

## Dumbarton Castle

Compt of James Murray, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1617 to 14<sup>th</sup> March 1618.  
April 7 1617

....For sex Inglische scheullis and spaidis 36s  
...For 9 chalders lyme at £3 chalder and for leading thairof £30  
To James Ferrier for fraucht of his boitt for ilk locht of 13 lochtis lyme with the drink  
£9  
To aucht wemen for bearing up of thrie locht of lyme and sand laid within the  
castell in poikis (sacks?) with their drink at 20s ilk locht...

For a tow to the sklaitters to bind their ledderis with...

### **To the servantis in Inschinnen that riddilt the lyme and led it to the boitt to drink...**

(Inshinnan limestone:

Quarries were opened to provide lime for mortar for the building of the six-storey Crosslee Cotton mill in the 1790s but the main use of lime from the mid eighteenth century was as an agricultural fertiliser. Old lime workings in the Gryfe and Locher area dating from the late 1600s had their heyday during this later period, when farming improvements were being introduced across the country. Adding lime to the local clay soil could multiply crop yield several times over.

Lime was therefore a very valuable asset to any estate owners who were lucky enough to have it under their lands. It was used as currency, and to pay rents, often resulting in legal disputes. In 1760, Houstoun of Johnstone took one of his tenants to court to recover debts for lime given to fertilise one of this tenant's fields. In 1808 another local landowner, Cunningham of Craigends, stipulated that half of his coal was to be used for lime burning, and half sold to households. His then neighbour, Houston of Johnstone, declared that "none of my coal shall be sold, but used utterly for burning the limestone". Limestone was more valuable locally than the coal. (Is this the same H of Jo mentioned in 1760?)

<http://rlhf.info/limeworks-and-mining-on-the-gryfe/> )

April 14 1617

Item for a hors hyre to Thomas Faulisdaill to ryd to Stirling...tua dayes their in  
seiking maisonnes

**Item for sex chalder lyme laid in the boitt  
To the boittmen for careing thairof  
For four stane barrows  
For a burne stand (large water tub or barrel) and tua laidgallenis (ladle) to draik  
(slake) the lyme with...  
To James Ferrar for a boittful of sand  
For tua long ladders of 30 fute and 18 fute lenth baith of aik.  
Item to Duncane Merschell quarriour for sex dayes waidges at 1 merk daylie £4  
To William Stobo and his sone and boy for turring (tarring roofs)  
...To aucht wemen for bearing tua locht lyme and sevin locht sand...  
April 21 1617**

Item for 3 chalders lyme and leading thairof to a boitt fra Inchinnen  
(deals and roofing nails, quarries, masons at work)...

**For a riddell and a sive to the lime and sand...**

**To aucht wemen for bearing a locht lyme and sex loctis sand...**

(Next week, much the same, masons hired in Paislie and Glasgow; deals and barrowmen)

May 5

Item for 3 chalders lyme out of Inschinnen...

For a skoute to row to Paislay to bring Robert Welsche and his men their warklumes and bedding...

To John Calduell maisonne his fraucht and charges at the Braid Ferry  
(tarring and slating)

(Masons' and barrowmens' wages, bearing of lyme and sand as before)

May 12

Item for tuentie faddum of towes to bind the skaffoldis

For a skout boitt to row up Robert Welsche to the quarrel in Inschinnen to cut and dress stanes and for their meitt...

For a locht of lyme being 3 chalderis...

To the wemen to mend their poikis lik ane 2s

To 800 nailles to the sklaitters and wrychtis....

(wages)...

To aucht wemen for bearing a locht lyme, 4 locht sand and other sex locht (*has the lime been dry-slaked to make this lighter work?*)

May 19

Item for a tun of coalles to burne the craig on the grund of Wallace tour..

For tua quartes of vinager to slokin it with...

Item for thrie mortar tubes at 16s piece...

To 8 wemen for 12 loctis lyme and sand

To them to drink...

May 26

...To the maisonnes at the laying of the first cunyeie (quoin-stone) of the tour for their suppouris...

to Johne Maxwell quarriour for 50 lang cunyeis at 30d the piece...

