



## Weighing from Land

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There are settings of this tune in the following manuscript sources:

- Angus MacKay**, ii, 85;
- Colin Cameron**, ff.100-101;
- D. S. MacDonald**, ii, ?56;
- John MacDougall Gillies**, ff.66-7;
- David Glen**, ff.270-271;
- McLennan Papers**, f.34;

and in the following published Sources:

- Ceol Mor**, p.241;
- Piobaireachd Society (first series)**, iv, 34.

In his notes in the *Piobaireachd Society Collection* (second series) Archibald Campbell states that "This tune is to be found in the Campbell Canntaireachd [...] The title given in the Canntaireachd is 'Called one of the Dead's Lament.'" (ii, 76).

However, although there are similarities, it is not quite the same tune. The **Nether Lorn** score is as follows (emendations in square brackets):

### 56 Called One of the Deads Lament

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hinde cheemto hinde cheoa two times hioe cheemdo hioe cheoa
- 2<sup>d</sup> Hinde cheemto hinde cheoa, hioe cheemdo hioe cheoa two times
- 3<sup>d</sup> Hinde cheemto hinde cheoa hioe cheemdo hio[e] cheoa

- D 1<sup>st</sup> HinI[e]mto hinIeoa two times hioIeemdo hioIeoa
- 2<sup>d</sup> HinI[e]mto hinIeoa, hioIeemdo hioIeoa two times
- 3<sup>d</sup> HinIeemto hinIeoa hioIeemdo hioIeoa

- D first Motion
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hinde himto hinde hioa two times hioe himdo hioe hioa
- 2<sup>d</sup> Hinde himto hinde hioa, hioe himdo hioe hioa two times
- 3<sup>d</sup> Hinde himto hinde hioa hioe himdo hioe hioa

### Taolive

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hindaende himbabemto hindaende hioaeoa two times hioaeo himbabemdo hioaeo hioaeo
- 2<sup>d</sup> Hindaende himbabemto hindaende hioaeo, hioaeo himbabemdo hioaeo hioaeo two times
- 3<sup>d</sup> Hindaende himbabemto hindaende hioaeo hioaeo himbabemdo hioaeo hioaeo



### Crulive

1<sup>st</sup> Chebandre himtodre chebandre hindadre two times chebandre himdodre hindodre hindadre

2<sup>d</sup> Chebandre himtodre chebandre hindadre, chebandre himdodre hindodre hindadre two times

3<sup>d</sup> Chebandre himtodre chebandre hindadre chebandre himdodre hindodre hindadre

This might suggest something along the lines of the following (ground and thumb variation line 1):



This occupies similar tonal territory to "Weighing from Land," and is obviously cognate with it; but "One of the Deads Lament" has a different rhythmical pattern.

Of his own setting, Archibald Campbell goes on to say "The style printed is that of Angus MacKay," but he silently corrects MacKay's siubhal doubling to make it square with the way the doublings are handled in the other variations, as it had been the practice of previous editors to do. He also silently drops MacKay's instructions to repeat the ground at the end of the taorluath fogsailte variations and again at the end of the tune. **Angus MacKay** set the tune as follows:

*Togail o' Ghir*  
*Weighing from Land.*

85



**Colin Cameron's** setting is marked "From the Original MSS by A. McK. Vol.2 p..85. This corrects MacKay's slip in the first variation singling by following the tonal pattern of the other variation doublings. Except that it does not indicate that the ground should be repeated after the taorluath fosgailte doubling, it adds little stylistically to MacKay, and is reproduced here because this was the form in which the tune came down to the present. It is entitled "Weighing from Land. A boat rowing tune" and is marked "Copyright Colin Cameron":

