under the Signet, at the instance of the collector of the Masters and Seamen, for the duties payable to them, dated 16 June 1609

D45.002

Town's Charter Chest, Box 1

84. Extract Obligation by the shipmasters of Dundee for the payment of their dues to the Boxmaster of the Seamen, dated 4 October, and recorded in the Books of Council and Session, 21 December 1621.

D45.003

97.

Letters of Horning, at the instance of the Master of Seamen, for payment of their dues, dated 23 February 1644.

D45.004

119.

Printed Copy of Privy Council in favour of the Masters and Seamen of Dundee for erecting lights at the mouth of the Tay, dated 24 February 1687.

D45.005

121.

Extract Act of Privy Council in favour of the Seamen Fraternity respecting recovering the duties payable to them, date 15 December 1691.

D45.006

123.

Extract decree of the High Court of Admiralty ordaining all Merchants, Shipmasters, &c, trading at the Port of Dundee to make payment to the Seamen Fraternity of their dues, dated 31 October 1699.

D45.007

150.

Extract Act of the Convention of Burghs refusing the Petition of the Three United Trades and Seamen Fraternity against the Alteration of the Sett [municipal constitution] dated 16 July 1818, in respect the Petitioners had no interest in the political constitution of the Burgh.

D45.008

161.

Excerpt from Decree of Modification and Locality – The First Minister of Dundee against the Heritors.

This excerpt defines the principal portions of the Lands and Barony of Dudhope which belonged to the Town, as acquired from the Earl of Lauderdale and Sir Robert Milne in 1697, and feud or sold to various parties, among others ... 14 acres of the lands in Forebank and the Lough Shed, in favour of the seamen Fraternity and sailors, ... the decree of Locality being dated 29 January 1777.

Town's Charter Chest

No. 2

D45.009

283.

Obligation – The Fraternity of Seamen of the Burgh of Dundie, to the Counsell of the said Burgh, 1712, of Contribution towards Kirk Fabric for Seat in Church.

D45.010

285.

Accompt [account] of the state of the Burgh of Dundie as to their yearly Revenue and constant Expences, 1700.

Note: The town was obliged soon after this time to sell their most Valuable estates to pay the debts, including Logie estate, &c.

At a meeting of the Council on 6 December 1705 ... resolved to Feu out some properties, to be holden of the Town.

Accordingly, they subsequently feud out these lands to ... the Seamen Incorporation ... These feud lands included what are now Known as ... Seamen's Acres.

Rare books collection

Author: Dewie Thomas

Logbook kept on three vessels: HINDOOSTAN; DOROTHY; NORTH POLE

Logbook of schooner ST.KILDA Dundee to Davis Strait, 18 April 1908 to 7 April 1910.

Author: Alexander Smith, Chief Engineer

An account of a voyage to Greenland aboard whaler CAMPERDOWN in 1861.

Author: William C. Stephen

Log of ketch ERNEST WILLIAM, Dundee/Davis Strait 3 June 1912 to 23 August 1913 and ends with vessel a total wreck.

Dundee Advertiser, 6 January 1815

Increases in shore dues at the harbour.

Dundee Advertiser, 3 February 1815

Meeting of Guildry and Nine Incorporated Trades to discuss the proposed Harbour Bill.

Meeting attended by, e.g. Thomas Neish; James Cabel, Shipmaster; Walter Newal, Shipowner; John Gibson, Shipmaster; James Lawson, Shipowner.

Dundee Advertiser, 20 February 1815

Notice to Shipowners:

The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Commercial Association for the Insurance of Vessels belonging to Dundee and River Tay, and employed in the coasting and foreign trades, will be held in the Guildhall, Dundee on Friday the 7th day of April next at the due o'clock noon.

James Watt, Secretary

Dundee Advertiser, 12 May 1815

Annual General Meeting of Tay Whale Fishing Company

Dundee Advertiser, 2 June 1815

Loss of pinnace operating as a ferry on River Tay.

Dundee Advertiser, 10 June 1815

Improvements of Dundee Ferries.

Dundee Advertiser, 21 July 1815

Arrival of whalers.

Dundee Harbour Bill is now an Act of Parliament.

Dundee Advertiser, 28 July 1815

The Commissioners acting under the Dundee Harbour Act, are to LICENSE a sufficient number of PILOTS for conducting vessels out of and in to the River Tay.

Persons intending to apply for licenses, may address their applications in writing to James Saunders, Clerk to the Commissioners.

