

THE SANDS of LUSKENTYRE

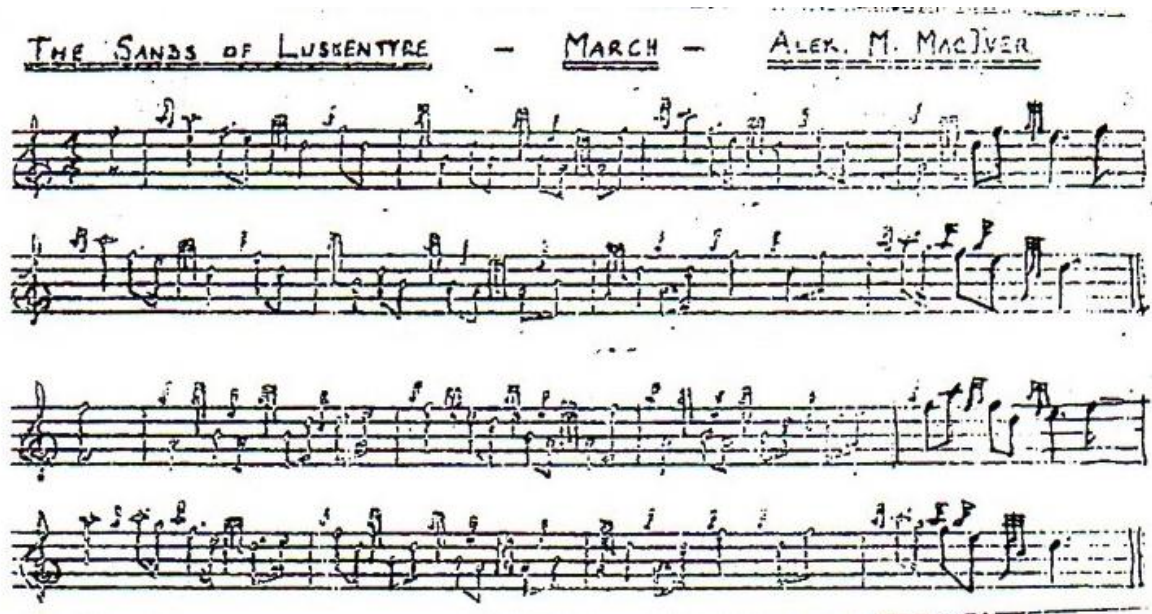
This was one of the last of Alex's tunes to be found, and our enthusiasm in reporting the find of "another MacIver Lewis- related tune" to the Lochs Historical Society was initially mildly rebuked. It is, in fact, a Harris name! It is an area of great natural beauty and attracts many visitors, often with an interest in photography.



Alasdair Mackay representing the "214" played this tune at BB House in the solos where he won first place playing a selection of tunes with The Sands Of Luskentyre as his opener. He was on that day the first recipient, as winner, of the Glasgow Battalion's President's Banner, shown below.

Alasdair, whose family have island roots in Skye, has played for many years with The Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band where he is one of their longest serving pipers. He lives in Stirling and is by profession an architect.

This copy of the original music was one of the most faded examples we found of Alec's tunes but thanks to Alasdair's forensic work we were able to recreate the tune and add it to the collection.



The Glasgow Battalion Presidents Banner and Alasdair with Douglas McColl to his right and Gordon Medlow to his left seen here on parade at the 214 70th. Anniversary Reunion in 1994 at Scotstoun Parish Church.



On parade here at the 214th 70th Anniversary Parade Band on the 9th Oct 1994: Ian McLellan, Gordon Medlow, Douglas McColl, Alasdair McKay, Davie Scott, John Finlay, Alex Connell, Stevie Littlejohn, Alan Davidson, Dougie Law, John McLeod, Finlay MacLennan, Willie Ellis, John MacLennan, Alan McColl, Stephen McQuillan, Hector Russell, Willie MacDonald, Joe Noble, Stirling McMurchie, Dan Finlay, Robert Turner, Iain Glass and George Seymour.

In recent years after the 214 BB was no longer in existence the Presidents Banner was won by Dan Finlay's pupil Andrew Livingston. Andrew is the son of Moira Livingston (King) and grandson of Joe King.



Luskentyre

The MacLennan brothers, all 214-trained pipers are Glasgow born of Scalpay parents therefore of Harris origin. However it should be noted that in the Gaelic a person from Lewis is a Leodhasach (Yeosach), one from Harris is a Hearach (Herach) and these four from Scalpay would definitely expect to be considered as Scalpach!



**Top left - Donald Iain MacLennan;
top right – John (Jockie) G. MacLennan, centre - Angus MacLennan,
front - Finlay M. MacLennan.**



Jockie was asked to tell us something about The Sands of Luskentyre; he said in reply:

What can I say about Luskentyre Hector, in my opinion it is the most beautiful and spectacular beach on the planet! The fact that Alex was inspired to write the tune does not surprise me; you really have to see the place to appreciate its beauty. The beach is on the west coast of Harris, and is a complete transformation from the rugged and rocky east coast of the island. For anyone visiting the island a visit to Luskentyre, indeed the whole west coast of Harris, is a must do.

***Slainte,
Jockie***



Jockie

To read more about The MacLellans and view them in their No.1 kit see the article titled *The Kyles of Scalpay*.