

The End of the Competition

The last of the competitions sponsored by the HSL, and run by the HSS, was held in Edinburgh in July 1844. Three years later, in March 1847, when the next triennial competition was imminent, the HSS determined to withdraw its services, and to recommend that the HSL approach the Celtic Society as a more suitable body to run the competition. (The Royal Celtic Society records give no indication that they were in fact approached). [HSS Sd. Bk. 20: 531].

The reasons for the HSS's withdrawal were several. From the very outset the Society had put less emphasis on its cultural remit than had the HSL, and from the outset had been eager to stress that it ran the competition on behalf of the London Society, with no financial liability of its own. As its agricultural concerns came to predominate, particularly from approximately 1810, it indicated on several occasions a growing distaste for its cultural commitment. Several such incidents (particularly with respect to piping), are enumerated in Table V(1). In 1815, when the committee was debating a grant for Alexander Campbell's Albans Anthology, it was discovered that the original sub-clause relating to "the language, poetry and music of the Highlands" had actually been written out of the charter [HSS Sd. Bk. 5: 104]; and in 1825 the

1825 the committee noted pointedly that the piping competition should be "distinguished from the proper business of this society." [HSS Sd. Bk. 8: 263]. At much the same time the Society determined to extricate itself from any further involvement in Gaelic Scholarship, and with the publication of the Dictionary in 1828 the Celtic Committee went out of existence. [Black 1986: 34].

The 1830s and 1840s were significant years in the sense that founder members of the Society, who had enthusiastically promoted Highland cultural matters, began to pass away: Sir John MacGregor Murray died in 1822, Henry MacKenzie in 1831, Sir John Sinclair in 1835, and finally Charles Gordon, the long-serving and industrious secretary, in 1845. [Ramsay 1879: 521]. He was succeeded by John Hall Maxwell, one of the new breed of Society members - practical innovators and agriculturalists with little time for cultural ephemera.

Margaret Fay Shaw has summarised this general shift in attitude towards Gaelic cultural concerns as follows:

"After 1820 interest in Ossian and Gaelic music and literature died down. The second generation of Highland Lairds to be educated in England became entirely Anglicised. The utilitarian ideas associated with the industrial revolution and, in some parts of the Highlands, the evangelical revival of the 1820s and 1830s, were alike hostile to Gaelic folklore." [Shaw 1977: 74. Cited Black 1986: 35].

This shift in attitude within the HSS was made explicit in 1834, with re-incorporation under the new title "The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland". This

reflected the Society's avowed intention to continue "its attention to the improvement of agriculture and the different branches of rural industry". [Ramsay 1879: 220]. Not long after this the Rev. John MacIntyre felt constrained to remind readers of Sàr Obair that the Society had once

"had reference to the mental culture of their Caledonian countrymen, instead of as now, unfortunately, to the physical development of the points of the inferior animals." [MacKenzie 1841: 325].

What little enthusiasm the Society retained for the Edinburgh piping competition must have been eroded in the 1840's, when a combination of circumstances produced financially poor years. [vide Table II/3]. The financial difficulties perhaps reflected a decline in popular appeal of an event which had been so long established; the general malaise of the economically depressed and socially volatile 1840s [Smout 1986: 7-32]; and specific organisational difficulties prompted by the retirement of J.G. Dalryell after 1838, leaving the event in the hands of members with limited organisational know-how, and limited enthusiasm for the task in hand. [Dalryell Gen 379D: 10].

The Northern Meeting and Provincial Competitions

The HSL's reaction to the HSS's withdrawal of its services is unfortunately not on record (the appropriate

minutes being lost), but its solution in the long-term was to transfer sponsorship to the pre-established pibroch competition at the Northern Meeting in Inverness.

The Northern Meeting was established in 1778, and comprised a week of Society balls and equestrian amusements akin to the Race Week in Edinburgh. [Pollitt 1981: 168]. A Highland Games organised by Macdonnell of Glengarry was added to the list of amusements in 1822, and piping competitions were introduced for the first time in 1841. [Pollitt (ibid.); MacPhee 1984]. These included both a pibroch competition (for which the prize was initially a set of pipes), and also a competition for Strathspeys and Reels. The HSL first provided a Gold Medal for a competition of former winners in 1849, but appears not to have repeated the award until 1859, after which it became a regular feature. [Campbell A. 1955(a): 7]. By the 1890s the Gold Medal had been appropriated for the main pibroch event, rather than for the competition for former winners. [Campbell A (ibid); HSL 268: 28-31]. From 1875 the Society also awarded a Gold Medal for pibroch at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, which, like the Northern Meeting, was a long-established Society event. [vide Cal Merc 5/9/1822; HSL 268 28: 147]. The Buinn Oir (Gold Medals) at Oban and Inverness remain to this day the most sought-after accolades in competitive piping.

Prior to this time the HSL had already engaged in sponsorship of a growing number of provincial Highland

Games. The first body to benefit from this patronage was Alexander Macdonnell of Glengarry's extravagantly-named "Society of True Highlanders", established in Fort William in 1815. In 1816 the HSL contributed a piping award of £15 to the Society's first Highland Games, held "at the June market in Inverlochy". [HSL 268, 20: 201]. This can probably be considered the first provincial event of its type outwith Edinburgh, and functioned for many years despite occasional moral censure from the more high-minded of Scotsman contributors. [vide Scotsman 24, 191 (1817).]

The HSL sponsored the piping at Fort William quite generously until 1819 (in which latter year £20 was contributed), and also again between 1849 and 1855. [Table V(2)].