Dundee Advertiser, 20 October 1815

Sale of whale fins (about 30 tons).

Dundee Advertiser 29 December 1815

Notice to Mariners re Lights on Isle of May and Inchkeith.

WANTED For the Tay Whale Fishing Company.
Eight STOUT Lads, as APPRENTICES to the SEA
For particulars apply to David Brown, Manager, Dundee

30 August 1816
Return of all whalers to Dundee.

6 September 1816
Dissolution of the Tay Shipping Company of Dundee
Sale of vessels:
Smacks: BROUGHTY CASTLE, MARQUIS OF HUNTLY, DEFIANCE,
FIFE PACKET, PERTHSHIRE and STRATHMORE
Lighters: ANNFIELD, MAY, FORTHER

3 January 1817 Dundee Advertiser
Sale of vessels MARY ANN and HORN

Dundee Advertiser 31 January 1817
Notice to Mariners – Newhaven Harbour

7 February 1817
Notice to Mariners re wreck of brigantine PEACE. By James Saunders, Clerk to the
Parliamentary Commissioners for the Improvement of the Harbour of Dundee.

DA 23 January 1818
Captain Buchan of the PIKE sloop of war, recently returned from Newfoundland, is appointed
to the expedition to the north pole. Captain Ross is the other officer who proceeds thither.

DA 12 June 1818
Letter re introduction of Steam Ferries on the Tay ...
“In place of handy, active sailors, the lieges would, in the latter case, be floated across the
river by a few scorched engineers and mechanics.”
An old seaman, on seeing arrival of a steam ferry from Perth “If those vessels come into
general use, there is an end to the glory of Britain; for, in place of good seamen we shall have
nothing but engineers, and smiths, and turners, and iron founders, to defend our country.

DA 26 June 1818
We have heard no local news worth the repeating; and do not feel disposed to make any.

Death of Captain James Stevenson (first) of the Royal Navy. In the memorable campaign in
Egypt he commanded the flotilla of gun boats on the Nile, on the resignation of Sir Sydney
Smith.

DA 31 July 1818
At Dundee, in the hundredth year of his age, John Fraser, a native of Strathspey – one of the
few remaining adherents of Prince Charles Stuart, having fought during the whole of the
rebellion in 1745 and 1746. Buried at Logie.

DA 4 September 1818
Robert Stevenson’s report on the Improvement of the Ferry:
Description of vessel: Double hull with one wheel that works in between.
Building done in Liverpool for the proprietor Mr French who also superintended the building.

12 October 1841
Shipwrecked Fishermans and Seamens Benevolent Society

Records: Death of Captain Fleming, ENERGY
 Launch of Brigantine JESSAMINE
 Loss of MARGARET AND MARY of Boness
 Stranding of MARY AND ANN.

7 October 1841

MORAVIAN MISSIONS

South Tay Street, Dundee

Item refers to 1791 and a scotch gentleman name of Hamilton, a large proprietor and slave owner of Tobago (then a dominion of France) who ran Moravian Missions to Greenland and Labrador, West Indies, South Africa.

The ship that made the voyages to Greenland had been built in 1771, and therefore had been in service for some 70 years.

2 November 1841

Lord Duncan and Alnwick

Observatory on top of Custom House from which it was possible to see from Red Head or Reid Head (between Arbroath and Auchmithie) and St Abbs Head.

30 November 1841

Reference to ‘...just as the four o’clock bell was ringing for putting out the fires at the Harbour’.

7 December 1841

Report on Pilotage in November 1841 when 292 vessels entered Ricer Tay and 106 departed River Tay, a total of 398.

14 December 1841

Examinations of Masters and Mates – Applications made by Seamens Fraternity and Harbour Trustees.

21 December 1841

Dispute between Town Council and Harbour Trustees re title of Harbour.

Decision by Court of Session re Town having to deliver up a deed of Harbour Conveyancing to Harbour Trustees.

1892 ‘Old Dundee’ Exhibition

Reference 519, portrait of Barque LEIPZIG, entering Marseilles, 1848,(Thomas Cappon Master). Signs. Pelligure.

Thomas Cappon was Boxmaster and member of the Fraternity

The barque LEIPZIG carried the piles of which the Pile Light is constructed

BB DUNDEE HISTORY

1. Copy of ‘Solemn League and Covenant, 1643
 List of Dundee Signatories and transcription of Signatures
 Contains a list of 223 more prominent names

Reputed to be thrown from the blazing Steeple Churches (January 1841), picked up by a bystander and taken to Australia. The only extant record of what must have remained of Dundee’s medieval library.

