DETAILED LISTING

REEL 218

3/274  James Lawson, 1799          (57 items)

   Docketed “Order from Mr. Houstoun. Ditto expected from Mr. Pattison and Mr. Baird.”

   Docketed “Drawings of Mr. Houstoun’s framing, cistern etc. wanted. Difficulty of getting the beam in one piece.”

   Docketed “Little progress made by Brunton at Workington. Expects to get Mr. Pattison and Mr. Laird’s order. Estimate of a 12 horse by Mr. Baird - £50. His stay with Mr. Houstoun and excellent condition of his mill.”

   Docketed “Progress made in the repairs at Workington. Goods from Soho that were understood to be missing found in Mr. Curwen’s house.”

   Docketed “Alterations making in the engines. Orders at Glasgow.”

   Docketed “Congratulations upon our victory. Sentiments of Curwen upon it. Conclusive arrangements with Brunton.”

   Docketed “Some particulars respecting Udale’s order, say Curwen’s. Situation of Underwood Co.’s boiler. Houstoun’s pump 38 fathoms. Journey to Lancaster.”

   Docketed “Watson & Co.’s order doubtful. Have substituted a 30 inch cylinder in lieu of the 21 inch licensed by us. Cast iron boilers cause of great consumption of coals at Hodgson & Capstick’s engine. Only one boiler for Gillies. Disappointed in not finding Mr. Greenal at Eccleston near Chorley. Lives at another place of the same name.”

   Docketed “Interview with Mr. Greenal of Eccleston – probability of orders from him. Scarcity of injection water an obstacle. Conversation with Wolfe upon his piracy.”

    Docketed “Matthews Holt & Co.’s affairs. State of things at Kirkman’s & reminded [?] them for payment. Packet addressed to him at Workington not received.”

    Docketed “Prospect of order from Holland & Co. State of affairs at various engines. Lee’s remarks on Kirkman. Grimshaw’s explosion.”

    Docketed “Order of a 16 horse engine for Holland & Co. Pump lamp for Mr. Lee.”
Re-directed to Boulton & Watt at 13 London St. Docketed “Dislike to new prices. Kirkman’s.”

Docketed “Orders from Mr. Watson, Mr. Clegg, Mr. Rupp. Mr. Yates’ renewed application for a licence.”

Docketed “Hope’s engine to be forwarded in his own name.”

The outside of the letter is directed to Gregory Watt. Docketed “Uncertainty respecting Atherton’s being implicated with Kirkman. Supposed mistake in Holloway’s account.”

Docketed “Mr. Jones’ opinion of the correspondence with Atherton. Intends going to Liverpool. Bramah’s puffs. Horridge’s proceedings.”

Docketed “Conversation with Kirkman. Their affairs supposed to be assigned to Clark & Co. Probability of Atherton’s being a partner.”


Docketed “Mr. Hope not dissatisfied with delay. Rotative shafts for ditto. Alteration of his 12 horse engine. Order from Wood & Harrop for a 10 horse engine. Rupp’s order is for a 28 horse. Remittances £419.2. Runcomb’s alteration to be done for £160. Intended journey to Leeds.”

Docketed “Holland & Co.’s order for a 16 horse engine. Marshall’s engine at work. Swindell’s to be so in a few days – both erected by Perrins. Gatley’s will be finished by Rudge in a few days. Intended journey to Leeds and return to Manchester.”

Docketed “Murray’s patent. Improbability of detaching Wood from them. Marshall & Benyons’ proceedings. Remittance from them.”

Docketed “Remittance from sundries £278.8.4. Fenton satisfied with alteration of his engine and intended remittance. Sand at Castleford ordered, and description of quarry. Appointment with Mr. Murray. Boring rod ready to send off.”

Docketed “Remittance of £71.17 from Cookson & Co. Conversation with Murray and present price of his engines. Great fall of snow and inclement weather.”

Docketed “Directions left with Mr. Smith for sand. Lee’s working gear. New hand from Lowe. Rider uncertain.”

   Docketed “State of things at Dowlais and Penydarren.”

   Docketed “Mr. Ingleby’s piracy. Bound defers payment.”


