JAMES MICHAEL FLEMING WRITER

National Records of Scotland

Summary

Source: NRS Catalogue
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NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND · CATALOGUE SUMMARY

RH8/601

Sasine in favour of Sir William Fleming of Ferm and Dame Margaret Steuart, 9 Sep 1706

Record details

Reference	RH8/601
Collection	RH8: Register House charters, 3rd or Extractor's series (1601-1830)
Repository	National Records of Scotland
Date	9 Sep 1706
Registered	General Register of Sasines, 13 Sep 1706
Level	Item
Access	Open; held off site, so it needs to be ordered in advance to view
Catalogue record	https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/details.aspx?reference=RH8%2f601

What it is

An instrument of sasine dated 9 Sep 1706: the notary's formal record that possession of a right in land was given. It is in favour of Sir William Fleming of Ferm [Farm] and Dame Margaret Steuart his spouse.

The right is an annual rent, a fixed yearly payment secured on land. This was the usual form of security for a loan: the lender was infeft in a yearly payment from the borrower's land equal to the

interest on the money lent. The entry says the sasine was given “for their security as therein mentioned”, so Sir William and his wife were the creditors.

What the entry says

- **The annual rent:** £660 Scots, “or such an annual rent as should correspond to the principal sum of £1,100 Scots yearly”.
- **The lands charged:** the Mains of Dudhope with the acres called Blackness acres, in the parish of Dundee and sheriffdom of Forfar. The annual rent was to be “uplifted and taken furth of” these lands.
- **In whose favour:** Sir William Fleming and Dame Margaret Steuart together, as husband and wife.
- **Registration:** recorded in the General Register of Sasines on 13 Sep 1706, four days after the sasine.

The sums

The two figures in the entry do not fit each other. The legal rate of interest in Scotland in 1706 was 6 per cent. At that rate an annual rent of £660 Scots answers to a principal of £11,000 Scots, not £1,100. On £1,100 the yearly interest would be only £66.

The likeliest explanation is that the catalogue has dropped a nought and the principal was £11,000 Scots. With the pound Scots at one twelfth of the pound sterling, that is about £916 13s 4d sterling, and the annual rent £55 sterling. Only the document or the register would confirm the figure.

The words “or such an annual rent as should correspond to the principal sum” are a standard clause. They tie the yearly payment to the lawful rate of interest on the principal, so that it would change if the legal rate changed.

Points the catalogue leaves unclear

- **The granter:** the entry does not say who owed the money or who gave the security over Dudhope.
- **The principal sum:** £1,100 Scots as catalogued, but probably £11,000 Scots, as set out above.
- **The debt behind it:** the bond or contract on which the sasine proceeded is not described, nor its date or terms of repayment.
- **How the couple held it:** a sasine to a husband and wife was commonly in conjunct fee and liferent, with the survivor keeping the income for life. The entry does not say.

The full text should survive twice: in this original instrument, and in the copy entered in the General Register of Sasines under 13 Sep 1706 (NRS series RS3 for this period).

Details that may help identify the people

The entry names the couple fully. The points below go beyond the catalogue.

- Sir William Fleming of Ferm [Farm]: William Fleming of Ferme (Farme), Rutherglen, here styled Sir. The burial record you found puts his burial in February 1707, so this sasine was taken about five months before his death and shows him alive on 9 Sep 1706.
- Dame Margaret Steuart his spouse: the entry gives his wife's name and shows her living in September 1706.
- Mains of Dudhope with the acres called Blackness acres, parish of Dundee, sheriffdom of Forfar: Dudhope, at Dundee. It had belonged to Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, and after his forfeiture passed to the Douglas family, who may therefore be the granters. That is background, not a statement in the entry.
- The dates: 9 Sep 1706 (sasine) and 13 Sep 1706 (registration).
- The sums: £660 Scots a year and £1,100 Scots principal as catalogued.

Source

National Records of Scotland, online catalogue, RH8/601:
https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/details.aspx?reference=RH8%2f601

Summary based on the catalogue entry only, accessed 12 October 2026. The original document has not been examined.