

## Blockade running during the American Civil War: Sources

### How to use this list of sources

#### Introduction

The economic impact of the American Civil War (1861-1865) on Scotland and Clydeside in particular was far reaching. The Confederate need for manufactured goods and ships to run the blockade provided a great stimulus to shipbuilding and heavy industry in general. Clydeside firms such as **Scott & Co.**, **J. & G. Thomson**, **Kirkpatrick and MacIntyre**, **William Denny & Bros.**, **W. Simons & Co.** and **Thomas Wingate & Co.**, produced a great many of the ships that ran the blockade, and four ships which served in the Confederate Navy. Shipbuilders were not the only group to benefit from the civil conflict. Ship owners and blockade running houses also made massive profits by running the blockade, shipping in vital and luxury goods on the inward voyage and bringing out cotton on the return trip which could be sold at vastly inflated prices in European markets. This guide is designed to illustrate the records, which University of Glasgow Archive Services hold relating to blockade runners and blockade running companies. It also suggests other records, which may contain relevant information and recommends reading on specific companies. A secondary reading list is also included; it is hoped that this will provide a useful context and introduction to blockade running during the American Civil War.

#### **Denny, William & Brothers; shipbuilders, Dumbarton, 1844-1952 (GUAS Ref: UGD 3, see also UGD 191)**

Known blockade-runners: *Memphis*; *Georgia* or *Japan*; *Ella*; *Caroline*; *Emily*; *Yangtze/Brasill/Enterprise*; *Tientsin/Amazona/Adventure*; *Imogene*.

UGD 3/5/0014	Contract envelope relating to the <i>Memphis</i> (Ship No. 82)	1862
UGD 3/5/19	Contract envelope relating to the <i>Georgia</i> or the <i>Japan</i> (Ship No. 89)	1863
UGD 3/5/31	Contract envelope relating to the <i>Ella</i> , <i>Caroline</i> , and the <i>Emily</i> (Ship Nos. 105-107)	1864
UGD 3/5/32	Contract envelope relating to the <i>Yangtze/ Brasill/Enterprise</i> , <i>Tientsin/Amazona/Adventure</i> (Ship Nos. 108-109)	1865
UGD 3/11/1	Particulars of ships built by various builders (indicates blockade running ships)	1862-80
UGD 3/34/14	Letter from Captain James Carlin concerning the building of three ships for blockade running purposes to William Bee & Co, South Carolina (xerox copy)	1864
UGD 3/39/20	Charter agreement between T. S. Begbie and Gullinger Andreal & Co concerning the <i>Memphis</i>	1862

*Other records that may contain further information include:*

UGD 3/1/6	Journal	1861-69
UGD 3/2/5	General Ledger (boat yard)	1859-65
UGD 3/3/4	Private Ledger	1853-67
UGD 3/3/5	Private Ledger	1854-63

**Denny, William & Brothers; shipbuilders, Dumbarton, 1844-1952  
(GUAS Ref: UGD 3, see also UGD 191) (continued)**

*Archive material held elsewhere:*

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NF

Records include: trial, launch and data books, specifications, ship and engine plans, 1854-1963.

*Useful Reading: Lyon, J. A., The Denny List Part 1, Introduction and Ship Numbers 1-317, (National Maritime Museum, 1975).*

**Lumsden of Arden (GUAS Ref: DC 112)**

DC 112/C/18/2/5/1-2	Note from Chas. Livingston to James Lumsden detailing that the <i>Talisman</i> (blockade-runner) had reached Bermuda from Wilmington with 389 bales of cotton.	1864
DC 112/C/28/6	Prospectus and letter from Chas. Livingston to James Lumsden relating to the Albion Trading Co (a blockade running company).	1864
DC 112/C/28/7	Receipt from Chas. Livingston to James Lumsden for GBP 1,000 (GBP = Great Britain pounds) representing the acquisition of 1,000 shares in a new blockade running company, the Universal Trading Co.	1864