The event which really set the trend for all subsequent outdoor Highland Gatherings, however, was the St. Fillans Games, established by Lord Gwydir on scenic Loch Earn in 1819. (Fig. XIII) [Porteous 1912: 72-77]. It was at this event in 1823 that we first get indication of a regular reel-playing competition for the pipe [Handbill HSL 268, Box 19], and to this date, therefore, we can ascribe the introduction of Ceòl Beag piping competitions. The HSL provided prizes for the Games between 1823 and 1828: these were generally in cash, but in 1823 and 1825 came in the form of copies of MacGregor Murray's Poems of Ossian - prizes designed to both delight and educate.(1) The winner of the pibroch competition was, as in Edinburgh, presented with a prize pipe.

The event was held towards the end of August, and incorporated all the basic ingredients of the modern games - piping, dancing, running and throwing events, shooting and boat races, and a lavish buffet for the fashionable members of the St. Fillans Highland Society, clad, naturally, in the Highland dress. [Logan 1876 II: 321]. It was an impressive spectacle, and certainly appealed to the Caledonian Mercury reporter who witnessed the 1822 Gathering:

"The shrill notes of the bagpipe, reechoed by the surrounding hills, and, above all, the grand and romantic features of the mountains, the lakes and rocks, and the woods, which distinguish Loch Earn, rendered the meeting of the St. Fillans Highland Society one of the most interesting and beautiful scenes that can be imagined."
[Cal Merc 9/9/1822].

The establishment of the St. Fillans Highland Society opened the floodgates for a spate of Highland and Athletic Societies, which combined the current enthusiasm for the romantic Highlands, with the equally current vogue for athletic self-improvement.(2) Table V(2) details provincial Games subsidised by the HSL prior to 1860. As the Caledonian Mercury pertinently observed [22/6/1826] these were chiefly concentrated in Perthshire, and it is clear from the Society records that a prime mover in this respect was General David Stewart of Garth, who was responsible for disbursing the HSL funds to the St.

Table V/2

HIGHLAND GAMES SUBSIDISED BY THE HSL, PRE-1860

Event	Years Sponsored By HSL	Amount	Society Details	Sources
Society of True Highlanders. Fort William Games.	1816-1819 1849-1855	£15-£20 £5	Society of True Highlanders. Est. June 1815 by A Macdonnell of Glengarry. "A Pure Highland Society."	<u>Inverness Journal</u> 23/6/1815 19/7/1816 <u>ECL W/ML/46,III:37</u> <u>HSL</u> 268,26:201 27:6/4/1822 43:3
St. Fillans Highland Gathering	1823-1828	£5-£10	St. Fillans Highland Society. Est. 1819 by Lord Gwydir.	Porteous 1912:72-77 Logan 1876 II:321 <u>HSL</u> Records - see Note (1)
Strathearn Highland Gathering (at Muthill)	1825-1829	£5	Strathearn Highland Friendly Society. Est. 1823. Ranald MacDonald of Staffa president (1826).	<u>HSL</u> 268,15:Hand Bills 1825 1827, 1828 Also Boxes 3, 7, 21
Dunkeld Highland Gathering	1826-1828	£5	Dunkeld Highland Society. Est. c1826. General Stewart of Garth president.	<u>HSL</u> 268:3/17/27
Atholl Highland Gathering (at Bridge of Tilt)	1827-1828	£5	Atholl Highland Meeting. Est. 1825.	<u>HSL</u> 268:15/27 <u>E.E.C.</u> 22/8/1840
Stirling Annual Gathering	1829 1840	£10-10-0 £5-5-0	Stirling & Bannockburn Caledonian. Society. Est. c1823.	<u>HSL</u> 268:3/4/5/6/17/18/19
Lonach Highland Gathering	1845-1855	£5	Lonach Highland Society, Strathdon. Est. 1823.	<u>HSL</u> 268:18/20
Braemar Highland Games	1849-1855	£5	Est. c1832.	<u>HSL</u> 268,28:19 268:18/20
Kintail Highland Games	1849-1851	£5	Kintail Highland Society.	<u>HSL</u> 268:18/20

Fillans, Dunkeld and Atholl Gatherings in the 1820's. [e.g. HSL 268, 27: 5/5/1827, 3/5/1828]. The athletic and gymnastic associations were primarily concerned with the "preservation and encouragement of manly national games and exercises" [Highland Club of Scotland, Rules HSL 268: 15], a goal which coincided with the athletic pursuits at the Highland Games. Many of the athletic clubs held their own games with pipers in attendance (3), and the oldest of all, the St. Ronans Border Club (est. 1827), maintained its own piper, Angus Cameron. The report on the 12th Annual Meeting of the Club, in August 1838, recounted how

"At 10 o'clock, piper Angus from Rannoch struck up the Border Air 'Come gather, come gather, brave sons of the Heather' ... ", and the Games commenced. [Cal Merc 9/8/1838].

Conclusions

It is in the modern Highland Games that the influence of the Highland Societies of London and Scotland on piping, dancing and the Highland dress is most apparent. The very existence of modern competitive piping and dancing has root in the early competitions organised by the Societies in Falkirk and Edinburgh. The fact that the piper takes to the boards wearing the kilt; that he submits a list of tunes for the judges' scrutiny; that even to this day he can occasionally expect to be judged by a man of questionable musical calibre - these are all facets of an

ethos of competitive piping established during the great Edinburgh competitions.

Clearly the Highland bagpipe has evolved somewhat since the period under study. It is now played in the many countries of the world in which the Scottish regiments made their mark, and on the home front the social divide between patron and piper is less marked than of yore. The age of estate piping has come and gone, and most modern practitioners pipe merely as a hobby, albeit with a degree of dedication which would be hard to surpass. Competitive piping is the back-bone of modern piping practice. The winning of the HSL's Gold Medal is highly prestigious (although of limited pecuniary advantage), and the competitions keep alive the venerable art of Ceòl Mòr for which, unfortunately, there are few cultural outlets other than on the competition platform.

