

limited. Still I shall endeavor to comply, although it be Sunday, as Mr. L. departs tomorrow forenoon for Old Scotia, this sketch will be copied & for a centre for the cockery. So much for that.

February 20: ... All my men are hard at work on the Steamer. The Gun Boat is finished.

March 3: ... Our Steamer is nearly planked and altogether the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

March 17: ... Last week our work at the steamer has succeeded much to my satisfaction and the next will (should the weather continue fine) in all probability be equally so.

March 30: ... During the last week my men have worked most industriously. The steamer is now nearly caulked & should the succeeding week prove fine she will be nearly finished.

April 9: ... Very busy at present with the various vessels requiring repairs. These various calls upon my attention all affect in some degree the serenity of my temperament, and consequently are greatly against the complaint, which annoys me.⁷ ... I shall therefore firmly determine on departing for England whenever this steamer of Lockharts is complete.

April 13: ... Intend launching our new steamer on Saturday next. Hauled up two vessels last week. My time of course has been busy, oh very busy!

April 22: This day, at ¼ past 2 the Gore, Mr. Lockhart's boat, glided beautifully into the water. At first I was fearful she would have given trouble from the circumstance of her not starting immediately on the blocks being removed. The delay arose principally from the tallow becoming hard and forming a solid cake. Thus the vessel's movement [was] sluggish notwithstanding the descent was quite sufficient to ensure her passing freely from the ways.

Draught of water forward 2 feet 8 with false keel 3 feet 4 in. aft, it is about six inches more. Altogether the Gore's appearance in the water is respectable. At the same time, she is stiff, and if when complete with Engine &c on board she should prove equally so, I shall then feel happy.

... no accident or the slightest negligence occurred, to affect my character as

⁷ The diaries are full of references to "his complaint" which was a recurring medical condition of uncertain diagnosis, but for which he routinely took pills, "showers" and was occasionally bled. In November 1838 he was laid up for several days while on a trip to Buffalo. He planned to return to Scotland in the fall of 1839, a trip postponed to the following year, and from which he never returned, dying in Leith in 1845.