

name on it. My father, who came from a family of Lowland enlisters in the Highland Regiments, was a beautiful player of the highland bagpipes, making music out of that unpromising instrument. He was a “noted piobaireachd player” according to his obituary in the *Oban Times* and I believe he won medals there and Inverness. He was a lead piper in the Highland Pipers Society (--in Edinburgh--the working class equivalent to the posh other gentlemen’s society, to which he was often, condescendingly, invited to play!). MCC versus Players! He served in the Dandy 9th (9th Battalion Royal Scots) from 1914-1919 as a piper. He was pipe-major of the Edinburgh Home Guards and led their demobilisation parade along Princes Street in Edinburgh.

He wrote many other tunes, of various merit. He gave most of them away to friends, unnamed. The manuscripts were all given, by my brother, to Hector MacAndrew... a noted and excellent fiddler from the Aberdeen area...Hector may have been chiefly responsible for spreading “The Hills of Moffat”!

Myself, I think “John D Burgess” is the better tune. John did, though he also played “The Hills of Moffat”...

But you should have heard him play, as Burns had it, “jigs, strathspeys and reels”. His fingers fled, with joy and music...”



The Hills of Moffat from north of the town