2. DA 29 August 1818
 ...”From the time that the pigeon house was erected on the top of the Old Steeple.
- Dundee Advertiser, 10 June 1815
1. Magdalen Yard and Mrs watt’s claim for driving costs and damages ...
 Committee now applying to Fraternity of Masters and Seamen, et al for
 subscriptions.
 2. Item re wills of Seamen and Mariners in Foreign Prisons.
 3. Dundee Advertiser, 30 June 1815
 Vessel for sale – built by John Calman, Shipbuilder, Dundee.
 4. Dundee Advertiser, 25 August 1815
 Notice to Pilots resolving to License The Fraternity of Masters and Seamen in
 Dundee.
 5. Dundee Advertiser, 13 October 1815
 Re Monday last... a grand procession to the harbour for laying of foundation stone
 of the extensive new works.
 The procession.: Band of the Seventy Ninth regiment of Foot, The Fraternity of
 Masters and Seamen, preceded by four boys in a naval dress, supporting a large and
 beautiful model of a ship.
 Three Town Sergeants.
 The Provost.
 And so on.
 6. Dundee Advertiser, 13 September 1816
 Just published: A Short System of Practical Navigation by William Innes, Teacher of
 Navigation.
 7. Dundee Advertiser 28 February 1817
 Page 2 Re Dundee Lunatic Asylum
 The most permanent bodies in Dundee are:
 Town Council
 The Guildry
 The Nine Trades
 The Three United Trades
 The Maltmen
 The Fraternity of Seamen
- Page 6 Dundee Lunatic Asylum
 The Seamen Fraternity
 This Incorporation is also entitled to be represented by one Director
1. Dundee Advertiser
 Friday 6 January 1815
 A Notice: A SOW found – On Tuesday the 3d current, a SOW strayed into the
 grounds of Taybank [a large house just west of Ellengowan Drive].
 Any person proving his property and paying the necessary expenses, may receive
 the sow, on applying to the gardner of Taybank
 2. Dundee Advertiser
 24 February 1815
 Report on a sea battle and mention of Admiral Cochrane.

3. Dundee Advertiser, 7 April 1815
Item re Napoleon and Elba.
4. For sale:
MANGLE FOR SALE An excellent second-hand mangle, kept in constant use, is to be disposed of immediately.
Apply to James Saunders, Writer in Dundee.
5. Dundee Advertiser, 7 July 1815
Monifieth Races held at the Buddon Course.
6. Dundee Advertiser, 10 November 1815
Conflagration at Kasan, Capital of the Russian Kingdom of that name on 7th September and consumed one thousand houses, three cathedrals and twenty one parish churches.
7. Dundee Advertiser 13 September 1816
8. Dundee Advertiser 13 September 1816
To be exhibited at a zoo in Dundee ... animals and birds, lion, elephant, tiger, and so on.
9. Dundee Advertiser 10 January 1817
The wife of a tailor, in a village in the County of Derry, Ireland, produced (at three births) nine children.
10. DA 21 March 1817
During the night of Monday Sennight, sixty spindles were stolen from a shed at Wormyhills Mill, near Arbroath. There was a dog watching the premises; but, it seems, the thieves had found means to lull his vigilance.

At Gilgrenston, Aberdeenshire on the 5th March aged one hundred and one, John McBain. He was present at the Battle of Culloden; and was attached to the corps brought into the field by Lady Mackintosh which made such a furious interruption into the left wing of the Royal Army that they completely annihilated the first line. In this attack, he received a wound, being struck with a musket ball on the left check (sic), when running onto the second line, after the first had been overthrown; but he said it did not disable him.
11. DA 9 January 1818
At Oxney, in Saddleworth on the 8th December, aged 91, William Heggenbotham ... father to ten, father-in-law to ten, grandfather to one hundred and thirty one, great grandfather to one hundred and fifty three and great great grandfather to one ... he saw three generations.

EE City of Dundee Archives – Dundee Harbour Papers (Reference GD/DH)

The earliest mention of local lights in Scotland is probably the case of the Taylights. An Act of the Privy Council of 24th February 1687 gave power to the Fraternity of Masters and Seamen in Dundee to erect lights and beacons in the Firth of Tay and levy dues. About that date the lights at Buddonness were erected.