The nature of the Ceòl Mòr played nowadays undoubtedly has a good deal to do with the Highland Societies' encouragement of staff notation in the early nineteenth century, and their later preferential patronage of the MacKay style of notation and playing. We may not play our music exactly as MacKay wrote it, but his influence is nevertheless to be discerned in many of our tunes. The 1781 competitor, could he but witness it, would doubtless be surprised at the modern uniformity of playing styles, tune arrangements, titles and piping lore, but such is the price we have had to pay for the benefits of staff notation, and for the drift of Ceòl Mòr away from

its cultural roots in the Gaidhealtachd. If the modern Scot finds in pibroch the confusion of "tunes without measure or end"(4), this is an understandable reflection of his remoteness from the cultural idiom in which the music was engendered.

The HSL itself never lost faith in the propriety and value of its patronage of pipe music. In 1813 Sir John Sinclair boasted that

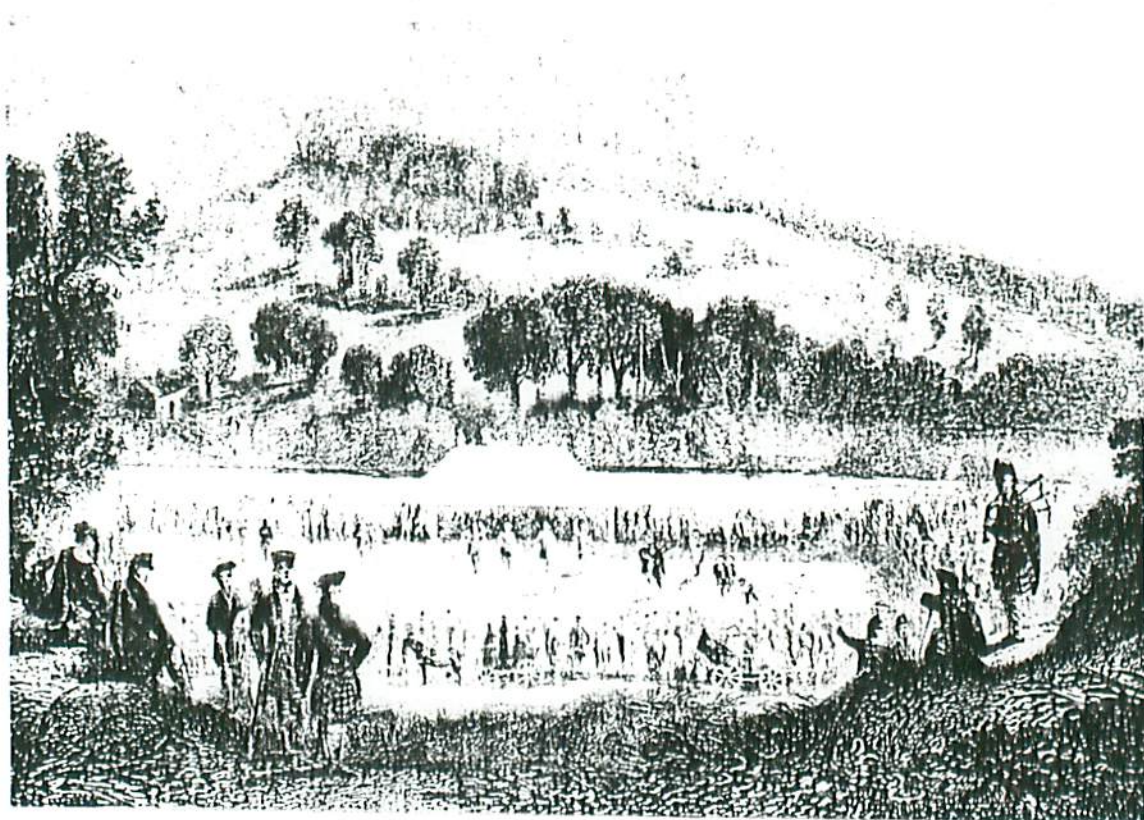
"Had it not been for the exertions of the Society, the army would not have been supplied with Highland pipers, so rapidly was that species of music sinking into oblivion". [Sinclair J. 1813: 14](5).

He perhaps exaggerated, but the evidence of contemporary history does suggest that the Highland Societies, and the landed interests they represented, did much to revive and sustain the fortunes of the Highland Bagpipe during an uncertain period in its history. Beyond this, they helped ensure a healthy future for the instrument, both in the military context, and on the estate. The nineteenth century was probably a good time to be a piper - there was work aplenty on the estates, and there was a good competition circuit on which the best players could expect to make fair earnings. The mother of all competitions, however, remained the Edinburgh competition - with its lavish prizes, fine surroundings, and appreciative audiences. This event has become firmly established in piping lore (Appendix XI), and it was from this event that much of modern piping derives.

