

February 2006



Inventory

Acc.12591

**Papers of Archibald Shiells (1677-1752)
Merchant in Edinburgh, and his family
1720 to 1841**

**Papers of and relating to the family of
Wilsone of Murrayshall
1701-1925**

**Miscellaneous Scottish charters and other documents
1529 to 1807**

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Papers of Archibald Shiells, merchant in Edinburgh (1677-1752), and his family, 1720 to 1841; papers of and relating to the family of Wilsone of Murrayshall, Stirlingshire, 1701 to 1925; miscellaneous Scottish charters and other legal and administrative documents, 16th to 19th century, mainly from Fife.

This is an artificial collection, created by the previous owner.

Extent: 41 cms.

Purchased 2006.

1-16: Archibald Shiells and family
17-20: Miscellaneous documents, 1599-1807
21-22: Wilsone of Murrayshall
23: Charters, etc., 1529-1686 and nd.

1-16: Archibald Shiells and family

Archibald Shiells (1677-1752) and his son, also named Archibald (1723-1787), were property owners in Edinburgh in the eighteenth century. They built, maintained and let out numerous shops and tenement properties in Swan Close, Anchor Close, Monteith Close, Fountain Close and elsewhere. The family house of the Shiells was Manor House in Inveresk, near Musselburgh.

The younger Archibald Shiells's daughter, Elizabeth, married Archibald Wilson. They had three children, Andrew, Charles and Grizel: Andrew was the landscape painter Andrew Wilson (1780-1848). His apprenticeship to Alexander Nasmyth was paid for by his great-aunt Isobel Shiells.

- /1 1751. Account of Archibald Shiells to John Heriot, shoemaker. 1p.
1766. Archibald Wilson's admission as a Burgess, Edinburgh. Vellum. 1p.
1786-93. Bills/financial papers. 4 items.
1787-94. Account current and interest account of Miss Isobel Shiells with James Marshall WS, showing that in 1791 and 1794 she paid Alexander Nasmith, painter, apprentice fees of £36 for her grand nephew Andrew Wilson. 2 items.
1795. Registered deed of alteration and nomination of executors, Miss Shiells to Mr and Mrs Wilson. 4pp.
1796. Account current between Isobella Shiells, Mr Arch. Wilson and James Marshall WS. 3pp.
1799. Commission in favour of Charles Wilson. With red wax seal within a tin box.
1799. State of Balance in Mr Marshall's hands of sum contained in Mr Stoddart's heretable Bond to Miss Shiells. 2pp.

1805. Memorial for Charles Wilson, solicitor, on behalf of himself and the other Heirs [brother Andrew Wilson and sister Grizel] of the late Miss Shiells. 4pp.

1806. Rental of property belonging to the heirs of the late Miss Shiells from Whitsunday 1800 to Whitsunday 1806. 14pp.

1808. Heretable [sic] bond Andrew Wilson, landscape painter, to his brother Charles Wilson, solicitor, after the death of Isobel Shiells. 7pp.

1810. Disposition Charles and Grizel Wilson to James Gifford. 6pp.

1811. Disposition by Charles Wilson etc. to Charles Ritchie. 7pp.

1840-1841. Continued Abstract of the Management of the late Mr Ker of Kersland's Affairs. John Ker of Kersland was the father of Mrs Andrew Wilson.

n.d. [c.1780?] Note of Property belonging to Archibald Shiells insured in the Friendly Insurance Company. 2pp.

/2 1726-1762. Mason's accounts referring to the construction of the pavilions at the Manor House, Inveresk, 4pp. Letter to Shiells from Thomas Tod, discussing his trip to Leith to purchase timber for the pavilions (1727). Together with a mason's survey of the wall between the pavilions at Manor House, Inveresk (1742, 1 page) and other accounts and receipts for building work and expenses relating to Manor House. 8 items.

/3 1726-1774, n.d. Accounts and receipts for masonry and carpentry, repairs and decorations, other building work and supplies, and rent and taxes relating to Archibald Shiells's shops and tenements in Edinburgh. Many are very detailed. c. 45 items.

/4 1736-1751. Archibald Shiells the elder. Accounts, bills of exchange and other papers for trade in oranges, lemons, sugar, chestnuts, figs, sherry, Portugal wine. Including a printer's bill for advertising the sale of figs and raisins at Leith, and transport on Leith ships to Rotterdam, Lisbon and Seville. c. 60 items.