*Useful Reading: Wilbraham, K. P., 'Sir James Lumsden of Arden and the American Civil War', Scottish Industrial History, Volume 16 (1993).*

**Scott & Co; shipbuilders and engineers, Greenock (GUAS Ref: GD 319)**

Known blockade-runners: *Kenilworth; Marmion; Talisman; Red Gauntlet; Ivanhoe; P. S. Constance.*

GD 319/30/1/2	Builder certificate book	1852-78
GD 319/12/10/57-65	Bundle of correspondence between Scotts & Co. and T. S. Begbie (shipping agent) relating to company matters (includes various letters relating to blockade runners, e.g. letter from Captain Russell to T. S. Begbie describing his first attempt to get into Charleston on board the <i>Marmion</i> , 1864)	1855-66

*Other records that may contain further information include:*

GD 319/6/2/4-5	General ledgers (shipyard & engine works), 2 volumes	1857-66
GD 319/6/2/16	General ledger No. 1 (Greenock Foundry Co)	1859-63
GD 319/7/3/1-2	Journals Nos. 2-3, 2 volumes	1857-70
GD 319/8/2/2	Cash book	1862-66
GD 319/11/1/10-13	Letter books (indexed), 4 volumes	1861-64

*Useful Reading: Robb, J. F., Scotts of Greenock, Shipbuilders and Engineers, 1820-1920: A Family Enterprise, (Unpublished, Glasgow University PhD Thesis, 1993).*

**Simons, William & Co; shipbuilders, Renfrew (GUAS Ref: UGD 114)**

Known blockade-runners: *Mary Bowers*; *Stormy Petrel*; *Ada*; *Ada*; *Julia*.

UGD 114/117/1-4	Line, rigging, profile and main deck, engine bracket plans Relating to the <i>Willow o' the Wisp</i> (Ship No. 117) and <i>Julia</i> (Ship No. 119)	1863
UGD 114/118/1-3	Line, rigging, engine and boiler seat plans relating to the <i>Ada</i> (Ship No. 118)	1863
UGD 114/122/1-2	Rigging, boiler seat plans relating to the <i>Mary Bowers</i> (Ship No. 122) and the <i>Stormy Petrel</i> (Ship No. 123)	1864

*Archive material held elsewhere:*

Museum of Transport, 100 Pointhouse Place, Glasgow, G3 8RS

UGD 114/102	Line and body plan relating to the <i>Rothesay Castle</i> (Ship No. 102)	1861
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*Useful Reading: 'Rothesay Castle: River Steamer & Blockade Runner', Clyde River Steamer Magazine No. 7 (Summer 1967).*

**Stephen, Alexander & Sons Ltd; shipbuilders, Glasgow (GUAS Ref: UGD 4, see also UCS 3)**

Known blockade-runners: *Shenandoah*; *The Dare*.

UCS 3/10/1	Specification for the <i>Sea King</i> (Ship No. 42) wood and iron screw steamer for Messrs Robertson & Co, Glasgow (the <i>Sea King</i> was renamed the <i>Shenandoah</i> and became a Confederate commerce raider)	1862
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*Other records that may contain further information include:*

UGD 4/1/1	Letter Book	1856-61
UGD 4/4/1	Letter Book (A. Stephen)	1859-66
UGD 4/7/1-4	Diaries (J. Stephen), 4 volumes	1862-65
UGD 4/8/2-7	Diaries (A. Stephen), 6 volumes	1860-65

*Archive material held elsewhere:*

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NF

Records include: Ledgers, 1858-1932; specifications, engineer's notes, ships' correspondence, launch, stability, trial and general particulars books, circa 19th-circa 20<sup>th</sup> century; plans, 1851-1945.

*Useful Reading:*

Alexander Stephen & Sons Ltd., *A Shipbuilding History, 1750-1932*, (London, 1932). Copy available from Glasgow University Archive Services (**GUAS Ref: UCS 3/18/8**).