Notes to Chapter V

- (1) For details of HSL Prizes for the St. Fillans Games see:
HSL 268, 27: 1/2/1823, 3/5/1823, 22/3/1824,
5/2/1825, 7/5/1825, 20/4/1826,
22/1/1827, 5/5/1827, 3/5/1828.
See also Handbills in boxes 15 and 19.
- (2) James Logan enumerated the following Societies in 1848: The Celtic, Bannockburn, St. Fillans, Atholl, Braemar, Strathearn, Glasgow, Perth, Dunkeld, Ft. William, and Dornoch Societies; the Hollyrood and Roslyn Gymnastic clubs; the St. Ronans Border club; the Heather Club of Edinburgh. Logan J. Gaelic Gatherings [London 1848: 210].
- (3) e.g. see "Roslyn Gymnastic Club" [Cal Merc 20/7/1838].
"Leith Gymnastic Games" [Cal Merc 22/7/1844].
- (4) From Hugh MacDiarmid "Bagpipe Music".
In The Complete Poems of Hugh MacDiarmid
[Edinb. 1985 I: 665].
- (5) In 1808 Colonel Colyear Robertson communicated much the same message to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex:
"The Highland Society has for many years past applied about £140 p.a. in premiums, to the best performers on the Highland pipe, without which that species of music, from the change of manners and ability in the Highlands, would in all probability have long ere this time sunk into oblivion". [HSL 268, 25: 25].

Fig. XIII ST. FILLANS HIGHLAND GATHERING. Watercolour (c.1830s).
[Provenance uncertain]



APPENDICES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

IN DUNN'S ASSEMBLY ROOM.
ANCIENT MARTIAL MUSIC.

PLAN of the COMPETITION for PRIZES,
TO BEST PERFORMERS ON THE
GREAT HIGHLAND PIPE.

To begin at Eleven o'Clock forenoon, of TUESDAY the 30th August, 1785.

ACT I.

- | Pipes. | English Translators. | Candidates names and Givers. |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Ceon Drochaid Beg. | 1. A Salute by Professor M ^r ARTHUR. | |
| | { <i>Head of the Little Bridge, or the</i> } To be played by John M ^c Gregor, sen. from Fortingall, who | |
| | { <i>Came on's Gathering.</i> } won the first Prize at Edinburgh last year. | |
| | 3. A Piece by Peter M ^c Gregor, who won the first Prize at Falkirk Competition. | |

ACT II.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | <i>The arrival or welcome—A Salute,</i> | John Cumming, Piper to Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart. |
| 2. Fàilte Shìr Sheumais, | <i>Sir James M^cDonald's welcome,</i> | Robert M ^c Intyre, Piper to John M ^c Donald, Esq; of Clatonauld. |
| 3. Cumhaidh Mhìc an Leathain. | <i>The M^cLean's Lament,</i> | John Cumming. |
| 4. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Robert M ^c Intyre. |
| 5. The Lame, | | Alexander Lamont, Piper to John Lamont, Esq; of Lamont. |
| 6. Glàif-mheur, | <i>A favourite Piece,</i> | Colin M ^c Nab, Piper to Francis M ^c Nab, Esq; of M ^c Nab. |
| 7. Moladh Mharai', | { <i>A Piece in praise of Mary, or the</i> } | Alexander Lamont. |
| 8. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | { <i>Laird of M^cLeablan's March,</i> } | Colin M ^c Nab. |
| 9. The Lame, | | Donald Gun, Piper to Sir John Clark of Penaycuick, Bart. |
| 10. Cumhaidh Mhìc Chruimean, | { <i>The Lamentation of Patrick More</i> } | Donald M ^c Intyre, sen. from Rannach. |
| | { <i>M^cCrianan.</i> } | |

A HIGHLAND DANCE after Act II.

ACT III.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11. The Grants March, | | Donald Gun. |
| 12. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Donald M ^c Intyre, sen. |
| 13. The Lame, | | { Dougal M ^c Dougal, Piper to Allan M ^c Dougal, Esq; of Hayfield. |
| 14. Pìobrachd Erecnach, | <i>An Irish Pìobrach,</i> | { John M ^c Pherfon from Badenoch, Piper to Colonel Duncan M ^c Pherfon of Cluny. |
| 15. Fàilte Shìr Dheorais, | <i>In praise of the Laird of Callandar.</i> | Dougal M ^c Dougal. |
| 16. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | John M ^c Pherfon. |
| 17. Teachd' am Phionnfai' gu Mui-deard, | { <i>The Landing in Moydart,</i> } | Hugh M ^c Gregor, from the stewartry of Montecath. |
| 18. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Malcolm M ^c Pherfon, from Breadalbane. |
| 19. The Lame, | | Hugh M ^c Gregor. |
| 20. Glàif-mheur, | | Malcolm M ^c Pherfon. |

A HIGHLAND DANCE after Act III.

ACT IV.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 21. Leannan Dhonnail Chruimeich, | <i>Donald's Love,</i> | { Donald Fisher from Breadalbane, who won the second prize last year. |
| 22. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Archibald M ^c Grigor from Fortingall. |
| 23. The Lame, | | Donald Fisher. |
| 24. Leannan Ghìoll Chruimeich, | <i>The Stern Lad's Sweetheart,</i> | Archibald Macgrigor. |
| 25. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Alexander M ^c Grigor, from Fortingall. |
| 26. Ceon Drochaid Mhoir, | <i>Great Bridge,</i> | John M ^c Grigor, from Glenlyon. |
| 27. Shìsleach Strach Ghlais, | <i>Chisholm's March,</i> | Alexander M ^c Grigor. |
| 28. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | John M ^c Grigor. |
| 29. Pìobrachd Shìabh an t Siora', | <i>Sterryfmuir, a Pìobrach,</i> | { John M ^c Grigor jun. a boy of twelve years of age, son to the above John M ^c Grigor from Fortingall, who won the prize last year. |
| 30. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Donald M ^c Lean of Edinburgh. |

A HIGHLAND DANCE after Act IV.

