



New College Library Archives and Manuscripts



Interim Handlist

Collection reference	MS CHA 1
Collection title	Papers of Rev Dr Thomas Chalmers (1780-1846)
Series	Chalmers Family documents
Shelfmark(s)	MS CHA 1 1-29
About this handlist	Scan of an older typescript list See also: MS CHA 2 Thomas Chalmers' family letters MS CHA 3 Thomas Chalmers' letters MS CHA 4 Correspondence MS CHA 5 Special Collections eg Church Extension papers MS CHA 6 Manuscript writings and papers MS CHA 7 Photocopies of letters in the possession of Mrs Barbara Campbell MS CHA Appendix Boxes 1 to 11

NEW COLLEGE LIBRARY, EDINBURGH

THE CHALMERS COLLECTION

Introduction

This large collection of papers relating to Thomas Chalmers, the first Principal and Professor of Divinity at New College, was donated to the library in two stages. In 1939 William Gemmill Chalmers Hanna, grandson of William and Anne Hanna, handed over 34 bound volumes of letters addressed to Thomas Chalmers, a quantity of his own letters, and his journals and working papers. In 1963 Hanna's niece Marjorie Penney added a large quantity of family papers, including letters and documents concerning Chalmers' ancestors, parents, brothers and sisters at Anstruther, and correspondence between his wife and six daughters and their families. In time the collection ranges from 1762 to the 1980s, and the work which has been done on it between 1971 and 1993 has produced well over 20,000 catalogue entries.

The papers have been divided up and arranged as follows:

CHA 1 Chalmers Family Documents, Anstruther

Letters between John and Elizabeth Chalmers, parents of Thomas, and their eight children; papers concerning the family mercantile business, trusts and inheritances.

CHA 2 Thomas Chalmers' Family Letters

Letters between Grace Pratt, wife of Thomas Chalmers, and her six daughters, their letters to their husbands and children and each other.

CHA 3 Thomas Chalmers' Letters

The original donation of about 700 is being augmented by whatever comes on the market. The section Additional letters includes Shorthand drafts and/or copies of letters.

CHA 4 Correspondence

The 34 volumes of letters which Chalmers received have been disbound and the letters arranged in one alphabetical run. Entries followed by an 'E' are the ones from correspondents he himself considered 'Eminent' and had bound separately. The first volume in this series was given to St. Andrews University Library, but a summary of its contents is available at New College.

CHA 5 Special Collections, e.g. Church Extension Papers

Chalmers' own groupings have been kept together.

CHA 6 MS Writings and Papers

Journals, notebooks, essays and articles, pamphlets, lectures, class books, sermons, speeches, accounts, notes, personal papers, including material associated with Chalmers.

CHA 7 One box of photocopies of letters in the possession of Mrs Barbara Campbell.

CHA Appendix Boxes 1-11

Miscellaneous material, including many Chalmers manuscripts in shorthand (a version of John West's system published in St. Andrews in 1784), with a guide to its decipherment, photocopied letters and documents, offprints of articles on Chalmers, material relating to the 1980 bicentenary events, family trees, portraits, etc. etc. etc.

Abbreviations

HANNA - William Hanna, Memoirs of the life and writings of Thomas Chalmers. 1849-52.

A selection from the correspondence of the late Thomas Chalmers. 1853.

H. W. - Hugh Watt, The published writings of Dr Chalmers. 1943.

CHALMERS FAMILY DOCUMENTS Anstruther

MSS. CHA 1.1-28. 1762-1829

- 5 letters of Alexander Chalmers, East India Company, to John Chalmers, and 1 letter from James Patullo. 1762-68.
- 7 sheets of William Chalmers' (1744-1807) miscellaneous writing. 1762.
- Draft letter of John Chalmers to George Hall. c.1771.
- 12 letters from John Chalmers to Elizabeth Chalmers, 1773-1809.
8 letters from Elizabeth to John Chalmers. 1774-82.
List of births and baptisms of their children.
- 12 letters to Elizabeth Chalmers from Mrs Murray and E Anderson. 1779-1802.
- Letters of James, Lucy, George and William Chalmers to each other. 1792-96.
- 31 letters of John and Elizabeth Chalmers to 6 of their sons. 1793-1819.
- 11 letters to John and Elizabeth Chalmers from 6 of their children. 1793-1825.
- 41 letters of James to John Chalmers. 1795-1802.
- 34 letters of James to John and Elizabeth Chalmers. 1803-27.
- 25 letters of George to John and Elizabeth Chalmers. 1795-1802.
1 letter from Patrick to Elizabeth and Isabel Chalmers. 1817.
- 35 letters of David Chalmers to John and Elizabeth Chalmers. 1798-1810.
- 34 letters from John to James Chalmers. 1803-07.
1 letter from Elizabeth to John Chalmers. 1807.
- 14 letters to James from Lucy, George, David, Helen and Jane Chalmers. 1806-10.
- 36 letters of John and Elizabeth to James Chalmers. 1808-14.
- 4 business letters of James Chalmers to Sir John Anstruther and others. 1809-26.
- 6 letters of Elizabeth to Grace Chalmers. 1812-24.
- Letter book of Elizabeth Chalmers, 1815-24, contains copies of 3 letters from Thomas Chalmers.
- 31 letters from Elizabeth to Patrick and Harriet Chalmers. 1818-27.
2 letters from Patrick to Jean Chalmers.
1 letter from Lucy to William Chalmers.
- 59? sermons of John Chalmers of Radernie. 1740-42.
- John Chalmers' account of the affairs of Anstruther Easter during his period as baillie and provost 1788. Includes extract from the town charters and report on the parliamentary election of 1790.
- *The Potato Cellar Process*. Letters, summonses, evidence, etc. in a court case between John and Elizabeth Chalmers and their former servants Margaret Young and Jean Myles. 1779-80.