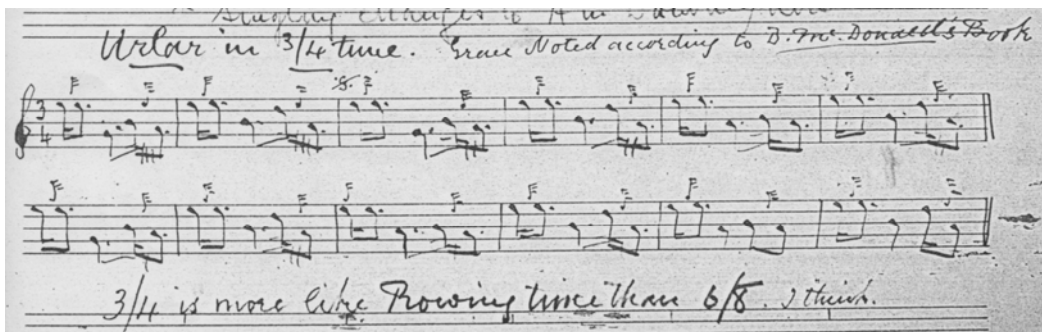


*Togail' a Thir*  
*Wighing from Land*  
*A Boat Rowing Tune*  
*From the original M.M. by A.M. Ed. 2 p. 13*

*Robert Bell Nicol*



"Weighing from Land" is a very stable tune which is more or less standard in the MS and published record following Colin Cameron's emendation of the tune. **David Glen**'s main setting is similar to Colin Cameron's and is not reproduced here. However, Glen has an interesting note in which he offers an alternative pointing and time signature, to give the piece a more decided character as a rowing tune, as he thought it:





The setting in the **McLennan papers** is a rough transcript from the Seaforth MS of Angus MacKay, interesting in showing that the McLennan family had access to this while it was in the possession of the Camerons, possibly through Sandy McLennan, son of Donald of Moy, who was a pupil of Donald Cameron. In this instance, however, the McLennan score adds nothing distinctive to the interpretation of the tune and is not reproduced here.

**D. S. MacDonald** adds nothing stylistically distinctive to MacKay and is not reproduced here.

**John MacDougall Gillies'** score is marked "'Weighing from Land a Boat Rowing tune' 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1884 J McDG.." Gillies follows Colin Cameron, even in the wording of the title, suggesting that he had access to this source, or to a transcript from it. It is not reproduced here.

**C. S. Thomason** gives his sources as Angus MacKay's manuscript and Donald MacKay, indicating that it was one of the tunes taught to the latter by Donald Cameron. Thomason's setting reflects that of Colin Cameron above, and it is not reproduced here.

**The Piobaireachd Society (first series)** takes a similar route through the tune, and is not reproduced here.

### *Commentary*

Thomason has a note in "Ceol Mor Legends" as follows:

In reply to inquiries, Pipe Major [Archibald] Paterson hears from his father in South Uist that this was composed by a piper of Mull on the occasion of an emigrant ship "Dubh Glannich" leaving the island for Charleston U.S.A. Date is not given but probably it was at the end of the last or the beginning of this century. (f.380)

Angus MacPherson commented critically on a setting of this tune issued by the Piobaireachd Society in the *Oban Times* as follows:

Cuhma Alasdair Dhearg...When I...compare the time given by the P.S. and what I learned there is as much difference as between the "Psalms of David" and the modern "Fox Trot." [MacPherson claimed that Weighing from Land, had been republished wrong, after the PS got it right first time round, and went on to give specific criticism of adding open fosgailte movements as an a mach. Of the Lament for Viscount Dundee he says] "This is a fine tune and a good setting, but whoever heard of a 'Crunluath Mach' being put on a 'Crunluath Fosgailte'? This tune, like 'Weighing from Land,' has a Crunluath Fosgailte and nothing else, and can be played either with the grip, which sounds so much better, or open, and, again, might well be left to the discretion of the performer, but to play it with the grip and then tack on the 'doubling' of an open crunluath and term it a 'Crunluath Mach' is entirely wrong." ("Piobaireachd Playing," Angus MacPherson, Inveran, 17/05/1924, p.3).

"Weighing from Land" is a strongly antiphonal tune and has to be played briskly to preserve the surging sense of onward momentum which is so important to its effect.



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