ACT V.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 31. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | The boy John M ^c Grigor. |
| 32. Cumhaidh Eon Ghuidh, | <i>Lamentation of Rough John,</i> | Donald M ^c Lean. |
| 33. Shìobhal Mhìc Allain, | <i>Clanranald's March,</i> | { Donald M ^c Intyre jun. from the estate of Sir Robert Menzies of that ilk, in Rannach, Perthshire. |
| 34. Pìobrachd Mhìc Dhonnail Dhuibh, | <i>Cameron's Gathering,</i> | { Paul M ^c Innes from Lochabar, Piper to John Cameron, Esq; of Callert. |
| 35. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Donald M ^c Intyre jun. |
| 36. The Lame, | | Paul M ^c Innes. |
| 37. Shìobhal Mhìc Allain, | <i>Clanranald's March,</i> | Allan M ^c Intyre of Edinburgh. |
| 38. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | { John M ^c Pherfon from Strathpey, late Piper to the Atholl Highlanders. |
| 39. The Lame, | | Allan M ^c Intyre. |
| 40. Cumhaidh an Aoin Mhìc, | <i>Lamentation for an only Son,</i> | John M ^c Pherfon. |
| 41. Glàif-mheur, | | Duncan Stewart from Rannach. |
| 42. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | John Dewar from the estate of Sir Robert Menzies. |
| 43. The Lame, | | Duncan Stewart. |
| 44. Ceon Drochaid Mhoir, | <i>Head of the Great Bridge—a Pìobrach,</i> | John Dewar. |
| 45. Shìabh an t Siora', | <i>Sterryfmuir.</i> | Ronald M ^c Donald, from Culloden. |
| 46. Fàilte a' Phionnfai', | | Robert M ^c Dougal from Fortingall, Perthshire. |
| 47. The Lame, | | Ronald M ^c Donald. |
| 48. Moladh Mharai', | <i>In praise of Mary,</i> | Robert M ^c Dougal. |

A HIGHLAND DANCE after Act V.

The whole to conclude with a Piece by Professor M^rARTHUR.

Appendix II

COMPETITION SOURCE DATA

	Caledonian Mercury	Scots Magazine	H.S.S. Sederunt Books (1)	H.S.L. Minute/Accounts Books (2)	H.S.L. Correspondence/Misc. Records (2)	J.G. Dalrymple Notebooks (3)	A. Campbell Notebooks (4)	Other
1781		(43):553				351D:50 371D:96		E.E.C.(5) 15/10/1781; Dalrymple 1849:94, 99, 101
1782					Minutes: Box 15			E.E.C. 19/10/1782
1783				34:1783	Letter: Trigge 4/11/ 1783 Box 1 Letter: Donaldson 13/12/1783 Box 1			E.E.C. 20/10/1783 " 27/10/1783 Dalrymple 1849:95, 96 Glasgow Mercury 23/10/1783
1784		(46):552,3	1:45-50	34:3 (1784)	Letter: Robertson 29/10/1784 Box 1 Letter: MacKenzie 7/10/1784 Box 1			E.E.C. 29/9/1784 " 16/10/1784 " 20/10/1784
1785	3/9/1785	(47):414	1:82, 84-87	21:31, 2 34:9 (1785)				Dalrymple 1849:282; 84; 96-97 Seton Gordon NLS/Acc 7451/19/3
1786	26/7/1786 29/7/1786 2/8/1786	(48):359		34:2/8/1786	Handbill: Box 15			
1787	21/7/1787 26/7/1787	(49):360	1:160, 189	34:July 1787				
1788	24/7/1788 26/7/1788 31/7/1788	(50):359	1:212	34:1788				
1789	1/8/1789	(51):410	11:16	34:1789				
1790	10/7/1790 12/7/1790 15/7/1790	(52):533		34:1790				Edinburgh Evening News 17/7/1790
1791	16/7/1791	(53):360	11:136, 7, 155	34:27/6/1791				E.E.C. 21/7/1791

	Cal. Merc.	Scots.Mag.	HSS Sd. Bk.	HSL Min. Bk.	HSL Misc.	Dalyell	Campbell	Other
1792	16/7/1792 26/7/1792		II:210	34:1792				
1793	6/7/1793 11/7/1793		II:288, 9 327, 333	34:1793		425D:103		
1794	14/7/1794 17/7/1794 20/7/1794		II:258	34:1794				
1795	9/7/1795 23/7/1795	(57):476	II:443	34:1795				
1796	18/7/1796		III:69	34:1796				E.E.C. 21/7/1796
1797	13/7/1797 24/7/1797 29/7/1797	(59):501	III:113, 146, 161, 196	34:1797				
1798	21/7/1798 30/7/1798 2/8/1798	(60):574	III:230	34:1798				
1799	25/7/1799 3/8/1799 8/8/1799	(61):574	III:296		<u>Receipts</u> :Box 16			
1800	21/7/1800 24/7/1800		III:445	34:1800				
1801	13/7/1801 16/7/1801			34:1801				
1802	17/7/1802 22/7/1802	(63):705	III:535	34:1802				
1803	16/7/1803 21/7/1803	(65):581		24:35 34:1803				
1804	21/7/1804 28/7/1804		IV/1:101,2	24:59 34:1804				

