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WILLIAM MONTGOMERIE

A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts 1730-1825

Part V The Glenriddell Ballad Manuscript¹ Introduction Robert Riddell

Captain Robert Riddell of Glenriddell (1755-94), a gentleman of antiquarian and literary tastes and of convivial habits, in 1784 brought his bride to Friars Carse, an estate six miles north of Dumfries. The farm of Ellisland to which Robert Burns brought his wife five years later is less than a mile to the south. The two men became friends and Burns was a regular visitor. The poet was given a key to the grounds of Friars Carse and, in a little hermitage there, is said to have composed a few poems.

> At their fireside I have enjoyed more pleasant evenings than at all the houses of fashionable people in this country put together; and to their kindness and hospitality I am indebted for many of the happiest hours of my life.²

As an amateur musician, Robert Riddell published in 1794 A Collection of Scotch, Galwegian, and Border Tunes for the Violin and pianoforte. Probably his most important service to music was to have a

¹There is also a Glenriddell Burns MS of "Poems Written by M^r Rob^t Burns and selected by him from his unprinted Collection, for Robert Riddell of Glenriddell Esq^r." In 1913 Mr. John Gribbell of Philadelphia purchased this volume together with a companion volume of Burns's letters. He had a facsimile printed in 1914 (Philadelphia; limited to 150 copies) before deeding the MSS to the Scottish Nation. They are now housed in the National Library of Scotland.

*The Works of Robert Burns, ed. William Scott Douglas (Edinburgh, 1877-79), II, 168.

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copy of *The Scots Musical Museum* interleaved for annotation.³ Most of the notes were written by Robert Burns.

The Glenriddell Ballad MS⁴ (G VIII & XI)

There were originally 12 volumes in MS, small folio, of Robert Riddell's "Collection of Scottish Antiquities, selected by R. R." The first notice we have of them, after Robert Riddell's death, is the following:⁵

Auctions in Scotland

1795 Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, esq. Books on Antiquities, Robert Ross.

When at the turn of the century, Sir Walter Scott was preparing his *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, the manuscript of Ballads (Vol. XI) was in the possession of Mr. Jollie, bookseller, at Carlisle. He allowed Sir Walter to use it.⁶

Eight volumes of the "Collection" were purchased in 1866 by Adam Sim of Culter Maynes, from Mr. Odgers, Unitarian Minister at Bath, through the instrumentality of Mr. R. E. Peach of the library there.⁷ At this point we lose sight of Volumes I, V, X and XII.

In 1869, five volumes of the Glenriddell "Collection" were bought by David Laing, Mr. Adam Sim having died in 1868, and the Culter Maynes Library having been sold. One of these MS volumes was No. XI, containing eighty-eight pages of ballad texts.

In 1873, Professor F. J. Child asked in Notes and Queries for information about ballad MSS, including those mentioned by Sir Walter Scott at the end of his Introduction to the *Minstrelsy*. Yet, although

⁸ See Notes on Scottish Song by Robert Burns written in an interleaved copy of The Scots Musical Museum with additions by Robert Riddell and others edited by James C. Dick (London, 1908). R. C. Cromek's Reliques of Robert Burns (London, 1808) is untrustworthy, and as most references to SMM(I) before J. C. Dick come from Cromek they should be checked by reference to Dick.

*See Mr. H. S. Gladstone's MS in Vol. II of the MSS.

⁵ John Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century* (London, 1812), III, 693. One assumes that our MS was among the effects sold.

⁶ "I think I told you of the Glenriddell MS which I procured at Carlisle, from which the Lads of Wamphray, Lord Maxwell's Goodnight & Archie of Cafeld are to be given — which had hitherto eluded all research." John Leyden to Richard Heber, Apr. 24, 1800 (Nat. Lib. MS.939 [typed copy] f.9.). See also WS:MSB (near end of Introduction).

⁷See his two letters pasted inside the front cover of Vol. III.