/5 1730-1792. Archibald Shiells, father and son. Personal and household accounts. Bills, receipts and accounts submitted by physicians, goldsmith, peerglass maker, tailors, coachmaker, peruke maker, wine merchants, funeral arrangements for Mrs Archibald Shiells senior, harvest agent, shoemakers, candlemaker, window tax, gunsmith, milliners, butchers, excise office and others. c. 70 items, including, 1749-58, ten receipts for stipend payments signed by Alexander Carlyle (1722-1805), otherwise 'Jupiter', Minister at Inveresk, a friend of Smollett, David Hume and Adam Smith.

/6 Papers concerning the dealings of Archibald Shiells and family in property. Bonds, inhibitions, discharges, petitions, rentals, conveyances, summonses, sasines, answers, inventories, insurance certificates, bonds and letters, etc: 1720-1729. c.30 items, including 1 printed item: 'The Complaint and Petition of John Frazer ... Jean Hume, Spouse to Robert Marshal'. February 17, 1726, 1 page.

- /7 Papers concerning the dealings of Archibald Shiells and family in property. Bonds, inhibitions, discharges, petitions, rentals, conveyances, summonses, sasines, answers, inventories, insurance certificates, bonds and letters, etc.: 1731-1740. c.32 items.
- /8 Papers concerning the dealings of Archibald Shiells and family in property. Bonds, inhibitions, discharges, petitions, rentals, conveyances, summonses, sasines, answers, inventories, insurance certificates, bonds and letters, etc.: 1740-1749. c.20 items.
- /9 Papers concerning the dealings of Archibald Shiells and family in property. Bonds, inhibitions, discharges, petitions, rentals, conveyances, summonses, sasines, answers, inventories, insurance certificates, bonds and letters, etc.: 1750-1779. c.32 items.
- /10 Papers concerning the dealings of Archibald Shiells and family in property. Bonds, inhibitions, discharges, petitions, rentals, conveyances, summonses, sasines, answers, inventories, insurance certificates, bonds and letters, etc.: 1782-1789. c.25 items, including 3 printed items: 'Petition of William Wilson' June 30 1786; 'Petition of Janet Marshal' July 19 1786; 'Petition of George Cairncross' June 16 1785.
- /11 Papers concerning the dealings of Archibald Shiells and family in property. Bonds, inhibitions, discharges, petitions, rentals, conveyances, summonses, sasines, answers, inventories, insurance certificates, bonds and letters, etc.: 1790-1841. c.40 items, including 1 printed item: 'Petition of David Wardlaw ... on the sequestrated Estate of the deceased Alexander Orr'. May 18, 1792, 7pp.
- /12 Papers concerning the financial dealings of Archibald Shiells and family, mainly concerning property at Inveresk: 1733-1739. c.50 items
- /13 Papers concerning the financial dealings of Archibald Shiells and family, mainly concerning property at Inveresk: 1740-1748. c.50 items
- /14 Papers concerning the financial dealings of Archibald Shiells and family, mainly concerning property at Inveresk: 1750-1759. c.65 items
- /15 Papers concerning the financial dealings of Archibald Shiells and family, mainly concerning property at Inveresk: 1760-1773, n.d. c.30 items
- /16 Late 20th century research material on the Manor House, Inveresk.

17-20: Miscellaneous documents, 1599-1807

- /17 Bundle of miscellaneous Scottish documents, 1599-1643.
- /18 Bundle of miscellaneous Scottish documents, 1663-1697.
- /19 Bundle of miscellaneous Scottish documents, 1700-1719.
- /20 Six miscellaneous Scottish documents, 1630, 1736, 1757, 1766, 1770, 1807. The 1630 document related to Carberry Tower, and has the seal of James Rig of Carberry attached. The 1736 document is a Petition of the Society of Iron Men in the City of Edinburgh. The 1757 document is a bond of Robert Hunter and his Cautioner to the Society of Iron Men in Edinburgh. The 1770 document, in Dutch, relates to the appointment of John Ramsay as a colour-bearer in the Company of Charles Halkett, signed by William Prince of Orange, and is accompanied by a modern translation.

