

Gatehouse Postal History

1841 – 8th September

Robert Hume, Gatehouse, to
Colonel Macadam Cathcart, Berbeth, Ayr

Postal charge 1d.
front



Stamp showing MX wear



eBay cost
£128.52



Collecting stamp of Gatehouse 8 Sep 1841



Gatehouse MX used 8 Sep 1841



This entire was sent by Robert Hume in Gatehouse to Colonel Cathcart at Berbeth as part of the agreement to use lead from the Woodhead Mine in the construction of the Little Ross lighthouse and the buildings needed to house the families of the lighthouse keepers.

Colonel Frederick Cathcart was born in 1789, the third son of the tenth Earl Cathcart. He pursued a military career until, in 1827, **he married Jean Macadam**, daughter and heiress of **Quintin Macadam of Craigengillan in Ayrshire**. For inheritance reasons he changed his name to be Frederick Macadam Cathcart.

In 1838 lead was found about a mile from Carsphairn and Colonel Cathcart was presumably encouraged by the high price of lead after the end of the Napoleonic and American Wars, so he began the extraction of lead from the **Woodhead Mine**. Later, cheap Spanish lead ended any hopes of the mine paying for itself.

But Macadam built a small village purely to house the families of the miners that he employed.

Rutherford's Monument at Gatehouse was first built in 1842. In 1847 it was destroyed by lightning. In 1851 the monument was re-built by Gatehouse builder **Robert Hume**, who also constructed lighthouses at **Little Ross** and Ardnamurchan.

£18. 15/- per ton

1¼ per cent discount

Gatehouse 7th Sept. 1841

Honbl. Sir

I have the honour of receiving your letter yesterday, being from home last week I didn't get it sooner but I hope you will receive this in time.

I will require at least 15 tons of lead if it will answer the purpose which I have no doubt of after your letter. As to the exact time of taking it away I cannot say but in 2 or 3 weeks at farthest. As regards the payment I refer you to the Commercial Bank of Scotland Gatehouse,

Being at Liverpool lately I priced the lead there and found I could get it for £19.5 per ton with 5 per cent discount for cash which makes it a little cheaper than yours but as you uphold yours to be of good quality I prefer it and leave it to yourself to say whether you will not allow a trifle to assist me in laying it down at Kirkcudbright.

I am Sir

Your obedient Servant

Robert Hume

To the Honbl

Colonel Macadam Cathcart

Berbeth