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the Glenriddell MS is listed there, and Professor Child was corresponding with David Laing, it was not till two years later that William Macmath discovered the Glenriddell Ballad MS in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. It was one of the five volumes that David Laing had bought in 1869. Dr. Furnivall noted the discovery in *The Academy* of January 16, 1875 (p. 65).

Three additional volumes, owned by Dr. Henry of Manchester and bequeathed by his son to the Public Libraries there, came by exchange to the Library of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland on October 26th 1895. These were Volumes II, IV and VI.

Besides the ballads in Vol. XI, there is another version of "Tam Lin" in Vol. VIII. The date of this volume is 1789. Vol. XI, dated 1791, has the sub-title "A Collection of old Scottish Ballads," above a water-colour of the town of Dumfries. Robert Riddell did not write out the MS himself, though he went over it and added occasional notes. There were several copyists.

Robert Riddell, as a Dumfries man, was primarily interested in that county. Seven of the sixteen items are about events that happened in Dumfries-shire. They are:

- 1. Archie of Capeld (p. 14),
- 2. Lord Maxwell's Goodnight (p. 18),
- 3. Lads of Wamphray (p. 34),
- 4. & 5. Fair Helen [2 versions] (pp. 29, 46),
- 6 & 7. The Lochmaben Harper [2 versions] (pp. 39, 42).

Two of them are English:

- 1. The Fray of Soupart (p. 55),
- 2. The Laidley Worm (p. 71).

Three of them are modern, though Professor Child admitted the last of the ten, "The Laidley Worm," to his canon, for the older fragments incorporated in it. The modern items are:

- 1. Jock of Milk and Jean of Bonshaw (p. 1),
- 2. The Border Lament (p. 59),
- 3. The Laidley Worm (p. 71).

The other items are traditional ballads:

- 1. Sir Andrew Barton (p. 20),
- 2. Outlaw Murray (p. 61),
- 3. McNaughtan (p. 78),
- 4. Young Brechin (p. 80),
- 5. Tom Line (p. 84) and another version in Vol. VIII (p. 106).

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Dr. Clapperton

There are two references to Dr. Clapperton as a source. He gave Robert Riddell "Fair Helen" and "The Lochmaben Harper." Charles Kirpatrick Sharpe mentioned her to Scott, in a letter.

> Our oracles of ancient poetry in this part of the world have been dumb since the decease of Burns and Dr Clapperton of Lochmaben... The son of Dr Clapperton has none of his father's poetical remains; and the only person I can hear of who was able to sing the Covenanting ballads was a servant of my uncle...⁸

This gives us a hint of the kind of ballad Dr. Clapperton was known to sing. Mr. Frank Miller of Annan, despite C. K. Sharpe's reference to Dr. Clapperton's son, tried to trace these ballads at the beginning of the present century.

Robert Clapperton M.D., Lochmaben (died 1796), had a large collection of MS. Ballads; but, as the present writer was informed by the collector's granddaughter, Mrs Bell, Southport, there is too good reason to believe that his MSS. were all thoughtlessly destroyed long ago.⁹

Bibliography

Vol. VIII (1789)

page 106

An Old Song Called Young Tom Line (& Note) I forbid ye Maidens a' that wears Goud on your Gear...

... I'd taken out that heart o' flesh, put in a heart o' stane.

7aa (41 sts.)

G XI. 84 (26 sts. of 4 lines)az Cb. 39B (III. 504) Tam

Tam Lin

Vol. XI (1791)

Jock of Milk and Jean of Bonshaw (& Notes)

A Fragment of an Old West-border Ballad.

The Duke he was a bony Lad . . .

To	guard t	the lovely	y thing.
4a3b4	c3b	(89	sts.)
H I 1	20 (89	sts.) a	2

⁸12th Oct., 1802, in "Letters from and to Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Esq.," ed. Alex. Allardyce, 2 vols. (Edinburgh and London, 1888), I, 142.

^e Frank Miller, "The Glenriddell Ballad MS.," Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen, CXXVIII (1912), 85n.