   Docketed “Change in the firm of the Union Mill Co. and secession of Kirkman’s. Little progress made at Watson Myers & Co. Mr. Thomas Leeming. Melur Mine. Bagillt Colliery. Halkin Lead Mine.”


   Docketed “Visit to Workington. Engine nearly finished at Underwood. Pattison renews his application. Intends going to Dundee.”

   Docketed “Haig’s have altered the situation of their engine. Knows nothing of brackets being ordered for Rider. Opinion of brackets. Orders expected from Mr. Nelson and Mr. Crawford and a distillery at Alloa.”

   Docketed “Means to go to Leeds by the mail coach. Expected settlement with Mr. Pattison. Good performance of the Underwood Mill. Progress at Houstoun’s.”

   Docketed “Parker at Murray’s. Affairs at Manchester. Remittance from Rider.”

   Docketed “Remittance £535. Wants accounts against Lane and Hunt. McConnel & Kennedy’s cylinder. Mode of proceeding against Parker.”

   Docketed “Rupp’s complaint about their shaft. Bound’s delay of interest. Runcorn’s at work. Accounts wanted.”

42. Letter. James Lawson (Liverpool) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 14 Oct. 1799. Docketed “Mr. Houstoun’s beam not at Liverpool. To call on William Clark & Co. Mr. Taylor to find us an agent.”


44. Letter. James Lawson (Manchester) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 18 Oct. 1799. Docketed “Has found and forwarded the beam to Mr. Houstoun. Bill £22.15 from Lane. Advises not to trust them without security.”


47. Letter. James Lawson (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Nov. 1799. Docketed “Visit to Preston, state of Watson & Myers’ engine and mistake by Varley. Details of Newsham & Horrocks’ engine, which they wish to have permission to alter. Ditto of John & Samuel Horrocks’.”

48. Letter. James Lawson (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Nov. 1799. Docketed “Has received a further application from Mr. Samuel Horrocks of Preston and intends being there on the 26th or 27th inst. Letter from Mr. Houstoun about his beam and answer sent him. Can get no remittances. Potter to be employed at Stevenson & Green’s.”


52. Letter. James Lawson (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Dec. 1799. Docketed “Errors in the invoice of Leeming’s goods. Mr. Jee’s charge upon ditto. Receipt of £20 from Watson & Co. who say they have written about their account. Leeming’s agreement to be executed upon the return of his partner. Gardner does not appear to have the framing in much forwardness.”


56. Letter. James Lawson (Edinburgh) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Dec. 1799. Docketed “Good account of Mr. Grieve. Wishes us to undertake the beam work. Mr. Geddes likely to want a 16 horse engine. Bagnie not at home. Haig’s still unsettled. Commissions at Manchester. Professor Robison’s new name for the Belier. Crowder with Murray and method used by the latter for rounding his iron.”

57. Letter. James Lawson (Glasgow) to M. R. Boulton (Soho). 25 Dec. 1799. Docketed “Time lost at Newcastle. Charges for Brunton and Grieve. Mr. Houstoun’s to be at work early in January. Mr. Pattison has sold his old materials and says we may furnish the whole. Orders expected. Half pence for Mr. Houstoun.”

3/275 James Lawson, 1800 (36 items)


b. Note (not by Lawson) re. grates for boilers.

5a. Letter. James Lawson (Glasgow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Jan. 1800. Enclosing (b) below. Docketed “Houstoun’s engine set to work and gives satisfaction. Correspondence and interview with Mr. Edington relative to the blowing engine wanted by the Clyde Iron Works. Encloses copy of his letter to Mr. Edington.”


Docketed “Mr. Houstoun to remit soon. Charges for the men. Drawings of blowing cylinder
for Edington. Mr. Sherriff to superintend the erection. Intends sending Brunton and Pearson
to Dundee. George Grieve to go to Philp’s and to Pollock’s. Intends going to Newcastle.
Expect many orders for coal engines.”

Docketed “Bartholomew orders 10 horse. Philp & Co.’s engine arrived at Leith.”

Docketed “Will explain to Edington the error in the price of valves. Has been with Walter
Fergus & Co. of Kinhorn.”

