The Manuscript of Donald Mac Donald Junior.

We know little about the original writer of this manuscript except that he was a son, possibly the youngest son, of Donald Mac Donald the famous pipe maker. The manuscript was borrowed and copied in or about 1914, then returned to its owner, but has not been traced since.

It is stated that the MS was inscribed “Donald MDonald Piper 72nd Regiment of Highlanders March 16th 1826”. Donald junior had won prizes for piobaireachd playing at the annual competitions in Edinburgh, the 5th prize in 1821, 4th in 1823, 3rd in 1824, 2nd in 1826. He never won the 1st prize and at present we do not know if he ever had the opportunity to compete for it.

He was presumably taught primarily by his father, as is suggested by his music notation and settings of tunes.

The extant copies of the tunes are not in a single volume but are separated and distributed through the relevant folders of the Kilberry papers, which are now in the National Library of Scotland as MSS 22098-22117. The present facsimiles are taken from photocopies, by courtesy of the National Library.

It has obviously not been possible to check the copies against the originals but they give every sign of having been made with great care. Each tune has a page reference such as F.1, F.1, evidently meaning ‘folio 1, line 1’. From the line (i.e. stave) numbers it is possible to tell that the original manuscript had six staves to the page. Normally ‘folio’ instead of ‘page’ would mean that the music writing was only one side of each leaf. From the continuity of these numbers it is possible to tell that the copy is complete, and the manuscript was probably complete also. It is thought that all the writing was by the same man, except for the last tune, starting on F.63, which was written in pencil and dated 2 December 1850.

In the main body of the MS the symbol of a double slant line means ‘repeat the previous phrase’ not to be confused with a double bar line which is written vertically in the usual way. See for example the tune ‘Sutherland’s Gathering’ on F.28.

Roderick D. Cannon

August 2008
A Bhraich Bhaan 5
Battle of Millroy, The 9
Battle of Sherrif Muir, The 7
Big Drunkard, The [The Little Spree] 60
Brather a’ n' amhildaich 3
Caid’n Dudh thanic Dhu 14
Children’s Lament, The 44
[Chisholm] 12
Clan Ronald’s March to Edinburgh 6
Colin a Ruun 4
Coolin 13
Cumadh Chraobh na’n’ Cheud 36
Cumh Alister Yerich 10
Cumh con Mhic aoidh 49
Cumh Eoin Ghairbh Mhic Ghille Challum Rarsey 1
Cumh na Coslag 7
Donald Bain MacCruimen’s Lament 15
Failte Lady Margeret 41
Failte na Leodich 40
Finlay’s Lament 48
han a Fer ick oll 11
Little Drunkard, The [The Big Spree] 56
Mac niels of Barrows March 30
Mac Queen a Royag 34
MacDonald’s Gathering 25
MacDonald’s Salute 33
MacIntosh’s Lament 43
March i Dubh Lord Bradalbane 9
Massacre of Glencoe 53
Menzies Salute 23,
55

[My King has Landed in Moidart] 14
Norman J. MacLeod’s Salute... 63
O’Kelly’s Lament 6
Porst na Ludag 8
Ribau Gorum 12
Subieskie 10
Sutherland’s Gathering 28
Brather am amhildaich.
Bass divided in lower ink than the rest.
Clan Ronald's March to Edinburgh.
On margin is written in more recent ink: "Sir Jas. D'Urquhart's Salute"
The Battle of Milroy
The two in folio 289A is the same as folio 289B, cataloged as "Miscellaneous music on a miscellaneous air, a nameless burn from the Angus Medley and other MSS."

The title or the sheet there is no concordance in F. B.'s finding list.
The tune is in folder 289A. Is this the same as folder 289B, cataloged as "Miscellaneous sheet D", perhaps cut out of a nameless tune from the singer Musley and other MS?"?

It is also on the list, though there is no concordance in F. B.'s Judaeo HEB.
Macdonald's MS.
F.M., L.A.

Haa a fer iek oll
John bar this tune.

[Music notation]
Name "Glissons" superscribed in pencil
Completely scored out in contemporary ink

F. 15.

Note prefixed in pencil: "My thing has landed in M."
Donald Bain Macruimen's Lament
1. Perhaps D.  2. Perhaps E.  3. Perhaps D.  4. These notes which appear to be high C and G sometimes be intended to be A.  5. Uncertain if this is intended for a note in the original.
MacDonald's Gathering
Macnichols of Barraw March

Codeword and grisa recently written. They have been copied twice already.
This notation here may be intended to be struck or marked out as may also some of the others.

3. Right to G, C, B, 3d. Right to D (or otherwise, versus to D).

This whole time is very carelessly written and it is difficult to know what is meant in some places.
This part possibly scordato not to be repeated
MacSìthigh's Lament

// Confused mixture, but this is probably what is intended.
O. Macdonald's MS.

Massacre of Glenve
Merrises Salute

This note will extend down through the bar in smaller positions might be A flat.

Please remember - see Note on PS 15 531

Continued from F 23 45