

**Lament for MacLeod of Colbecks:** the single earlier source for this tune is Angus MacKay's *Ancient Piobaireachd*<sub>2</sub> (pp.149-52), where the piece—a composition of his father, John MacKay--was published for the first time. Careless proofing led to inaccuracies in many of the tunes in this book and suggest that MacKay was not involved personally in the later editorial stages. Even here, there was a note error in the ground:

'MacLeod of Colbeck's Lament', ground, line1, Angus MacKay, *Ancient Piobaireachd*, (pp.149-152)



The D semiquaver which begins bar 10 clearly should be B on analogy from other parts, and from the fact that the tune is constructed on a scale gapped at D. General C. S. Thomason (*Ceol Mor*, pp.163-4) opted for a C here, and elsewhere where the figure appears in the ground. Likewise, later editors from Thomason onwards have thought it desirable to substitute a dotted B quaver for MacKay's dotted C quaver as the second last note of the ground.

Another interesting feature of Angus MacKay's score is his characteristic setting of the Taorluath fogsailte as even quaver triplets in 4/4 time, as follows:



Later editors tended to rearrange these as semi- or demisemiquavers in 2/4 time, which was the preferred approach to such a movement by the time we reach the later 19th century as we see in C. S. Thomason, and in David Glen's MS (ff.373-6):

'Lament for MacLeod of Colbeck', taorluath fogsailte doubling, line1, C. S. Thomason, *Ceol Mor*, (p.163)



The tune was published in the Piobaireachd Society *Collection*, first series, (v, 15-18) with the title 'Lament for MacLeod of Colbecks'.

John MacLeod, 1<sup>st</sup>. of Colbecks, son of Donald MacLeod of Lewis, registered arms as the representative of the MacLeods of Lewis on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1762. He had made his money in the West Indies as a planter, with an estate at Colbecks in Jamaica. His first wife was Janet MacLeod, daughter of Malcolm MacLeod of Raasay and widow of Iain Dubh MacKinnon. The dedicatee of the tune was probably Colbecks's eldest son, also named John, who became Colonel of the MacLeod Fencibles, and married, in 1782, his first cousin Jane, or Jean, daughter of John MacLeod of Raasay. Col. John died, in London, in 1823, hence, presumably, the occasion of the lament: see Alick Morrison, *The MacLeods—the Genealogy of a Clan, section four The MacLeods of Lewis with several Septs including The MacLeods of Raasay* (Edinr., n.d.), pp. 15-16.

Electronic text © William Donaldson, Aberdeen, Scotland, 2001