War and the Media in Border Minstrelsy: The Ballad of Chevy Chase (book chapter)

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Abstract:
The ballad of Chevy Chase is a very old ballad, probably dating back to the fifteenth century and referring to events that transpired in the middle of that century or even back to the fourteenth century. Appreciated by writers and singers from feudal times to the age of Enlightenment, this ballad also crossed the line from oral culture to manuscript and printed text and back again—moving back and forth between broadside and song, sometimes part of a living tradition and sometimes an antiquarian’s souvenir. That it has a long manuscript and print tradition is evident from the number of tangible versions of it on paper, both reported and extant, dating from the sixteenth century onwards. But it was undoubtedly sung as well (and not all broadsides did enter the oral tradition) for many broadsides of other songs both in single sheets and garlands have the instruction “To the tune of Chevy Chase.” Moreover, several tunes were associated with this ballad, further indicating that it was sung.

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The ballad of “Chevy Chase” is about a battle fought in the borderlands between the forces of Northumberland’s Earl Percy and Scotland’s Earl Douglas. In the song, Earl Percy is the instigator, hunting in Scottish territory, the woods of Chevy Chase. Chevy Chase in March 2010, Wikipedia. CHEVYCHASE — the subject and title of a highly popular old English ballad, presumed to refer to an event in connection with the battle of Otterburn; there were strains in it which Sir Philip Sidney said moved his heart more than with a trumpet… TheNuttallEncyclopaedia. Chevy — Chev y , n . [ Written also { chivy }, and { chivvy } . ] Prob . fr . the ballad of Chevy Chase . It appears in the border minstrelsy collected by Sir Walter Scott and the Child Ballads. It is an account of the Scottish victory at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388. This battle also… The book is a continuation of the war of words between Scotland and England in the sixteenth century. The so called Rough Wooing of Mary, Queen of Scots, by Henry VIII of…… Wikipedia.