Letter continued on 17 Feb.
Docketed “Indisposition. Draft of agreement with Hope’s trustees. Wants estimate for
Halbeath Colliery. Drawings for Fergus & Co. Haig’s engine to be forwarded. Newcastle
accounts. John Pearson’s wages not charged to Houstoun. Character of Mr. Grieve and of
his sons. Brunton at Wilkie’s. Dykes Smith and Geddes order engines.”

Docketed “Remittances £650. Difficulty of procuring them. Obersavtions on working gear.
Michael Wheatley unwilling to engage. Man from Barnes.”

Docketed “Campbell & Gibson promise payment in a week. Mis-statement of Michael
Mr. Barnes has undertaken to settle Smith & Legg’s account. Orders likely to be wanted.
New engine makers at Newcastle. Michael Wheatley declines engaging. Agreement with
him for wages. Bad state of himself and beast.”

Docketed “Haig’s esteemed good. Conversation with Grieve about boilers, and wants sketch.
Engine house begun. Geddes still undecided. Hawkes have purchased the Devon Iron
furnaces. Receipt of £18.5 of Mr. Stein.”

Docketed “George Grieve to erect Pollock’s. Philp & Co. in no haste. Application from Mr.
Cunningham. Baird’s engine at work. Wishes me to take a journey to the North with Ewart.”

Bartholomew wants his engine. Account of Burn’s grate. Order for copying paper.”

Docketed “Remittance from J. Philp & Co. Robertson’s inventions. Baird’s engine.”

Marked “Private.” Docketed “Expect Ewart. Wishes an arrangement woth Boulton & Watt
and himself. Intends going to Dundee.”

Docketed “Supposes Mr. D. Smith has ordered his engine. Ewart at Glasgow.”

Docketed “Wilkie’s engine finished. Walter Fergus & Co.’s engine arrived. Brunton and
Pearson to erect it. Magistrates want a corn mill. Engine erected by Baird for Mr. Dummond.”

Docketed “Has received our instructions and intends coming to Soho.”


32. Letter. James Lawson (Glasgow) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 3 Dec. 1800. Docketed “Arrival at Glasgow. Defects in the Clyde’s working gear and difficulties in adjusting it. Finds that Creighton has no particular reason for remaining at Glasgow.”
Docketed “Mr. Monach agrees to take Mr. Boulton’s Mint engine at 2/3 of the original cost.”

Docketed “Remittance in full of Bartholemew’s account. Character of Mr. Bridge.”

Docketed “Enclosing remittance of £500 from Pattison. Orders boiler and apparatus for Pattison. Cook & Co.’s engine set to work and badness of iron. Harley to erect Dykes Smith’s. McMurdo ditto St. Mirren’s. Lawson goes with Creighton to Inveresk.”

Docketed “Remittance £800 from Hope’s Trustees. Observations on working gear. Haig’s want us to take back the engine. Visit to Geddes & Cooper. Conference with Halbeath owners. Creighton sets out on his return.”

3/276  James Lawson, 1802  (50 items)

Docketed “Progress made by Vivian at Haig’s. Engine nearly finished at the Calder Iron Works. Boiler badly made and new one likely to be wanted. Burning of Mr. Cunningham’s engine.”

Docketed “Remits £300 from Cunningham. Is going over to Saltcoats. Calder Co.’s account to be paid soon. Progress made there.”

Docketed “Mr. Cunningham’s engine not so much damaged as he expected. Cause of the fire doubtful. Mr. Dunlop fixes on a 24 horse. Orders beam and cross-beam. Will send a sketch of premises. Has written to Haig about boiler.”

Docketed “Messrs. Crum’s works out of Glasgow, there in a few days. Mr. Young cannot blame him about Halbeath beam. Remits £1200 from the Calder Iron Co. The balance will be settled with Lawson. The engine is nearly finished. Omoa ready for the engine. Monteith orders beam and cross-beam.”

Docketed “Engaged in making a drawing of Mr. Houstoun’s colliery. Will send his account in a few days.”


