A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts 1730-1825: Part V

William Montgomerie
William Montgomery

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1730-1825

Part V

The Glenriddell Ballad Manuscript

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 Ellidand 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.

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

1 There is also a Glenriddell Burns MS of “Poems Written by M’ Rob’
Burns and selected by him from his unprinted Collection, for Robert Riddell
of Glenriddell Esq.” 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.

2 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. Most of the notes were written by Robert Burns.

*The Glenriddell Ballad MS*¹

(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:²

Auctions in Scotland


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.³

Eight volumes of the "Collection" were purchased in 1866 by Adam Sim of Culter Maynes, from Mr. Ogders, Unitarian Minister at Bath, through the instrumentality of Mr. R. E. Peach of the library there.⁴ 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

¹ 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.

² See Mr. H. S. Gladstone's MS in Vol. II of the MSS.

³ John Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century* (London, 1812), III, 693. One assumes that our MS was among the effects sold.

⁴ "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).

⁵ See 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 correspond-
ing with David Laing, it was not till two years later that William
Macnath 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),

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. . . .

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 no good reason to believe that his MSS. were all thoughtlessly destroyed long ago.*

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

Vol. XI (1791)

Jock of Milk and Jean of Bonsbaw (& Notes) 1
A Fragment of an Old West-border Ballad.
The Duke he was a bony Lad . . .
. . . To guard the lovely thing.
4a3b4c3b (89 st.)
H 1 120 (89 st.) a 2


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Archie of Cawfield (& Note)
An old west Border Ballad.
As I was walking mine alone . . .
. . . But now the night I am set free.
4abcb (30 sts.)
Ch. 188B Archie of Cawfield
(Note)
Adieu Madam my Mother dear . . .
. . . And Lord Maxwell has ta'en his good night.
4a5b4c3b4d3e4f3e (8 sts.)
Ch. 195B (16 sts. of 4 lines)
Lord Maxwell's Last Goodnight

Sir Andrew Barton (& Note.)
[Broadside Version]
When Febus with her fragrant flour . . .
. . . till they come to my Broy' Kings land.
4abcb (56 sts.)
Ch. 167Bh "Sir Andrew Barton"

Fair Helen (& Note)
(Dr. Claperton's sett)
My sweetest Sweet and fairest Fair . . .
. . . On fair Kirkconnel Lee.
4aaa3b (14 sts.)
G XI.46 (16 sts.)az
(Notes)
Lads of Wamphray are old Ballad——
sometimes called the Galliard
(& 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)
Lochmaben Harper
(from Dr Claperton of Lochmaben)
Hard ye tell of the silly blind Harper . . .
. . . The Foal was better than ever the Mare.
4abcde(ref.) (15 sts.)
Ch. 192B The Lochmaben Harper

14
18
20
29
31-33
34
37-38
39

The Blind Harper of Lochmaben (and Air)
(from a MS Collection of Mr Henderson)
Heard ye c'er of the silly Blind Harper...
... And weel paid shall they cowte foal be.
4abcb (21 sts.)
Cb. 192Aa The Lochmaben Harper

Where 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
(Notes) 49-54
The Fray of Sowpart (& Notes)
Sleeping Sim o' the Lam-hill...
... My Gear's weal toon.
aabb... (8 sts. of different length)
(Notes)

The Border Lament after the Union 1710

Ae misty Noon I laid me down...

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

The Laidley Worm of Spindlestonebug (and Note)
(A song 500 years old made by the old Mountain Bard Duncan Frazier living on Cheviot A.D. 1270.)
[Introduced by 4ll. of Latin verse.]
The King is gone from Bambrough Castle...
... Some part of it in time.
4a3b4c3b (39 sts.)
Cb. I. 312 (Appendix)

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.

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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 box 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 a number of 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.10

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

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

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<td>It fell about the lames time . . .</td>
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<td>. . . Durst na Plunder the bonny house of Airly.</td>
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<td>I was bat seven year alld . . .</td>
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<td>. . an ther he Did her Burne.</td>
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<td>Aft have I Playd att the Cards an the Dice . . .</td>
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<td>aa the skippers of merry Lothen . . .</td>
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<td>. . . bat young Allan Alive.</td>
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V. from Spray to the border . . .
VI. our quins seek an very seek . . .
    Earl Marchel sud ben gared Dec.
    4a3b4c3b (17 sts.)
    Ch. 156B (V. 241) Queen Eleanor's Confession
VII. Our King Lay musing on his bed . . .
     God have mercy on my poor men an me.
     4abcβ (13 sts.)
     Ch. 164 (V. 245 [listed only])
     "King Henry Fifth's Conquest of France"
VIII. The Earl of Aboyn heis carritis an kind . . .
      Or I had Lost Bonny Margt Irvien.
      4a3b4c3b (18 sts.)
      Ch. 235C (V. 270) The Earl of Aboyne
IX. Rob roy fra the high Hillands . . .
      bat takit for yer Hame Lady.
      4a3b3c (16 sts.)
      Ch. 225A (V. 262) Rob Roy
X. The water of gamry
      Willie is fair an wille Rair . . .
      for wes baith sleek 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 Masion,
     or, Clyde's Water
XII. quin Marys Marreys
      my father was the Duke of York . . .
      an fra the Gallatree.
      4a3b4c3b (24 sts.)
      Ch. 173F (V. 246) Mary Hamilton
XIII. the crafty Aual Carl came oere the Lea . . .
      we following the Gabrelunny man.
      4a3b4c3c3b (10 sts.)
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No.  