	Cal. Merc.	Scots Mag.	HSS Sd. Bk.	HSL Min. Bk.	HSL Misc.	Dalyell	Campbell	Other
1805	20/7/1805 1/8/1805	(67):644	IV/1:141	34:1805				
1806	17/7/1806 4/8/1806 7/8/1806		IV/1:221, 234	34:1806		351D:52		Letter MacRae 8/7/1806 Ingliston A.V. 1(3)
1807	27/7/1807 6/8/1807			24:138 25:19 34:1807	Letter: Gordon 12/8/1807 Box 1		I:26,27	
1808	16/7/1808 28/7/1808		PMB:4,5	34:1808		351D:52	I:27,28	
1809	20/7/1809 3/8/1809		PMB:6	25:68,69 34:1809		351D:53	I:28,29	
1810	14/7/1810 2/8/1810		PMB:6,7	25:100,101 34:1810			I:29,30	Black 1986:25,26
1811	15/7/1811 27/7/1811			25:126 34:1811			I:30,31	
1812	16/7/1812 27/7/1812 30/7/1812		PMB:7	34:1812		351D:52	I:31,32	Sinclair 1813:70
1813	10/7/1813 26/7/1813 31/7/1813		IV/2:555	34:1813		351D:52	I:32-36	
1814	1/8/1814 6/8/1814	(76):714		34:1814		351D:52	I:36-41	
1815	31/7/1815		PMB:8	26:109-120				
1816	3/8/1816		V:311	34:1816			I:43-45	
1817	14/7/1817 19/7/1817						I:45-47	

	Cal. Merc.	Scots.Mag.	HSS Sd. Bk.	HSL Min. Bk.	HSL Misc.	Dalyell	Campbell	Other
1818	18/7/1818 25/7/1818		PMB:8		Letter: Gordon 25/7/1818:Box 1 ARP(6):Box 19	351D:52		
1819	21/7/1819 31/7/1819		VI:112				I:10,11, 50,51	
1820	17/7/1820 22/7/1820				Receipt: Box 17	351D:52	I:15,16	
1821	30/7/1821 4/8/1821				Letter: Gordon 4/8/1821 Box 19 ARP:Box 19		I:18,19, 52-57 II:1-4	
1822	29/7/1822 3/8/1822				ARP:Box 19	350D:36,37	II:4-24	
1823	2/8/1823		PMB:3, 9,10	27;1/2/1823	Judges List: Box 19 ARP:Box 19	351D:53	II:24-41	
1824	17/7/1824 21/7/1824		PMB:2, 11-22		List of Pipers: Box 15 ARP: Box 17 Handbill: Box 19 Receipt: Box 17	351D:78	II:41-56	
1825	11/7/1825		PMB:25-38		Receipt: Box 17	355D:13-15	II:56-63	P.T.: May 1984 Dalyell 1849:102
1826	15/6/1826 22/6/1826		PMB:43-50, 55 IX:394 X:175	27:5/5/1827	Letter: Gordon 27/10/1826 Box 2 " Gordon 7/6/1827 Box 2 Receipt: Box 17 ARP: Box 17	356D:7		
1829	1/8/1829		PMB:59-62, 66- 72, 76, 80 X:120, 175-176	27:3/5/1828 27:7/2/1829	Letter: Smith 2/4/1828 Box 3 " Gordon 16/4/1828 Box 3 " " 26/7/1828 Box 3 " " 28/4/1829 Box 3	358D:67, 81-86		Dalyell 1849:97

	Cal. Merc.	Scots Mag.	HSS Sd. Bk.	HSL Min. Bk.	HSL Misc.	Dalyell	Campbell	Other
1832	28/7/1832		PMB:81-101, 138	14:4/4/1829 14:2/2/1833	Letter: Gordon 5/5/1841 Box 6 " Gordon 2/5/1838 Box 5	360D:38-44	I:1	
1835	23/7/1835		PMB:103, 119- 120, 125		ARP: Box 19	369D:40, 41, 49-56		Dalyell 1849:100 Seton Gordon NLS Acc 7451/19/3
1838	26/7/1838		PMB:136-148		Letter: Gordon 2/5/ 1838 Box 5 Handbill: Box 19 Programme: Box 19 ARP: Box 19 Letter: Gordon 25/5/ 1839 Box 5	378D:54-59		Seton Gordon NLS Acc 7451/19/3
1841	22/7/1841		PMB:157-164, 150, 153		Letter: Gordon 5/5/ 1841 Box 6 " Gordon 15/5/1841 Box 6	374D:14-18		Seton Gordon NLS Acc 7451/19/3 Dalyell 1849:105,106
1844	15/7/1844		PMB:1844		Letter: Gordon 10/6/ 1844 Box 6 " Gordon 8/7/1844 Box 6 ARP: Box 19 Programme + Bill: Box 19	379D:9-15		Dalyell 1849:105,106

Footnote: Sources

- (1) HSS Records. Royal Highland and Agricultural Society, Inghliston. Comprise early Sederunt Books; Piping Minute Book (HSSPMB, from 1824); correspondence, indexed and catalogued by R. Black.
- (2) HSL Records. National Library of Scotland, Deposit 268.
- (3) J.G. Dalyell Notebooks. Edinburgh University Library. Laing Collection. Gen 350D; Gen 425D; Gen 427D; Gen 351D-382D.
- (4) A. Campbell Notebooks. Two typescript notebooks of material from the HSL Records. Loaned by James Campbell, Kilberry. Contains references to material no longer in NLS Dep. 268.
- (5) E.E.C. Edinburgh Evening Courant.
- (6) A.R.P. Accounts of Receipts and Payments for the Edinburgh Competition. Surviving Accounts are in Dep. 268.
- (7) Angus Mackay in his 1838 Collection (15-20) included a "Circumstantial Account of the Competitions". This material is largely quoted verbatim from the contemporary Newspaper Accounts.