Accounts and papers of John Chalmers, treasurer of Cellardyke Fund for widows and children of fishermen drowned in shipwreck. 1800-06.

Correspondence on legal and financial matters concerning John and Elizabeth Chalmers, their forebears and descendants. 1723-1819. 1820-29.

2 letters of Thomas Chalmers to James Nairne, with letter to Walter Wood. 1828.

Thomas Ballardie's Trust (Trustees John and Thomas Chalmers). Dispositions, discharges, bills, receipts and correspondence. Notebook of John Chalmers. 1809-10.

Feu Book, receipts for feu duty on house and workshop in Anstruther paid by John and Elizabeth Chalmers. 1787-1826.

16 letters to John Chalmers from Andrew Young, Captain of the Friendship. 1785-86.

Accounts, receipts etc for a voyage of the Friendship. 1785-86.

John Chalmers' business letter book. 1802-10.

[George Hall] journal and account book. 1810-14.

Chalmers and Hall Merchants, business papers. 1773-1825.

John and Elizabeth Chalmers, miscellaneous letters and papers. 1800-25.

- [Heritable] bond. 1710.
 Sasine of land in Anstruther. 1718.
 Charter of resignation of tenement in Anstruther. 1719.
 Sasine of tenement and yard in Anstruther. 1719.
 Sasine of money and land in Anstruther. 1720.
 Contract of marriage. 1736.
 Certificate and declaration [of piece of land in Anstruther] 1738.
 Charter of feu-form of land in Anstruther. 1742.
 Sasine of land in Anstruther. 1742.
 Charter of feu-form of house in Anstruther. 1744.
 Sasine of house in Anstruther. 1744.
 Instrument of Sasine of tenement and yard in Anstruther. 1764.
 Precept of Clare Constat of half tenement in Anstruther. 1764.
 Charter of resignation of tenements and yards in Anstruther. 1765.
 Instrument of Sasine of tenements and yards in Anstruther. 1765.
 Disposition of James Chalmers. 1772.
 Disposition and settlement by James Anderson. 1773.
 Discharge by Alexander Atcheson's children. [1773-1800].
 Contract of marriage between Thomas Ballairdie and Elizabeth Chalmers. 1779.
 Contract between John Chalmers, Betty Hall and George Hall. 1780.
 Discharge by John Tuach to John Chalmers. 1780.
 Marriage settlement between John Chalmers And Betty Hall. 1780.
 Submission and decreet arbitral between Elizabeth and David Henderson
 and John Chalmers. 1780.
 Discharge. Elizabeth Chalmers and her husband Thomas Ballardie to John
 Chalmers. 1788.
 Discharge. Jean Chalmers to John Chalmers. 1788.
 Indenture between George Dishington and George Chalmers of Anstruther. 1791.
 Discharge by John and Elizabeth Chalmers to George Hall, 1792.
 Copy of disposition of [John Reid?]. 1800.
 Discharge by Janet Brown or Paton to John Chalmers. 1804.
 Last will and testament of John Chalmers. 1806.
 Summons to John Chalmers to appear before Lords of Council and Session in
 connection with the estate of John Bethune of Blebo. 1810.
 Oath of verity by John Chalmers on a debt due by William Bethune. 1812.
 Bond of annuity. Thomas Chalmers to his aunt Jane Chalmers. 1817.
 Tax assessment for Thomas Simson, Kettlebridge, 1820.
 Elizabeth Chalmers, confirmed testament dative. 1827.
 John Chalmers, confirmed testament dative. 1827.
 Discharge by Helen McClellan and Jane Morton to Thomas Chalmers. 1827.
 Discharge by Helen McClellan and Jane Morton. 1827.
 Discharge by James Chalmers and the other surviving children of John
 Chalmers to Thomas Chalmers. 1827.
 Discharge of legacy by Joan Farmer and Johnston Rodger to Thomas Chalmers,
 executor of the will of Jean and Jane Chalmers. 1827.
 Discharges to Thomas Chalmers on legacies from the estate of Jean (or Jane)
 Chalmers, signed by Helen Mc Clellan, Miss Bruce Adamson, Jean Farmer,
 Jane Farmer, Jane Morton. 1827.
 Inventory of household furniture and effects of Elizabeth Chalmers. [1827].
 Form for legacy duties on residue of estate of Jean Chalmers, signed by
 Thomas Chalmers. 1828.
 Discharge by Bruce Adamson to the executor of Jane Chalmers. 1828.
 Discharge by Elizabeth Brown to the executor of Jane Chalmers. 1828.
 Discharge by Jane and John Morton to the executors of Jane Chalmers. 1828.
 Discharge by Jane and Samuel Innes to the executors of Jean Chalmers. 1828.

Discharge by John and Helen Mc Clellan to the executors of Jane Chalmers. 1828.
Discharge by the legatees to the executors of Jane Chalmers. 1828.
Statement of the intromissions of Thomas Chalmers. 1828.
Discharge by Margaret Peattie to the trustees of John Reid and Anne Reid. 1831.
View of the estate of James Pratt. 1847.