Docketed “Has delivered letter with schedule to James Dunlop & Co. Fulton & Sons order a 4 horse engine. Wants sketch of the mode of applying it to a cupola. Sandeman’s engine arrived. Tennant Knox & Co. and Haig impatient for their materials.”

Docketed “Haig & Co. have got their shaft. Their boiler not yet arrived. Progress made at Halbeath. Varley sent to Sandeman’s. Danger in crossing Queensferry. Boult & Jee have taken Mr. Dalrymple’s beam to pieces. Charge for procuring insurance. Receipt of £4.6.10 from Murray.”
Docketed “Particulars for the calculations of Messrs. Fulton’s cupola blast. Expects an order from Aberdeen and Lord Somerville’s colliery. Advertisements of engines in the Glasgow papers. Expects to settle with Mr. Cunninghame.”

Docketed “Remittance from Cunninghame with interest. Thinks Messrs. Sword & Co.’s boasts not likely to injure us. Mr. Coats of Liverpool recommended by Mr. Edington as a proper person to transact our business. Order for Messrs. Pollock & Co.”

Enclosing (b) below. Docketed “Encloses John Thomson’s indentures and agreement with his father. Neglect in not getting the latter executed. Will see Grieve and get his answer in a few days. Sword & Co.’s threats to have some of our men at any rate – observations upon their and other rivals’ insidious attacks. Mr. Wilson likely to give an order. Will want an estimate of pump and boiler.”

Docketed “Returning his son’s indentures.”


Docketed “Claims interest upon his account. Williams have not determined upon size of engine. Wants estimate of pumps. Intention of going to Aberdeen. Action commenced against Sword & Co. by the City of Glasgow. Grieve agrees to our terms for new agreement. Could get some young lads as apprentices.”

Docketed “Sword & Co. have laid a bet that they will get one of our men. Sandeman’s engine at work. Wants his account and that of Halbeath. Engine erecter wanted for Tennant & Co.”

Docketed “Calder engine expected to be started at the end of the week. The beam in a better condition than expected. Sandeman’s engine giving satisfaction. Thinks the charge for his journey thither should be deducted from his account.”


Enclosing (b) below. Docketed “Has received estimate of Pattison’s extinguishing apparatus. Letter from Halbeath Co. Will be at Edinburgh in 10 days. Drawings of Fulton’s blowing machinery wanted. Calder and Omoa engines to start in a few days.”

On the same sheet:
Transcript of letter. Andrew Young (Halbeath) to John Campbell. 15 Apr. 1802.


20. Letter. James Lawson (Glasgow) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 25 May 1802. Docketed “Calder Iron Co. resolve upon adding a blowing cylinder to their vaults. Campbell Speirs & Co. order a 20 horse engine. Sword & Co. partners with them. Wants accounts with sundries. Proposes setting out for this on the 10th or 12th June.”


22. Letter. James Lawson (Glasgow) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 14 Jun. 1802. Docketed “Vivian cannot be spared to erect Mr. Wright’s engine. Destination of the other hands in Scotland. Remittance for the balance of Catrine account. Causes of the delay in starting Omooa engine. Leaves Glasgow on the following Thursday. Will call at Carron. Tennant’s engine started to the satisfaction of the proprietors. Mr. Monteith agrees to take the 30 horse engine.”

23. Letter. James Lawson (Edinburgh) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 21 Jun. 1802. Docketed “Remittance and statement of account with Haig & Co. and Messrs. Tennant Knox & Co. Monteith’s drawings will be followed without alteration. Dunlop & Co.’s ditto. Messrs. Wilson of Hurlet Colliery order the engine as proposed to them. Mr. Dyce wishes his engine to be exchanged to a 16 horse. Sets out in the mail for Newcastle the same day.”


Docketed “Progress made by Spode in the buildings and preparations for his engines. Deviations from drawing in length of rotative shaft. Situation for his intended 30 horse not determined. Favourable report of the performance of Wedgwood’s engine. Particulars of its work. Statement of account left with Mr. Byerley. Mr. Spode and Mr. Hamilton much pleased with the working of Wedgwood’s. Probability of Lowe being employed by the former to do his millwork. Extract of a letter shown by Mr. Spode mentioning the wonderful effects of Trevithick’s new engine. Mr. Slate’s engine doing well. Defects of Messrs. Daintry Royle & Co.’s. Alteration in the intended position of the new engine. Progress made in the erection of Mr. Cheetham’s. Bad work of the platform. Extraordinary defects of well for supply of cold water. Thinks there is a necessity for Murdock’s assistance in starting the engine. Great discord of Lee’s eccentric circle.”