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SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

	page
Archie of Cafield (& Note)	14
An old west Border Ballad.	
As I was walking mine alane	
But now the night I am set free.	
4abcb (30 sts.)	
Ch. 188B Archie of Cawfield	
(Note)	18
Adieu Madam my Mother dear	
And Lord Maxwell has ta'en his good night.	
4a3b4c3b4d3e4f3e (8 sts.)	
Ch. 195B (16 sts. of 4 lines)	
Lord Maxwell's Last Goodnight	
Sir Andrew Barton (& Note.)	20
[Broadside Version]	
When Febus with her fragrant flours	
till they come to my Broy ^r Kings land.	
4abcb (56 sts.)	
Ch. 167Bh "Sir Andrew Barton"	
Fair Helen (& Note)	29
(Dr. Clapperton's sett)	
My sweetest Sweet and fairest Fair	
On fair Kirkconnel Lee.	
4aaa3b (14 sts.)	
G XI.46 (16 sts.)az	
(Notes)	31-33
Lads of Wamphray ane old Ballad —	34
sometimes called the Galiard	
(& Remarks)	
Twixt the Girthhead & Langwoodend	
The Lads o' Wamphry's King o Men.	
4aa (41 sts., but not written in sts.) Ch. 184 The Lads of Wamphray	
(Notes)	37-38
Lochmaben Harper	39
(from Dr Clapperton of Lochmaben)	
Hard ye tell of the silly blind Harper	
The Foal was better than ever the Mare.	
4abcbde (ref.)(15 sts.)Ch. 192BThe Lochmaben Harper	
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	page
The Blind Harper of Lochmaben (and Air)(from a MS Collection of Mr Henderson)Heard ye e'er of the silly Blind Harper And weel paid shall they cowte foal be.4abcb(21 sts.)Ch. 192AaThe Lochmaben Harper	42
Whare Helen lies — oldest Edition (with Air & Notes) (from Mr Henderson's MS. Tune called Where Helen lyes — Dr Blacklock's sett) O sweetest sweet, and fairest fair In fair Kirkconnel lee. 4aaa3b (16 sts.) G XI. 29 (14 sts.)az	46
(Notes)	49-54
The Fray of Soupart (& Notes) Sleeping Sim o' the Lam-hill My Gear's weal toon. aabb (8 sts. of different length)	55
(Notes)	58
The Border Lament after the Union 1710 Ae misty Noon I laid me down	59
An old Song called Outlaw Murray Etterick forest's a pleasant Land The Newark & the Newark lee. 4abcb (52 sts.) Cb. 305B (56 sts.)az The Outlaw Murray	61
The Laidley Worm of Spindlestonheug (and Note) (A song 500 years old made by the old Mountain Bard Duncan Frazier living on Cheviot A.D. 1270.) [Introduced by 411. of Latin verse.] The King is gone from Bambrough Castle Some part of it in time. 4a3b4c3b (39 sts.) Ch. I. 312 (Appendix)	71
McNaughtan An old Legendary Fragment. Johnny's into England gane three quarters of a year The vict'ry's into Scotland gane tho' sair against their will.	78

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	page
(57 lines)	
Johnie Scot	
	80
hin born	
ady Jane.	
(23 sts.)	
Young Beichan	
Young Tom Line (& Notes, to p. 88)	84
	Johnie Scot hin born ady Jane. (23 sts.) Young Beichan

7aabb (26 sts.) Ch. 39B (41 sts.)az Tam Lin

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An Old Lady's Complete Set of Ballads

Introduction

The source of the name of this Collection, and something of its history, is given in a letter from Sir Walter Scott to Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe:

> I send you a bone to pick — to wit, the collection of an old lady's complete set of ballads, written in her own beautiful orthography and calligraphy. I have no doubt that among many common things there are some rare, or perhaps unique, but before they reached my hand the rage of ballad-hunting had cooled, and I now turn them over to your superior industry. From analysis which I have made you will find there are ten songs which have not been published. I got the manuscript from Skene, who can give you complete information concerning the old lady by whom it was written. It is quite possible to put them to rights, as I have ascertained by repeated experience. Skene has made a transcript of some of these ditties, of which I enclose a part.²⁰

The editor, Alexander Allardyce, adds a note that the Old Lady's MS was, at that time, through the kindness of Mr. Bedford, in his possession.

