

## **P32 Papers of Henry Henderson (Bard of Reay)**

### **RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT**

Reference number: GB1741/P32

Alternative reference number:

Title: Papers of Henry Henderson (Bard of Reay)

Dates of creation: 1908-1945

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 bundle

Format: Paper

### **RECORDS' CONTEXT**

Name of creators: Henry Henderson (Bard of Reay)

Administrative history: Henry Henderson, whose pen name was The Bard of Reay, was born on a croft in Wester Borrowston, Caithness in 1873. He was educated locally and on leaving school helped his father on the family farm and with contract work in quarries. He was already interested in poetry and by the age of 20 had collected over 300 books. In 1892 he sent his first poem to the 'John O'Groat Journal' and over the next 50 years had over 2000 poems published in this and other newspapers. He also contributed regular articles on local history and issues and was noted for his strongly held views especially regarding crofting and land reform. Henderson was married in 1906 and he and his wife, Margaret, had nine children. In 1909 he was made sub postmaster at Dounreay, a post he held until his death. An active participant in many community activities, Henderson was a parish councillor in Reay and Bard of the Thurso Jolly Beggars Burns Society. He died in 1957.

Custodial history:

### **RECORDS' CONTENT**

Description: Poems, notes and letters

Appraisal:

Accruals:

## RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard  
Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

## ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: August 2011

Ref.	Description	Dates
<b>P32</b>	<b>Papers of Henry Henderson (Bard of Reay)</b>	<b>1908-1945</b>
P32/1	Poems, notes and letters of Henry Henderson, the Bard of Reay [1 bundle] <i>To The Man O' 1949. By the Ghost of Rabbie Burns</i> <i>A Rhymed Epistle to Mr. Glass of the Library Wick</i> <i>Don O' Shebster – Not far after Tam O' Shanter</i> <i>Braehungis Blethering. Air. McGregor's Gathering</i> <i>The Anti D.G. Demonstration</i> <i>The Ram O' Latheronwheel. An Old Latheron Folk-Song</i> <i>Tit Bits from a Highland Sporran</i> <i>On Braehingie taking to wearing glasses</i> <i>The Braes O' Braehungie in the Dawning. Neither "From" or "By" D.G. Henderson</i> <i>Thursday's Not His Day In Town. Henry Henderson the "Bard of Reay" with his poem on the late D.G. Henderson "Braehungie"</i> <i>Ishbel and "Beel Bauchles Merry Widow". Gangrel</i>	1908-1945

	<p><i>waifs and strays frae Beachenzie</i></p> <p><i>That Mannie D.G. Tune, "Bonnie Dundee"</i></p> <p><i>Braehungie and the Bird. A Ballad of Bridge Street.</i> <i>By the Bard</i></p> <p><i>The Braes O' Braehungie in the Dawning. Neither</i> <i>"From" or "By" D.G. Henderson</i></p> <p><i>The Best Dress'd Highlander! By a Poorly clad; ill fed,</i> <i>and Poverty-stricken son of the Glen</i></p> <p><i>The One and Only "Braehungie!"</i></p> <p><i>The "Sands o' Reay"</i></p> <p><i>Modernised! And Paying! Our Local and Provincial</i> <i>Editors Modern Methods and Requirements to make</i> <i>their Advertising Sheets. May 1949</i></p> <p>Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1944 from the Bard of Reay to a Friend</p> <p><i>The Decadence of a "Literary" Friendship by H.H. 29<sup>th</sup></i> <i>January 1944</i></p> <p><i>Second Version of the "Flower of John O' Groats" by</i> <i>the Bard of Reay, 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1943</i></p> <p><i>To the Memory of Archibald W. Killin, who died at</i> <i>Tavistock near Plymouth on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January</i> <i>1943, aged 74 years. By Henry Henderson, Buldoo,</i> <i>Reay, 9<sup>th</sup> Jany, 1943</i></p> <p>Letter by Henry Henderson "Bard of Reay" to a Friend, dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 1940, with criticism of some poems he has seen, one being Don o' Shebster</p> <p>Letter by Henry Henderson to John Glass dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 1940 and listing contents of his Book "My Booke of ye Braehungie"</p> <p>Postcard addressed to Mr. Glass, Assistant Librarian, Wick, with Poems thereon "Know Ye the Land?" The "Caithness Research Society" dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 1939</p> <p><i>An Unnecessary and Childish Apology. Henry</i> <i>Henderson's criticism of an Apology in the Caithness</i> <i>Courier of 15<sup>th</sup> October 1937 to Mr. D.G. Henderson,</i> <i>Tannach, for publishing a scurrilous perversity of the</i> <i>truth concerning the poem entitled "The Wily Widow"</i></p> <p><i>Satan Wagging His Own Tail. Publication by D.G.</i> <i>Henderson from an article entitled "Jamie Dollans" in</i> <i>the "Northern Times Golspie, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1939"</i> <i>Followed by Henry Henderson's remarks thereon</i></p> <p><i>Verses against publications by "A.D." (Of Edinburgh,</i> <i>Tannach, Hull, or Hell) Sgd. Magna Est Veritas 7<sup>th</sup></i> <i>March 1939 Pasted on the back is a letter published</i> <i>"Defence of "Norseman" Signed "A.D."</i></p>	
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Letter by Henry Henderson dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 1939 to a Friend

