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

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WILLIAM MONTGOMERIE

A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts
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 Elliland 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.

STUDIES IN SCOTTISH LITERATURE

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

*The Glenriddell Ballad MS*

(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:  

* 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.

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

*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. Cromeck's *Reliques of Robert Burns* (London, 1808) is untrustworthy, and as most references to SMM(I) before J. C. Dick come from Cromeck they should be checked by reference to Dick.*

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

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

*I think I told you of the Glenriddell MS which I procured at Carlisle, from which the Lads of Wampstair, Lord Maxwell's Goodnight & Archie of Cafeal 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).*

*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 corresponding with David Laing, it was not till two years later that William Macmather 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).
STUDIES IN SCOTTISH LITERATURE

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 MSS. 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.*

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 Lin

Vol. XI (1791)

Jock of Milk and Jean of Bonsbaw (& Notes)  
A Fragment of an Old West-border Ballad.

The Duke he was a bony Lad ... 
... To guard the lovely thing.
4a3b4c3b  (89 sts.)
H I 120 (89 sts.) a 2


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SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

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 Bro’ Kings land.
4abcb (56 sts.)
Ch. 167Bh “Sir Andrew Barton”

Fair Helen (& Note)
(Dr. Clapperton’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 Clapperton 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
Studies in Scottish Literature

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.)
Cb. 192Aa The Lochmaben Harper

Where Helen lies — oldest Edition (with Air & Notes) 46
(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) 58

The Border Lament after the Union 1710 59
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 Spindlestonbeg (and Note) 71
(A song 500 years old made by the old Mountain Bard
Duncan Frazier living on Chevior 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.

[96]
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.\textsuperscript{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>4a3b4c3b</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>... we following the Gaberluny man.</td>
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<td>4a3a3b4cc3b</td>
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(King James the 4 wrat this an was the Gaberlun
man himself)
Ch. 279 Appendix (V. 115)  The Gaberlunzie-Man

XIV. Young Beachen  14
Young Beachen as Born in fair London . . .
. . . well Ansuared was she.
4a3b4c3b   (30 sts.)
Ch. 53D (V. 218)  Young Beichan

XV. Lamken was as gued a masson . . .  16
. . . was burnt in the cadron was she.
4a3b4c3b   (14 sts.)
Ch. 931 (V. 229)  Lamkin

XVI. the Lord of Drum  17
Ther was a Knigh . . .
. . . An ye ha aine to spend.
4a3b4c3b   (16 sts.)
Ch. 236B (V. 272)  The Laird o Drum

XVII. Bonny Catrain Jaffry  17
Bonny Catrain Jaffrie . . .
. . . an tain ther Bried a way
4a3b4c3b   (20 sts.)
Ch. 221E (V. 260)  Katharine Jaffray

XVIII. the Duck of Argyll  19
Hear am I a valint Scot . . .
. . . an yes never be my Deary.
4aaa3b   (15 sts.)

XIX. Hundle Mar an Marchel . . .  20

XX. ther was a Lady fair an rear . . .  20
. . . it was his ain Kittchen Boy.
4a3b4c3b   (38 sts.)
Ch. 252A (V. 277)  The Kitchie Boy

XXI. Comarnad it is a very bonny Place . . .  22
. . . 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.]  [100]
SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

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XXIII.  fair Margrat of Gregner       23
       fair margrat of gregner . . .
       . . . ther blessing 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 Annet
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.  Earell is a Bonny Place . . .   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 below Strathbogy.
       4a3b4c3b   (13 sts.)
       Ch. 294    Dugall Quin
XXVIII. Edom of Achendoon            31
       it fell about the Martimas time . . .
       . . . god safe my Gay Ladie.
       4a3b4c3b   (23sts.)
       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 sts.)
       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 sts.)
       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 Livinston*  
we was sisters we was seven . . .  
. . . out of ther midders sides shorn.  
4a3b4c3b  
Ch. 91G (V. 227) *Fair Mary of Wellington*  
XXXIII. *Willie of Duglass Daille*  
Willie was a rich mans son . . .  
. . . an a gallant Knight was hee.  
4a3b4c3b  
Ch. 101D (V. 235) *Willie o Douglas Dale*  
XXXIV. *Earl richerd*  
ther was a shepherds Daughter . . .  
. . . for the Love of the.  
4a3b4c3b  
Ch. 110N (V. 237) *The Knight and the Shepherd's Daughter*  
XXXV. *The Shiperd boy*  
Shiperd Boy what is yer trade . . .  
. . . by the followeing of her Laddie.  
4aaa5b  
Ch. 280A *The Beggar-Laddie*  
XXXVI. *ther was a wife in yon toune*  
ther is a wife in yone toune End an she has Dother three . . .  
. . . I wad haa made ye Lady of castels Eaght or ninge.  
7ea  
Ch. 279A *The Jolly Beggar*  
XXXVII. *Elisa Bailly*  
As I Came in by Carron sid . . .  
. . . the hesslend Lad to marry.  
4a3b4c3b  
Ch. 227b (V. 265) *Bonny Lizzie Baillie*  
XXXVIII. *Captian Wederburn*  
The Lard of Roslies Doughter was walking on the green . . .
No. page

... An they baith Lay in ae bed an she Lays nest the

4aabb (very fragmentary) (15 strs.)

Ch. 46Bh (V. 216) Captain Wedderburn’s

Courtship

XXXIX. Ther Lives a maid in Edinbrugh City...

... An that fair Creatur ye we.

4a3b4c3b (20 strs.)

Ch. 226H (V. 264) Lizzie Lindsay

XL. The old town Colleg ball

from the west heallends our Cours we Did stear...

XLI. Lady Dayisie

Ther was a king an a worthy king...

... An Alass spak never mare.

4a3b4c3b (15 strs.)

Ch. 269B Lady Diamond

XLII. Ae simmer night fan blobs o Dew...

4a3b4a3b (16 lines)

[p. 54 blank]

[End of MS Ol (a)]

(Not numbered in MS)

[XLIII]. Huntley Mar & Marchel...

[XLIV]. [John Wilkes]

Wilkie waked in [ ] Street...

... Come meat me if Ye Dar dar.

4abcb (5 strs. & chor.)

[XLV]. A we bird came to our baa Door...

(by William Glen, 1789-1826)

Notes by James, Skene on “Young Tolquhoun”,
“Lord Woolers Daughter”, “John o Benachie”, &
“The Earl of Cumbernauls Daughter”.

[XLV]. [ ] Side tune

What is the suit Brothine Jasime & Rose...

3abab (2 strs. & chor.)

H L. 128 (4 strs. & chor.) a

JH Jac. Rel. I, Song LXXV.

[103]
[XLVII]. Marz House tune
Oh hou could I venter or Dar to revell . . .
(8 lines)
PB (BM) II. 228b (3 sts. of 8 lines)
[by John Skinner. Tune, Alloa-House]

[XLVIII]. The King has written a Brod Letter . . .
. . . Good Lord Daruanwater was Durned to Die.
4a3b4c3b
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.XXXVII; 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)

Broughty Ferry, Angus

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