**Thomson J. & G. / John Brown & Co Ltd; shipbuilders, Clydebank (GUAS Ref: UCS 1)**

Known blockade-runners: *Giraffe* (Robert E. Lee); *Wild Rover*; *Jupiter*; *Fingal*; *Lillian*; *Little Hattie*; *Iona*; *Emma Henry*.

Records which may contain information include: -

UCS 1/11/1	Directors' private letter book (indexed)	1857-63
UCS 1/34/1	Private ledger No. 1 (indexed)	1848-68
UCS 1/34/2	Private ledger No. 2 (indexed)	1864-85
UCS 1/34/4	General ledger (index - UCS 1/34/4a)	1853-63
UCS 1/36/3	Cash book	1861-67
UCS 1/36/8-9	Cashbooks Nos. 3-4, 2 volumes	1859-69

*Useful Reading*

**Fraser, K. C. and MacHaffie, F. G.**, 'A Highland Steamer at War', *Clyde River Steamer Magazine* No. 24 (Summer 1988).

**MacHaffie, F. G.**, 'The Tale of the Giraffe', *Clyde River Steamer Magazine* No. 17 (Summer 1981).

**Tod & McGregor; shipbuilders, Glasgow (GUAS Ref: UGD 239)**

Known blockade-runners: *Jupiter*; *Alliance*.

UGD 239/1/1-22	Two loose sheets giving particulars of vessels, Nos. 1-154	1834-73
<i>Also see</i>	built by Todd & McGregor at Clyde Foundry, Mavisbank and	
UGD 69/3/1/5	Meadowside (indicates blockade-running ships)	

*Useful Reading:*

**Bowman, I.**, 'Alliance' *Clyde River Steamer Club Magazine* No. 21, (Summer, 1985).

**Secondary Reading**

**Beringer, I. and Richard, E.**, *Why the South Lost the War*, (Georgia, 1986).

**Brochie**, *History of Govan*, (1905).

**Davies, K.**, *The Clyde Passenger Steamers*, (1980).

**Graham, Eric J.**, *Clyde Built: The Blockade Runners of the American Civil War*, (Birlinn Ltd, July 2006).

**Johnson, R. E.**, 'Investment by Sea: The Civil War Blockade' *American Neptune* 32, (1978).

**McQueen**, *Echoes of Old Clyde Paddle-Wheels*, (1924).

**Owsley, F. L.**, *King Cotton Diplomacy*, (Chicago, 1959).

**Parish, Peter J.**, *The American Civil War*, (London, 1975).

**Price, M. W.**, 'Ships that tested the Blockade of the Carolina Ports, 1861-1865' *American Neptune* VIII, (1948).

**Taylor, T. E.**, *Running the Blockade*, (London, 1912).

**Thompson, S. B.**, *Confederate Purchasing Operations Abroad*, (North Carolina, 1935).

**Wise, S.**, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*, (University of South Carolina Press, c.1988).

**Other shipbuilders – archive material held elsewhere:****Barclay Curle & Co; shipbuilders and engineers, Glasgow (GUAS Ref: UGD 136)**Known blockade-runners: *Emma; Gertrude; Minnie; Emily.*Glasgow City Archives, Mitchell Library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN

Records include: ship and engine drawings, 1860-1975, and:

UGD 136/3/2	Ship particulars book, Nos. 1-453 (indicates blockade-running ships)	1852-1904
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National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NF

Records include: ship plans, 1850-1939

**Caird & Co. Ltd; shipbuilders and marine engineers, Greenock (GUAS Ref: UGD 141)**Known blockade-runners: *Lord Clyde; Lord Gough; City of Petersburg; Mary & Ella; Hattie.*Glasgow City Archives, Mitchell Library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN

UGD 141/1/1	Particulars book of ship and machinery, (indicates blockade running ships)	1840-73
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