Docketed “Dixon & Co.’s engine started without accident. Appears to go smoothly. Order of Mr. Pillings for a 14 horse engine. J. Lees’ want of particulars of the charge for his engine.”

2 sheets.

Docketed “Conference with John Pearson – ideas about wages and the policy of engaging him.”

2 sheets.

Docketed “Account presented to Dixon & Co. who will remit in 10 days. Estimates delivered to Greg & Ewart. Pearson gone to Ridgway’s and directions left with Creighton and Lee respecting him. Orders in agitation.”

Docketed “Messrs. Walker from home. Mr. Yates conducts the engine concerns, think a new engine will be ordered. Has left instructions with Mr. Lee respecting Pearson’s engagement. Met with Mr. Dawson at Buxton – will call on him at Low Moor if necessary. Expects to be at Snaith on Tuesday and to return through Leeds to Halifax. Has increased our charges from men’s time 5/- per week per man.”

Docketed “Messrs. Walker’s disposed to have a new blast engine. Good condition of the engine last erected. Small produce of the furnace. Amount of accounts received. Thinks Pearson inclined to accept our terms – gone with Wright to Low Moor. Will apprise Mr. Dawson of the case. Proposes Creighton to take the Glasgow station and himself to remain at Manchester to settle with the workmen and other matters. Creighton’s diffidence an impediment to his transacting business.”
Docketed “The alteration of Messrs. Walkers’ blowing engine can be effected without stopping the furnace. No further tidings of Wright and Pearson. Smalley leaving the Low Moor concern.”

Docketed “Wishes John Pearson’s articles to be forwarded to him. Thinks his stay at Manchester may not now be required.”

Docketed as 28 Oct: “Visit to the Low Moor where neither Pearson nor Wright had called. Smalley likely to remain there. Clegg has commenced putting the engine together for Mr. Lodge. Cause of the delay in delivering Mr. Hope’s drawings. Thinks it better for himself to remain at Manchester and Creighton to go to Scotland.”

Docketed “Indisposed with a cold. Creighton gone to Glasgow and likewise Newman and Thomson. Accompanied the latter to Murray’s and McConnel’s engine.”

Docketed “Breakage of Mr. Bury’s connecting rod. Box for Cheetham missing. Has got no water, is likely to want another pump. Mr. Pownall orders a 6 horse engine. Wants estimate of Shallcross’s present cylinder etc.”

Docketed “Disaster at Dixon & Co.’s engine by the failure of the connecting rod. Has procured McCandlish & Co.’s to replace it. Mr. Penson of Wigan undetermined as to the size of his engine.”

2 sheets.
Docketed “No further particulars as to the cause of Dixon’s disaster transpired. Proposes driving the governor by gear. Recommends a wooden middle piece for connecting rods. Cannot obtain payment of Schofield. Proposes to get his father’s security. Confusion at Marriot & Robinson’s in consequence of the death of the former. Distribution of the men. Pearson objects to the terms of the agreement. At work at Houldsworth’s engine for a guinea per week. Intends to return with Miss Lee to Soho on Monday. Remittance from Scarth & Co.”

Docketed “Inspection of Wilkes & Jewsbury’s proceedings. Recommends a flat grate for them. Wish to have the pillar etc. with expedition. Report of Mr. Peel’s engine and Mr. Strutt’s ditto. A new 10 horse cylinder and nozzles wanted by the latter. Remittance for his account. Brown & Son’s proceeding in the erection of their framing – have an intelligent millwright. Dennison’s mill destroyed by fire.”