William Macmath, in his MS notes, added to the MS (f. 2), denies this, and states that the MS in question was that of James Skene of Rubislaw (up to and inclusive of page 118) referred to by Sir Walter Scott, in the above letter, as a transcript.

William Macmath acquired the MS of the Old Lady at the sale of

¹⁰ 27th July [1823] Letters from and to Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Esq., ed. Alexander Allardyce, 2 vols. (Edinburgh and London, 1888), II, 264.

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the remaining portion of C. K. Sharpe's Collection, in Dowell's Rooms, Edinburgh, on 20th April 1893. It was part of lot 122 of the Catalogue.

C. K. Sharpe had made a transcript [CKS (6)], with changes, of 19 pieces and a fragment from the Old Lady's MS, and this transcript was bought by Macmath at the same time, as well as the concluding part of Skene's MS, beginning with p. 119. Macmath claims to have done what he could, but in vain, to obtain access to a MS Journal kept by James Skene, to find some information on the Old Lady.

The Old Lady's MS is in two portions, small folio, the first extending to 53 pages, on paper watermarked 1805-6-7, the pages and ballads having been numbered by Sir Walter Scott. The second portion is of ten pages on paper of 1818. The ballads are not divided into stanzas, nor even into lines of verse. I have given the number of stanzas as divided by Professor Child. The Old Lady's MS is bound in brown leather.

Her MS, the transcript made by C. K. Sharpe, and the small portion of the Skene transcript (now bound with the Old Lady's MS) are all in Broughton House, Kirkcudbright.

Bibliography

No.		page
I.	It fell about the lames time Durst na Plunder the bonny house of Airly. 4a3b4c3b (8 sts.) Ch. 199Ac (V. 252) The Bonnie House o Airli	1 ie
II.	I was bat seven year alld an ther he Did her Burne. 4a3b4c3b (15 sts.) Ch. 36 (V. 214) The Laily Worm and the Machrel of the Sea	
III.	the rantan Laddy Aft have I Played att the Cards an the Dice yell happy be. 4a3b4c3b (12 sts.) Ch. 240B (V. 274) The Rantin Laddie	2
IV.	 aa the skippers of merry Lothen bat young Allan Alive. 4a3b4c3b (23 sts.) Ch. 245A (V. 275) Young Allan 	3

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No.		page
V.	from Spray to the border	5
VI.	our quins seek an very seek Eearl Marchel sud ben gared Dee. 4a3b4c3b (17 sts.) Cb. 156B (V. 241) Queen Eleanor's Confession	5
VII.	Our King Lay musing on his bed God have mercy on my poor men an me. 4abcb (13 sts.) Ch. 164 (V. 245 [listed only]) "King Henry Fifth's Conquest of France"	6
VIII.	The Earl of Aboyn heis carrlis an kind Or I had Lost Bonny Margt Irvien.4a3b4c3b(18 sts.)Cb. 235C (V. 270)The Earl of Aboyne	7
IX.	Rob roy fra the high Hillands bat take it for yer Hame Lady.4a3b4c3b(16 sts.)Cb. 225A (V. 262)Rob Roy	8
X.	The water of gamry Willie is fair an willes Rair for wes baith slep soun in Gamry. 4a3b4c3b (15 sts.) Ch. 215D (V. 256) Rare Willie drowned in Yarrow, or, The Water o Gamrie	
XI.	Clides water ye gie Corn to my hors Saying Clayds water Din us wrong. 4a3b4c3b (22 sts.) Ch. 216A (V. 256) The Mother's Malison, or, Clyde's Water	
XII.	quin Marys Marreysmy father was the Duck of York an fra the Gallatree.4a3b4c3bCh. 173F (V. 246)Mary Hamilton	11
XIII.	the crafty Aual Carl came ore the Lea we following the Gaberlunny man. 4aaa3b4ccc3b (10 sts.)	13