21-22: Wilsone of Murrayshall

The Wilsones of Murrayshall, Stirlingshire, were a Jacobite family. George Wilsone of Sands (d.1728) was married four times, lastly to Marion Henderson. He and Marion had three surviving daughters and a son William (1698-1772), a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, who married Lillias Haldane in 1729.

As a Jacobite William Wilsone refused to take the oaths of allegiance to the House of Hanover and could not continue at law in Edinburgh (his wife's father, John Haldane of Lanrick, also suffered from taking part in the '45). In 1749 he emigrated in poverty to Murrayshall, which belonged to his wife's uncle, John Murray. William and Lillias had 13 children including 'the Jacobite Ladies of Murrayshall': Marion (1735-1820), Lillias (1736-1829) and Janet (1748-1823). An article in *Cornhill Magazine*, May 1869, entitled 'The Jacobite Ladies of Murrayshall' describes the ladies' literary talents and life with the Wilsones at Murrayshall.

- /21 1701. Letter from George Wilsone, Culross, to his cousin Alexander Mitchell, Skipper in Bo'ness. 2pp.
1728. Receipt, Jannet Wilsone.
1728. Memorial for William Wilsone, Writer in Edinburgh, son of the deceased George Wilsone of Sands.
c1728. Letter to William Wilsone from his sister Janet, Culross.
1729. Letter from William Wilsone to George Gray at Culross, on estate business.
1744. Will of Marion Wilsone at the age of 9.
1749. Letter from Lillias Wilsone, née Haldane, to her husband William, with family news and instructions.
1751. Letter from William Wilsone to a Minister of Religion.
1760. Letter to Mrs Bontine of Auchindennane (sister of Lillias Haldane) from her son John Bontine. 'The man who called himself

Duke of Perth is dead at Parise and the Laird of Lundy has taken on the title of Earl of Perth & gets 4000£ of the defuncts money’.

1760. Letter to Mrs Bontine from her son John Bontine, ‘The last letter ever Johnie Bontine wrot’.

1763. Letter to Miss Forrester from J.W.

1767. Scroll Disposition Lillias Haldane to John Wilsone.

1774: Letter to Lillie Stewart, Ballachulish, from her aunt, Marian Wilsone.

1780. Letter from Margaret Bontine, Glasgow, to her sister Lillias Wilsone, née Haldane.

1785. Copy Will of Lillias Wilsone née Haldane.

1789: Letter from John, William, and James Wilsone to their brother Charles, surgeon in Glasgow, with Charles’s reply written on it.

1789: Letter from James and William Wilsone to their brother Charles.

1789: Letter from William Wilsone to his brother Charles.

1797. Letter from Charles Wilsone, surgeon, to his son William.

1797-8. 3 letters from Capt. Bolle and General the Count de Meuron to the Wilsone family, thanking for kindnesses and arranging invitations. In French and English.

1807: 2 letters to Lillie Stewart from her aunt, Marian Wilsone.

1825: Letter from Lillie Wilsone to her nephew George in Glasgow.

1828: Letter from Lillie Wilsone to her nephew George in Glasgow.

n.d. Eulogy written by Janet Wilsone (b.1748): ‘Do I again behold thee O Lanrik’, 2pp.

/22 1808-1842: Account book of the Misses Wilson with Chisholm, Davie & Chisholm.

Family trees, pedigrees, letters, printed pamphlets, book plates and other papers relating to history of the Wilsone and Haldane families. 18th to early 20th centuries.

J.W. Campbell, *The Story of Murrayshall*. (Stirling: A. Learmonth & Son, 1925.) Annotated.

23: Charters, etc., 1529-1686 and nd.

/23 65 charters, sasines, inventories, and other documents, mainly from Fife, 1529-1686, and n.d. Each is numbered in pencil: 2-19, 20 a and b, 21-28, 29 a and b, 30-51, 52 a, b, and c, 53-62.

Item 15 is signed [Sir] John Skene (1543-1617), Clerk Register, Lord of Session and King’s Advocate. Item 20b has a damaged seal of James VI. Item 41 relates to the burgh of Kinghorn, 1647. Item 56 is a letter addressed to ‘Albert Gleadstanes, merchant in Edr at his house in Gleadstanes Land on the north side of ye High Street a litle below the weigh house’, 1674. Several relate to the property of Marisland, near Inverkeithing. There is a modern transcription of no.2 and a transcription of a 1529 charter which is probably the missing no.1.