Docketed “Remittances from sundries. Daintry Royle & Co. deduct amount of Potter’s board. Hesketh & Schofield request us to suspend proceedings against them for a few days – in treaty with Messrs. Ollivant to become partners. Hopes to get the account settled on Tuesday next. Engine erectors going on regularly though slow.”
Docketed "Employment of the engine erectors and difficulty of providing a hand for Nelson engine. Disappointment in consequence of Creighton's silence. Wish to proceed to Scotland as soon as affairs at Manchester are got into train. Gavin McMurdo's recollection of the conversation with Murray and interview between him and Mr. Murdock. Believes Murdock at Mr. Gott's is acquainted with the matter."


2 sheets.
Docketed "Sets off immediately for Glasgow. Hesketh & Schofield's concern to be dissolved and Ollivant to grant his bill for the amount. Ewart to take charge of that matter in his absence. Small payments by sundries. Shallcross promises to remit soon. Is thought doubtful. Mrs. Gatley will pay at Xmas. T. Bound in a week or two after. Dinner given to the men and the effects of it upon John Pearson. Thinks Gavin will agree again. John White entering into partnership with Whitehead as a founder and engineer. His intended journey to Soho. Has not seen Crowder. R. Kershaw likely to order a 20 horse engine. Proposes T. Livesey's nephew to be engaged as a workman. Order for 20 horse engine for F., G. and J. Southam. Lee to visit Soho next week. Expects to be absent about a fortnight."

Docketed "Knight & Sedgewick likely to want a 24 horse engine. Advises caution. Lane out of the concern. Causes of slow progress at McConnel & Kennedy's. Mistake in Ewart's holding down bolts. John Stein's mill burnt. Likely to order a 20 horse engine. Goes to Glasgow."

Docketed "Receipt of £14.8.2 from John Stein & Co. Halbeath engine doing well. Did not present the account as nothing complete. Progress made at McGeorge's. Monteith's shafts not arrived. Houstoun likely to order a 20 or 24 horse. Prospect of orders from the West India merchants."

3/277  James Lawson, two miscellaneous letters, 1806  (2 items)

1a. Letter. James Lawson (Bath) to Boulton Watt & Co. [Soho]. 26 Feb. 1806. 5 sheets.
The docket is on a separate wrapper. Docketed as 27 Feb. Enclosing (b)-(d) below.
Docketed "Sketch and observations of the premises at Blaenavon. Sketch of Trevithick's engine at Pennydarren. Account of some new ones erecting and of some experiments of consumption etc. on raising water."


c. Sketches. Plan and section of blowing cylinders for Blaenavon.

d. Sketches. Trevithick's engine and boiler. Plan, slide and end views.

2a. Letter. James Lawson (Glasgow) to James Watt Jr. [Soho?]. 1 Nov. 1806.
Enclosing (b)—(e) below, which were together in a packet.
Docketed "Encloses letters from Mr. Anderson, with farther particulars of the painted window at Lichfield."

c. Transcripts. Transcripts of 3 letters on the same sheet, as follows:
William Mott (Lichfield Close) to John Anderson (5 Dawson St., Dublin). 26 Sep. 1806.
John Anderson (Fermoy) to William Mott (Lichfield). 7 Oct. 1806.
John Anderson (Fermoy) to William Raphael Eginton (Birmingham). 7 Oct. 1806.

d. Transcripts. Transcripts of 4 letters on the same sheet, as follows:
William Raphael Eginton (Handsworth) to John Anderson (Fermoy). 29 Sep. 1806.
William Mott (Lichfield) to William Raphael Eginton [Handsworth]. Not dated.

e. Copy of sketch. Window in Lichfield Cathedral.
*Showing broken squares of glass to be replaced. Referred to in Eginton’s letter of 29 Sep. 1806 above.*

3/278 James Lawson, letters to him, 1793 (39 items)


   Summarised by Henry Hazleton “Concerning coinage and putting presses in order.”

34. Letter. John Southern (Soho) to James Lawson (care of Wormald Fountain & Gott, Leeds). 26 Nov. 1793.
   With a note by William Forman on the same sheet.


   Re-directed to Lawson at the Revolution Mill, Retford.


   On the same sheet: Transcript of extract of letter. Beverley Cross & Co. (—) to Boulton & Watt [Soho].