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No.

page

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	(King James the 4 wrat this an was the Gaberlunny man himself)	-
	Ch. 279 Appendix (V. 115) The Gaberlunyie-Man	
XIV.	Young Beachen Young Beachen as Born in fair London well Ansuared was she. 4a3b4c3b (30 sts.) Ch. 53D (V. 218) Young Beichan	14
XV.	Lamken was as gued a masson	16
XVI.	the Lard of Drum Ther was a Knigh An ye ha ane to spend. 4a3b4c3b (16 sts.) Ch. 236B (V. 272) The Laird o Drum	ι7
XVII.	Bony Catrain Jaffry Bonny Catrain Jaffrie an tain ther Bried a way 4a3b4c3b (20 sts.) Ch. 221E (V. 260) Katharine Jaffray	17
XVIII.	the Duck of Arguill Hear am I a valint Scot an yes never be my Deary. 4aaa3b (15 sts.)	19
XIX.	Huntly Mar an Marchel	20
XX.	ther was a Lady fair an rear	20
XXI.	Comarnad it is a very bonny Place2 but fue halled Richerd Storry.4a3b4c3b(11 sts.)Ch. 232B (V. 270)Richie Storry	22
XXII.	[written at top of p. 23, in error. There is no XXII.]	

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No.		page
XXIII.	fair Margrat of Gregner	23
	fair margrat of gregner	
	ther blissing to receive.	
XXIV.	Suit Willie an fair Anne	25
	they war tua Lovers Dear.	
	4a3b4c3b (28 sts.)	
	Ch. 73G (V. 223) Lord Thomas and Fair	•
	Annei	:
XXV.	the Barron of Breachell	27
	Barron of Breachell are ye withen	
	An the Barron of Breachell is Dead an awaa.	
	4aa (22 sts.)	
	Ch. 203D (V. 253) The Baron of Brackley	/
XXVI.		28
	My husband to Disgrace.	
	4a3b4c3b (30 sts.)	
	Ch. 231B (V. 267) The Earl of Errol	
XXVII.	Dugall quin	30
	(it was the markes of Huntly)	
	Dugall quin came to the toun	
	An Lives belou Strathbogy.	
	4a3b4c3b (13 sts.) Ch. 294 Dugall Quin	
X7X7X7111		2.1
XXVIII.		31
	it fell about the Martimas time god safe my Gay Ladie.	
	4a3b4c3b (23sts.)	
	Ch. 1781 (V. 247) Captain Car, or, Edom of	2
	Gordon	
XXIX.	Buchan is bonny an ther Lays my Love	32
	An he Dyed for his Jeanie that very same night	•
	4aabb (13 sts.)	
	Ch. 239Bc (V. 274) Lord Saltoun and	
	Auchanachie	?
XXX.		34
	Willie was a harper guid	
	Sall baith stand in ae Day.	
	4a3b4c3b (34 sts.)	
	Ch. 63K (V. 220) Child Waters	

