



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone

Guides to the Archives of the National Trust for Scotland [NTS]

The Special Archive Collections at NTS Head Office

were in church. Capt. W. had
dinner with Dennis & Soke's
Great Excitation today Jim all
& Sunday.
Wed. March 22nd Gledis's day!
am still in bed. Think of getting
up later on in day. Just like
Summer and So waru. Two
Boats left about 10 or a little
after 9th Borreray to see about
sheep etc. Kate told me when
she came to tidy my room that
two men Donald Macdonald, John
Gillis, Neil McKinnon, John
McQuinn his brother John went
to the Dinn in William's boat.
Kate had gone out of the room & my
window was left wide open as the
day was so lovely. All at once I
heard the most terrible cry for
the Dinn & I called to Kate who ran out
& in turn gave the alarm up that some
thing had happened at the Dinn.
Dennis came from school in time
to help old Angus Finlay, but
Finlay had been in a very short time
they got over to the scene of whatever had
happened. The suspicion at home was
awful; the women were all down
& the anguished weeping and
wailing I cannot describe. When
the boat came, & our worst fears
were realized; worse than we ever
imagined Donald Macdonald,
John McQuinn & John McQuinn were
all drowned. Neil McKinnon & John
Gillis were rescued in a very
exhausted condition. Donald Macdonald's
body was found floating in
the water, but poor John McQuinn & John
had gone down gripping each other

An entry for Alice MacLachlan's St Kilda Diary, 22 March 1907

There are a number of Special Collections held at the Trust's Head Office at Hermiston Quay, Edinburgh, many of which have been deposited, discovered or donated over the years. These Special Collections consist mainly of single items, manuscripts, drawings etc, although there are some discrete series of archives which have been donated.



Sketch of Hebridean Blackhouse commonly found on St Kilda pre the 1860 storm which wiped out most of these island homes

One of the main collections relates to St Kilda and contains a variety of letters, diaries, photos, journals, books and other documents. The majority of these were passed over to the Trust by the 5th Marquis of Bute shortly after the islands were acquired by the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. Indexes and other Finding Aids to the St Kilda collections are available through the NTS Archivist.



1905 Bill for the purchase of Henri Fantin-Latour painting at Hill of Tarvit

The Trust also holds collections of archives which have been deposited by members of the public. Most of these deposits relate to Trust properties and/or the families associated with them. All offers of archives to the Trust are considered, but the Trust's Collections Policy determines our response. For information on the Trust's Collections Policy see the attached link – <http://www.nts.org.uk/Policy/Trust>



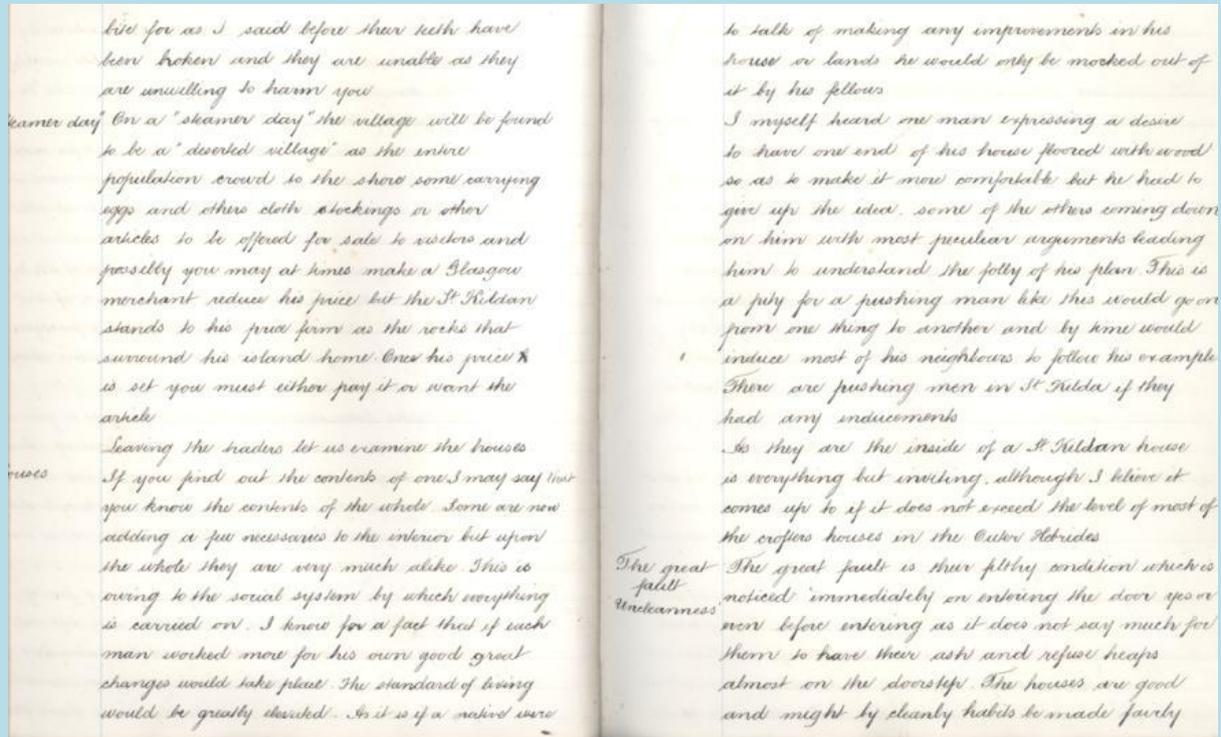
A Letter from Thomas Carlyle to his wife Jane, dated July 1864

Other highlights of the Special Collections held at the NTS Headquarters Quay include:

- four volumes of letters from the Marquis of Ailsa around the time that the NTS acquired Culzean Castle
- a collection of archives relating to the McDiarmid family from Auchenvin House at Rockcliffe
- a collection of 19th century documents relating to Pitmedden
- photo albums containing photos relating to Percy Unna
- two 16th century Charters relating to Barry Mill [below].



For details on how to request access to the Special Collections held at the Trust's Headquarters, please see our separate guide **Access Procedures, Contact Details, Archive User Guidelines and Useful Websites.**



Extract from the Journal written by John Ross during his stay on St Kilda, 1887