(King James the 4 wrat this an was the Gaberluny 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 Beichen

XV.  Lamken was as gued a masson . . .  
. . . was burnt in the cadron was she.
  4a3b4c3b  (14 sts.)
  Ch. 931 (V. 229)  Lamkin

XVI.  the Lord of Drum  
Ther was a Kniht . . .
. . . An ye ha ane to spend.
  4a3b4c3b  (16 sts.)
  Ch. 236B (V. 272)  The Laird o Drum

XVII.  Bony Catrain Jaffry  
Bonny Catrain Jaffrie . . .
. . . an tain ther Bried a way
  4a3b4c3b  (20 sts.)
  Ch. 221E (V. 260)  Katharine Jaffrey

XVIII.  the Duck of Arguill  
Hear am I a valint Scot . . .
. . . an yes never be my Deary.
  4aaa3b  (15 sts.)

XIX.  Hundly Mar an Marchel . . .  

XX.  ther was a Lady fair an rear . . .  
. . . it was his ain Kittchen Boy.
  4a3b4c3b  (38 sts.)
  Ch. 252A (V. 277)  The Kitchie Boy

XXI.  Comarnad it is a very bonny Place . . .
. . . but fue halled Richard Story.
  4a3b4c3b  (11 sts.)
  Ch. 232B (V. 270)  Richie Story

XXII.  [written at top of p. 23, in error. There is no XXII.]

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

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No.  
XXXI. the Spanish Lady  
O wad ye hear of a Spanish Lady . . .  
XXXII. the Lady of Liveston  
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  
Willie was a rich mans son . . .  
. . . an a gallant Knight was hee.  
4a3b4c3b  (29 sts.)  
Ch. 101D (V. 235)  Willie o Douglas Dale  
XXXIV. Earl richerd  
ther was a shepherds Daughter . . .  
. . . for the Love of the.  
4a3b4c3b  (40 sts.)  
Ch. 110N (V. 237)  The Knight and the  
Shepherd's Daughter  
XXXV. The Shiperd boy  
Shiperd Boy what is yer trade . . .  
. . . by the followung of her Laddie.  
4aa3b  (15 sts.)  
Ch. 280A  The Beggar-Laddie  
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 Eagh or ninge.  
7aa  (26 sts.)  
Ch. 279A  The Jolly Beggar  
XXXVII. Elisa Bailly  
As I Came in by Carron sid . . .  
. . . the heallend Lad to marry.  
4a3b4c3b  (9 sts.)  
Ch. 227b (V. 265)  Bonny Lizzie Baillie  
XXXVIII. Captain Wederburn  
The Lard of Roslies Doughter was walking on the  
green . . .  
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XXXIX. Ther Lives a maid in Edinbrugh Citty . . . 49
    . . . An that fair Creatur ye we.
      4a3b4c3b (20 sts.) Ch. 226H (V. 264) Lizzie Lindsay

XL.  *The old town Colleg ball* 51
    from the west heallends our Cours we Did stear . . .

XLI. *Lady Dayisie* 52
    Ther was a king an a worthy king . . .
    . . . An Allass spak never mare.
      4a3b4c3b (15 sts.) Ch. 269B Lady Diamond

XLII. Ae simmer night fan blobs o Dew . . . 53
      4a3b4a3b (16 lines)

[End of MS OL (a)]

[Not numbered in MS]

[XLIII]. Huntley Mar & Marchel . . . 1

[XLIV]. [John Wilkes]
      Wilkie waked in [ ] Street . . .
      . . . Come meat me if ye Dar dar.
        4abcb (5 sts. & chor.)

[XLV]. A we bird came to our baar Door . . . 3
      (by William Glen, 1789-1826)
      Notes by James, Skene on "Young Tolquhoun",
      "Lord Woolers Daughter", "John o Benachie", &
      "The Earl of Cumbernaulds Daughter".

[XLVI]. twd Side tune 5
      What is the suit Brathing Jasime & Rose . . .
        3abab (2 sts. & chor.)
        H I. 128 (4 sts. & chor.)
        JH Jac. Rel. I, Song LXXV.

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S T U D I E S I N S C O T T I S H L I T E R A T U R E

No.

[XLVII].  Marc House tune

Oh hou could I venter or Dar to revell . . .
(8 lines)
PB (BM) II. 228b (3 stts. of 8 lines)
[by John Skinner. Tune, Alloa-House]

[XLVIII].  The King has written a Brod Letter . . .

. . . Good Lord Dariuanwater was Dumed to Die.
4a3b4c3b (13 stts.)
Ch. 208J (V. 254) "Lord Derwentwater"
[p. 8 blank]

List of Pieces [not an Index]

[p. 10 blank]

[End of MS OL (b)]

Supos ye will be a Dead woman . . . [Facsimile]

[p. 12 blank]
[Edinburgh Bibliographical Society’s Transactions,
Vol. I No. 187.]
—Ballad MSS., Facsimile.)

[same fragment as previous item]

"This is the concluding portion
 inserted betw.
p 119 to 125 inclusive — which came
into my possession on 20th April 1893, of
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.]
Advertisement from F. J. Child’s English and
Scottish Popular Ballads. Apr. 1894, with
reference to William Macmath.
(To be continued)

B R O U G H T Y F E R R Y, A N G U S

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