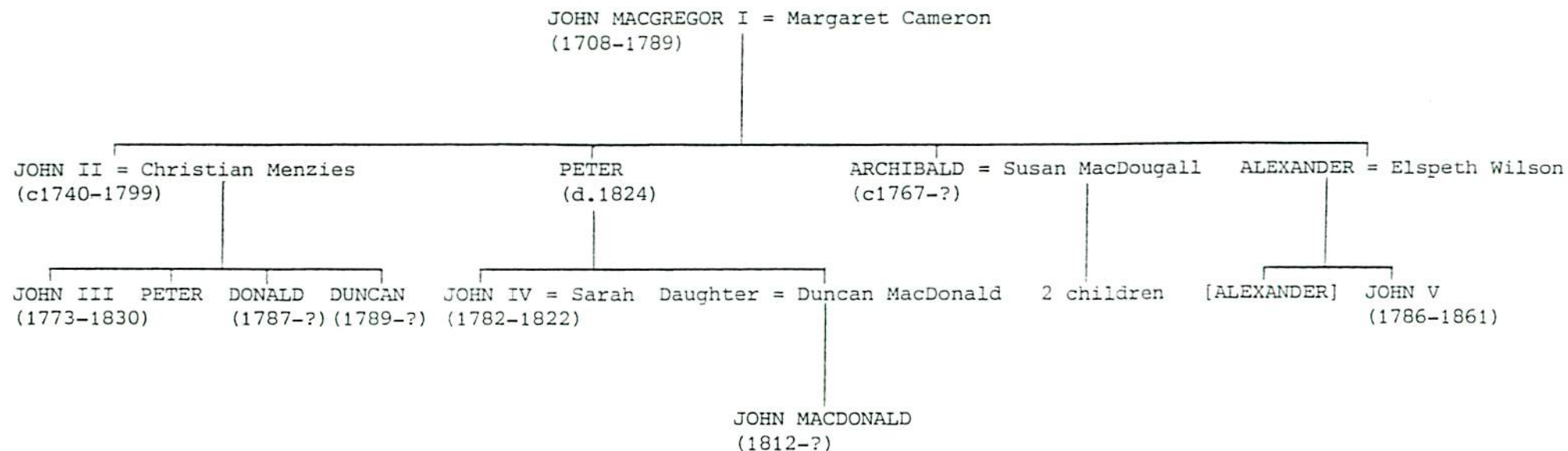
Appendix III

THE MACGREGORS OF FORTINGALL

(A) References cited in this Appendix

- (1) Competition Records.
- (2) Alexander MacGregor. "The aged Piper and His Bagpipe." Celtic Magazine [5(1879-80):404-5]. First published in The Perthshire Courier 26/3/1857; reproduced in Gaelic in An Gaidheal [5(1876):19-21].
- (3) Henry Whyte. "Clann an Sgeulaiche". Celtic Monthly 20(1912): 207-8.
- (4) Archibald Campbell of Kilberry. "The MacGregor Pipers of Clann an Sgeulaiche". Piping Times July/Aug/Sept 1950.
- (5) Capt. John MacLellan. Genealogical Tree in International Piper [March 1979:22].
- (6) DGC Burns "John MacGregor of Fortingall and his descendants". Scottish Genealogist 29 (1982):105-8. Burns largely draws on the forementioned sources, with additional matter from the Baptismal Register of Glenmuick Parish.

(B) JOHN MACGREGOR AND HIS PIPING PROGENY



Data: The numbering of the various Johns is based on A Campbell (4). Main genealogical data is from Burns (6), but dates are only included if proved accurate. Dates provided by MacLellan (5) are speculative, and in many instances wrong.

(C) Biographical information on John MacGregor I ("Iain Mac an Sgeulaiche", 1708-1789) is detailed in Ch III. On the evidence of John V, he had 4 piping sons, and 8 piping grandsons (2):

1. John MacGregor II (c1740-1799). Eldest son of John I. Competed in 1782 when piper to the HSL (2nd prize), and in 1784 (1st prize). Became first piper to hold Breadalbane c1786, and is mentioned in that capacity in 1790, 94, 95 and 99, in which year it is believed he died. He played exhibition tunes at the competition in 1785, 86 and 90. Stated in 1784 that he had "taught above 50 military pipers himself" and was "the eldest of five sons (sic?) taught by their father John MacGregor, together with 90 other pipers." [Scots Magazine 46 (Oct 1784):552,3]. Performed for the HSL, 1791/92. [HSL 268:34]. Sources: (1), (4), (5). His sons were:

(a) John MacGregor III [1773-1830]. Son of John II and mentioned in 1783 as grandson of John I "not above 12 years old." Competed in 1784, 85, 86, 89 (3rd prize), 90, 91 (2nd prize) and 93 (1st prize). Described in 1784 as a boy of 11, and in 1785 as a boy of 12 who had "made great progress and gave great satisfaction" [HSS Sd.Bk.I:86]. Lived at Taymouth while his father was piper there. In 1793 was piper to the Breadalbane Fencibles. Succeeded his father as piper to Breadalbane in 1799, and was listed as such in 1822 when he gave an exhibition tune. Mackay in 1838 stated that he had died 8 years previously, aged 59. [Mackay A 1838:16]. Sources: (1), (4).

(b) Peter MacGregor. Son of John II. Competed 1794 (3rd prize) and 1795 (1st prize). Source: (1)

(c) Donald MacGregor (1787-?). Son of John II. In 1802, aged 15, appointed piper to Menzies at Weem. [MacAulay A 1963] Competed 1806, 07, 08, 09 (4th prize), 10 (3rd prize), 11, 12 (1st prize). Initially described as from Taymouth, and from 1809 as piper to the Highland Regiment of the Perthshire Local Militia. Applied to compete for the Gold Medal, 1835, but was too late. In a letter to the HSS Secretary, dated Haddington 23 July 1835, he stated that he had been Sheriff Officer in East Lothian for 14 years.(4) In 1824 he was appointed Town Piper of Haddington in an attempt to revive an old tradition, but the post lapsed with his death. [Mooney 1985:14] Sources: (1), (4).