To 8 wemen for 11 loctis sand...

June 2

Item for nyne chalder lyme with leading thairof...£30...

For hamebringing of 600 stanes...

**To 3 layers of dry stane with clay mortar, ilk man £3 (for 6 days)...(footings?)**

June 9

...9 chalder lyme...nails, sawyers, barrowmen  
To aucht wemen for bearing 8 locht sand and 3 locht lyme...

June 16 (similar stuff)

June 23

For tua iron windows to Wallace tour weyand 10 stane 6lb  
For careing them in a boitt fra Glasgow to Brumlaw and nailles with them.

(guns being hoisted and materials for stocks and mounts)

June 30

Item for 3 chalder lyme; sand and lyme bearing.

July 7

Item for charges at Paislay in aggreing with James Colquhoun to tak up the  
cannoun...

For ane aiken trie to be a row (roller) to tak up the cannoun...

For 3 faddum of great tow to be a strap to the blok for uptaking the great  
cannoun...

For four iron boultis, ringis and fairlockis to the engine all weyand 1 stane 9lbs...

For four great asche tries to be stokes and quheillis to the ordinance....

For 4 hand spaikis and 8 rowes to draw the cannoun on...

For 3 chalderis lyme...

To aucht wemen for bearing ane locht lyme and ten locht sand....

July 14

For drink, breid and cheis to the toun men that wrocht 3 dayes in hailing up the  
cannoun...

...To the drummer and pyper to bring the toun folkis out...

July 28

Item to thrie wrichtis for dountaking of the tua tymber hosis quhilk served his  
Majestie in Glasgow and laying up the tymber thair of to keip...

Item to the carters for 22 cartful of tymber and dailles tane down to the Brumlaw...

For fraucht of the said tymber to tua bottis fra Glasgow to Dunbartane...

August 11

To William Stobo and his sone and man for turring (stripping roof) the hall, pointing  
the hail houssis and putting the rigging stane theron...

Item for sex chalder lyme with the leading...

(quoinstones)

For 4200 sklaitt quhilk can fra Ireland at 20 merk...

For bringing them fra the schip in Clyde to the castell being a boitt and 2  
cokbottis...

To aucht wemen for bering 12 lochtis of lyme and sand this weik...

For gloves to the maisons at the geisting (joisting) of the tour...

To 8 wemen that bore sand and sklaitt for ten locht £10

**To them to work fast 6s**

August 25

Item to Bernard Dunlop, wrycht, for lofting and cupling the ruif of the tour...

September 1

....To sex wemen for bearing up 8 locht sklaitt.

Compt of warkmenis waiges, hors hyre and other provisions furnesched at Glasgo for reparing of Sir George Elphinstounes hous and the Laird of Mintois hous agane, his Majesties cuming thair.

(Timber-framing)

Item to George Sinclair, wricht, quha entered then and wrocht 16 dayes at 16s 8d ilk day

(6 more carpenters and two workmen, also 16 days)

Item for 1000 plenschour nailles

For 500 fluring nailles...

For transporting 40 single ruif spar and 12 double with a hundereth dailles fra Brounlaw to Glasgow

To a man that helped to cairt them

For 2 pair creukis and bandis...

For 100 fluring nailles

For 500 plenschour nailles

For careing 125 dailles fra Patrick Peblis barne to Sir George Elphinstounes hous

For careing 60 dailles...

For sawing four draucht of single ruif spar and a draucht of double...

For 200 plenscour nailles...

For 56 garroun nailles...

To George Sinclair, James Johnstoun and William Hunter for four hors hyre to cary them and their warllumes fra Edinburgh to Glasgow...

To them for thrie hors hyre to cary them hame agane...

To the maisons for making up the wall of the gardhous...

For 80 great heukes for the wall plaittes...

To the maisons for bigging of ranges...

To James Hamiltoun advocate for 100 dailles...

More to him for 30 single ruif spar

For 12 double ruif spar...

To the wrichts that pat up the boyling houssis....