

Veere, Scotlands Staple Port in Flanders

16th and 17th CENTURY TRADE: VEERE AND DUNDEE

Barrels And Other Measures

This page provides background information on barrels and other measures mentioned in the Dundee burgh port records, listing some of the ships sailing between Veere or other ports in the Low Countries and Dundee between 1580 and 1696.

LIQUID MEASURE

1 Firkin (quarter part) = 9 gallons or 56 lb. butter
 4 Firkins = 1 Barrel (36 gallons or 224 lb. butter
 ie 2 cwt SO there are notionally 10 barrels to the ton.)

However, 1 Tierce/Terce = 42 gallons
 (a Third part)
 2 Tierces/Terces = 1 Puncheon (84 gallons)
 3 Tierces/Terces = 1 Pipe (126 gallons)

or

2 Hogsheads = 1 Pipe (126 gallons or 92 gallons claret)
 2 Pipes = 1 Tun (252 gallons or 184 gallons claret)

[Anglo Saxon *tunne* = a vat or tub]

Where

1 Hogshead = 52.5 Imperial gallons
 63 old wine gallons
 46 gallons of claret
 54 gallons of beer
 750 to 1200 lb. Of tobacco (US)

However, 1 Pipe ~ 1 Butt (126 gallons wine or 108 gallons beer or sherry)

DRY MEASURE WEIGHT

2 Gallon = 1 Peck 14 lb. = 1 Stone
 4 Pecks = 1 Bushel 2 Stones = 1 Quarter
 6 Bushels = 1 Boll (Scots) 4 Quarters = 1 cwt
 8 Bushels = 1 Quarter 20 cwt = 1 Ton (2240 lb.)

4 Quarters = ? 2 Tons ~ 1 Last (~ 4000 lb.)

However, for coal, 9 Bushels = 1 Quarter
 4 Quarters = 1 Chaldron (36 Bushels or 6 Bolls)

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The approximate series of "barrel" names is:

Firkin - Barrel - Tierce/Terce - Hogshead - Puncheon

Pipe - Butt - Tun

A Last is a weight generally estimated at 4000 lb but varying in different articles, or a term for a ship's cargo