(d) Duncan MacGregor (1789-?). Son of John II. Competed 1806, 07, 08, 09 (3rd prize), 16. Listed as from Taymouth until 1809. Later P/m of the Centre Battalion, Perthshire Local Militia. Sources: (1), (4), (5).

2. Peter MacGregor ("Patrick Na Coraig"). d.1824. Son of John I. Competed 1781 (1st prize) when piper to Henry Balnaves of Adradour. Played exhibition tunes 1785, 1790. For further details see under HSL pipers, Ch. III. His son was:
 - (a) John MacGregor IV. (1782-1822). Son of Peter. Competed 1792 (aged 10) (3rd prize), 1798 (2nd prize), 1806 (1st prize). Exhibition tune 1807. For full details see under HSL pipers, Ch. III.
Source: (1)
 - (b) i. John MacDonald (1812-?). Grandson of Peter MacGregor by his daughter and Duncan MacDonald, Fortingall. Competed 1824, 25 (5th prize), 26, 29 (3rd prize). In 1824, when aged only 12, he was eliminated at the rehearsal but allowed to perform in public, where he "played his tune on the stage with much apparent ease, and in a manner remarkably correct for so young a performer." [Cal Merc 17/7/1824] Gained a 3rd prize at the Atholl Meeting in 1827.
Sources: (1).
3. Archibald MacGregor (c1767-?). 3rd son of John I. Competed in 1783 (2nd prize), 84, 85, 86, 87 (1st prize). Listed as from Fortingall until 1786, when he became piper to Campbell of Glenlyon. At his first attempt in 1783 he was awarded 2nd prize over his brothers, his father, and John MacArthur. (1) This incident was recorded by David Trigge: "Arch'd McGrigor, being asked if he thought himself a boy of 16 years better than his father, he said in answer if he was that, what for needed he be getting lessons from him? His father replied that he had given him all he could, but if he did not get more he would be lost." [Trigge D 1783:2] From Trigge's evidence we can date his birth to c. 1767. McLellan (5), followed by Burns (6), states that he died in 1797, but unless he died young, this is improbable. One might speculate that it was this man who was mentioned in Menzies' Bagpipe Preceptor in 1818, in the context of a discussion of the MacGregor pipers: "I must be content with the sound of Archie's pipe once a year, at a Highland wedding." [Menzies 1818:15]
Sources: (1), (5), (6).
4. Alexander MacGregor. 4th son of John I. Competed 1782, 85, 86, 90 (2nd prize), 97 (1st prize). Listed as from Fortingall until 1797, when he succeeded his brother Archibald as Glenlyon's piper. Performed as a former winner in 1817.
Source: (1). His son was:
 - (a) John MacGregor V (1786-1861). Son of Alexander. Competed 1807 (3rd prize), 08, 10 (2nd prize) and 11 (1st prize), in which years he was piper to William Farquarson of Monaltry (near Ballater in Aberdeenshire). Performed

as former winner in 1812 and 1815, listed as from "Appindow". Competed in the Gold Medal competition in 1835, and although he did not win, JG Dalyell considered his instrument "certainly the best". [Dalyell Gen 369D:52] Appointed as piper to the Duke of Atholl in 1812. Seen by Sir David Wilkie in Sept 1817, who described him as ... "a famous personage. He has got the complete uniform of his order (a kilt and plaid) [and] is a fine looking fellow. ... He plays regularly for half an hour before breakfast and dinner, and walks with stately majesty before the house." [Miles & Brown 1987:180] He features in the Wilkie oil The Death of the Red Deer (1821), and also in a Dighton made during the Royal Visit, 1822, when he acted as piper to the MacGregor contingent. [S.N.P.G.] 3rd in Pibroch at the St. Fillans Games, 1822; and piper to the Atholl Highlanders during the Eglinton Tournament, 1839. Retired from service to Atholl c1835, and was given a half-pension. In c1841, when old and in "straightened circumstances", he wrote to Alexander MacGregor, a native of Dull, regarding the pipes he inherited from his grandfather - and the information communicated forms the basis of Source (2). Miss Murray MacGregor of MacGregor recorded of him: "I saw the old man many years ago, and if I remember right he lived in a house somewhere about Appin of Dull, opposite Tirinie, and he was wont to play sometimes to the late Mr. Fletcher Menzies across the river."³ Died in Drumcharry 18 July 1861: listed as 75 years old, single, and a piper (6).
Sources: (1), (2), (3), (6).

- (b) Alexander MacGregor. A possible candidate for 7th grandson of John I, who might logically, on the strength of his name, have been son of Alexander, and brother of John V. This, however, is not proven. Competed 1813-1819, gaining 4th prize in 1813, but failed to better himself thereafter. From 1816 he was piper to the Gaelic Society of Perth.(1)

There are several other MacGregors mentioned in the competition records who might have been of the family. A John MacGregor, who was piper to Sir Robert Menzies at Weem, competed in 1786 and 1803, gaining 3rd prize in the latter year; another John, probably his son, was piper to Sir Neil Menzies, and competed in 1841 (5th prize) and 1844. He remained piper to Menzies until 1890, when the post passed to his son Neil, who features in a photograph of the Aberfeldy pipe band, c1906. [Whyte 1904:146; P.T. Jan 1980:17]

A John MacGregor, piper in the Edinburgh City Guard, gained 3rd prize at the 1783 Falkirk competition when still a teenager. Trigge described him as "very bad" [Trigge 1783:2], but possibly he improved and was the same John MacGregor from Glenlyon who competed in 1784 and 1785, and won the prize pipe in 1788; or even the John MacGregor,