Letter by Henry Henderson dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 1939 to a Friend

*Verses to Charlie Docherty*

*Second Open Letter to Mr. Charles Docherty, Acting Editor of the "Caithness Courier", dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 1939 by H. Henderson*

*The Fox's Flitting: Yuletide 1938*

*Further Contribution for Jon Glass – Hys Booke yclept "Ye Booke of ye Baald Braehungie" Yuletide 1938 "The Bard of Reay"*

*Poem – Latheronwheel 7<sup>th</sup> Novr. 1938 with Letter attached to Mr. Glass Sgd. "Ye Bard of Mhiora"*

*A Ballad of Braehungie: and Buldoo. John of Latheron! And Henry of Reay. By "Bard of Reay" to D.G. Henderson, Braehungie, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1938*

Postcard sent by "Bard of Reay" to John Glass with Verse by Marwood Sutherland entitled To "Searcher" Thurso Aug. 1938, and with "H.H." comments 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1938

Letter by Bard of Reay dated 4<sup>th</sup> Octr. 1938 sending Mr Glass a copy of the Ballad of Braehungie and Buldoo

Letter by Henry Henderson dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 1938 to Mr Glass as to Braehungie not proceeding with his long threatened Libel Suit, and attached a copy of his latest Poem "Still in Tune"

*Poem "The Windsome Widow" From D.G. Henderson published in "Northern Times" 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1938*

*The Windsome Widow's Reply. By Bard of Reay. 28<sup>th</sup> June 1938*

*Epigram: On "Braehungie" by the "Caithness Laureate": The Devil – makes a tool of him! The "Bard of Reay" makes a fool of him.*

*Lines to a Famous Witches Tongue. From D.G. Henderson*

*The Famous Witches Reply. By Bard of Reay. 11<sup>th</sup> June 1938*

*A Born Poet criticises the vaperings of a very self important poetaster and doggerelist! By Henry Henderson. Attached is Poem entitled "My Auld Hame – A Dream by D.G. Henderson, Tannach, Wick, 26<sup>th</sup> May 1938*

*Braehungies Rhymin Mill by H. Henderson. 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

	<p>1938</p> <p>Letter by the “Bard of Reay” to Mr Glass dated 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1938 re. the Current Laureate Controversy in the John O’ Groat Journal</p> <p>Bard of Reay criticising poem of D.G. Henderson 4<sup>th</sup> February 1938, with Poem attached “By the Burnie” By D.G.H.</p> <p>Postcard to Mr Glass with Verse thereon and note to see Northern Times of 9<sup>th</sup> curt. “The Widow”</p> <p>Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1937 by Henry Henderson “Ye Bards of Reay” to Mr Glass sending him two further Ballads “That Mannie D.G.” and “Braehungies Blethering” 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1937</p> <p><i>Latheronwheel Strath in the Gloaming. From D.G. Henderson</i></p> <p><i>Reminiscences of Staxigo, Broadhaven and Elzay. (After a lapse of twenty long changeful...years. By the “Bard of Reay” 6<sup>th</sup> April 1937</i></p> <p>Letter by Henry Henderson to Mr Glass dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 1937 with further contribution towards “Ye Booke of Braehungie” etc.</p> <p><i>Jenny Gorm: Braehungie and the Devil. See Northern Times of 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1937. Verses by Henry Henderson, thereon</i></p> <p><i>End of a Joyous Bard. Composed by D.G.H. “Braehungie” Feb. 1925</i></p> <p>Postcard to Mr Glass from “Bard Reay” with some lines of a new poem</p> <p>Postcard to Mr Glass from “Bard Reay” 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1933. With “Two Epigrams”</p> <p><i>Esquire of Tannach By the Poet Laureate of Caithness. January 1933. From Mercantile Magazine of 1<sup>st</sup> March 1927 – Ode composed by native of Wick on leaving that famous City for the last time</i></p> <p><i>The Hoosie on the Heicht (A Poem that will warm the hearts of many exiled Caithnessians”. By “B”</i></p> <p><i>Evictions and how to cure them. By D. Stephen, Thurso</i></p> <p><i>The Bard of Reay laments the atom. By John Laurie, Dounreay</i></p>	
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