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No.		page
XXXI.	1. J	36
	O wad ye hear of a Spanish Lady	
XXXII.	the Lady of Livenston	38
	we was sisters we was seven	
	out of ther midders sides shorn. 4a3b4c3b (37 sts.)	
	Ch. 91G (V. 227) Fair Mary of Wallington	
XXXIII.	Willie of Duglass Daill	41
	Willie was a rich mans son	
	an a gallant Knight was hee.	
	4a3b4c3b Ch. 101D (V. 235) Willie o Douglas Dale	?
XXXIV.	Earl richerd	43
	ther was a shepherds Daughter	-9
	for the Love of the.	
	4a3b4c3b (40 sts.)	
	Ch. 110N (V. 237) The Knight and the Shepherd's Daughten	•
XXXV.		45
	Shiperd Boy what is yer trade	-
	by the follouing of her Laddie.	
	4aaa3b (15 sts.) Ch. 280A The Beggar-Laddie	
vvvu	66	46
XXXVI.	ther was a wife in yon toune ther is a wife in yone toun End an she has Dothers	
	three	
	I wad haa made ye Lady of castels Eaght or ninge 7aa (26 sts.)	•
	Ch. 279A The Jolly Beggar	
XXXVII.	Elisa Bailly	47
	As I Came in by Carron sid	
	the heallend Lad to marry.	
	4a3b4c3b (9 sts.) Ch. 227h (V. 265) Bonny Lizie Baillie	
XXXVIII.	Captian Wederburn	48
	The Lard of Roslies Doughter was walking on the	
	green	•

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	COLLISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS	
No.		page
	An they baith Lay in ae bed an she Lays nest	the waa
	4aabb (very fragmentary) (15 sts.) Ch. 46Bh (V. 216) Captain Wedderba Court	
XXXIX.	Ther Lives a maid in Edinbrugh Citty An that fair Creatur ye we.4a3b4c3b(20 sts.)Cb. 226H (V. 264)Lizie Lindsay	49
XL.	The old toun Colleg hall from the west heallends our Cours we Did stear	51
XLI.	Lady Dayisie Ther was a king an a worthy king An Alass spak never mare. 4a3b4c3b (15 sts.) Ch. 269B Lady Diamond	52
XLII.	Ae simmer night fan blobs o Dew 4a3b4a3b (16 lines) [p. 54 blan	53 .k]
	[End of MS OL (a)]	
	(Not numbered in MS)	
[XLIII].	Huntley Mar & Marchel	1
Wi	[John Wilkes] lkie waked in [] Street . Come meat me if ye Dar dar. 4abcb (5 sts. & chor.)	2
	A we bird came to our haa Door 7 William Glen, 1789-1826)	3
"Lo	tes by James, Skene on "Young Tolquhoun", ord Woolers Daughter", "John o Benachie", & ne Earl of Cumbernaulds Daughter".	4
[XLVI]. WI	twd Side tune hat is the suit Brathing Jasime & Rose 3abab (2 sts. & chor.) H I. 128 (4 sts. & chor.) <i>a</i> JH Jac. Rel. I, Song LXXV.	5

SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

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STUDIES	ΙN	SCOTTISH	LITERATURE

No.	page
[XLVII]. Marr House tune	5
Oh hou could I venter or Dar to revell (8 lines)	
PB(BM) II. 228b $(3 \text{ sts. of } 8 \text{ lines})$	
[by John Skinner. Tune, Alloa-House]	
[XLVIII]. The King has written a Brod Letter Good Lord Daruanwater was Dumed to Die. 4a3b4c3b (13 sts.) Ch. 208J (V. 254) "Lord Derwentwater"	6
[p. 8 blank]	
List of Pieces [not an Index]	9
[p. 10 blank]	,
[End of MS OL (b)]	
Supos ye will be a Dead woman [Facsimile]	11
[p. 12 blank]	
[Edinburgh Bibliographical Society's Transactions, Vol.I No.187.]	
(Fair Ellen [Child Waters] Edin. Bibl. Soc.	13
-Ballad MSS., Facsimile.)	
[same fragment as previous item]	
81	inserted betw.
p 119 to 125 inclusive — which came into my possession on 20th April 1893, of	14 & 15
James Skene of Rubislaw's Ballad Manuscript.	
Wm Macmath"	
[Copies of OL (a) Nos.XXVII; XXVIII; XXIX (10 lines) pages numbered 119-125.]	
Contents [Wm Macmath's hand. 3 ff.]	17
Advertisement from F. J. Child's English and Scottish Popular Ballads. Apr. 1894, with reference to William Macmath.	
(To be continued)	

BROUGHTY FERRY, ANGUS

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