

MacDougall search for a piper - 1845

Letter written by William Gunn to Mr (Alan) MacDougall regarding the search for a piper – Glasgow, March 4th 1845

Sir

Since writing you last I have learned where Hugh Lindsay is. As soon as I knew where he was, I wrote, stating that Captain MacDougall wanted a person to act as a piper and as a servant. His answer to me I here enclose for your perusal.

Hugh Lindsay's response to William Gunn's request for a piper at Dunollie- March 31st 1845

Dear Sir,

This day I received your letter of the 27th March stating your reception of your letter from Mr MacDougall of Edinburgh enquiring after a competent person to act the part of piper and valet to Captain MacDougall who is at present at Sheerness according to

your note I should be happy to serve Captain MacDougall in that capacity. But may mention to Alan MacDougall of Edinburgh that I find the proposed annual salary of £25 and a suit of tartans to be inadequate as a remuneration for a competent person to act or serve in the above capacity. Also that it is my wish to provide for my own clothing as well as pipes and Captain MacDougall would make one sum of one salary and clothing allowance. To your mention that Alan MacDougall is desirous of seeing the person and hear him play previous to an engagement, it would not answer me to go to Edinburgh from here and back at my own expense but should Alan MacDougall be inclined to see the said expense defrayed either by his transition of an adequate sum through the post office or his acknowledgement of the same being paid in Edinburgh on demand, I would have no objection to appear there. Should I get word soon -your letter – your message was missent to Huntly which caused its delay.

Yours truly,

Hugh Lindsay

Due to the above delay it appears that the search for a piper at Dunollie was continued in Perth – March 28th 1845

To Alan MacDougall (Edinburgh)

I received yours on the 25th stating that you wished a piper incase of Gilbert Gordon not coming to terms.

The only person I can recommend at present is a young man of the name James McLean. He has been four years a piper in the 92nd highland foot. His age is 22 years, his people not wishing him to be a soldier bought him of.

He is an active, steady, sober young man and will accept the offer, address James McLean, care of John

MacDougall pipe maker, pipe maker, High Street, Perth. Please let him know as soon as possible as he has another situation in view.

From John MacDougall (Perth)