

HUNTER'S CORNERS

“ACROSS THE POND AND BACK AGAIN”

1. ENRICO (Trad. English) Notes by Brad

This well-known dance tune was one of Thomas Hardy's two favourites, the other being “Soldier's Joy”. It is found in many collections and we play it with a bit of a swing.

2. THE FOGGY DEW (Trad. Newfoundland) Notes by Brad

I first heard Ian Robb sing this on the LP *The Barley Grain for Me* (featuring Grit Laskin and Margaret Christl). It was collected by Kenneth Peacock from Mr. Everett Bennett of St. Paul's, Newfoundland and published in *Songs of the Newfoundland Outports* (1965).

3. FOURPENCE HA'PENNY FARTHING/THE GUILDFORD ASSEMBLY (Trad. English) Notes by Brad & Bill

The first tune is found in the *Joshua Jackson MS* (1798). The second is from *Thompson's Compleat Collection of 200 Favourite Country Dances, perform'd at Court, Bath, Tunbridge and all Public Assemblies* (1765-1772). We first heard this set on the CD *Shore to Shore*, a collaboration between Newfoundland musicians Jim Payne and Fergus O'Byrne and the Wren Trust of Devon, England.

4. MAURICE KELLY (Trad. Newfoundland) Notes by Bill

I got this song from Daniel Payne of Cow Head. Daniel learned it from Sidney Goosney (1919-2007) of Parsons Pond on the Great Northern Peninsula.

5. SHE'S LIKE THE SWALLOW (Trad. Newfoundland) Notes by Brad

This ballad was first collected by Maud Karpeles from Mr. John Hunt of Placentia Bay on July 8th, 1930. Kenneth Peacock recorded and published two more versions in *Songs of the Newfoundland Outports*. Edith Fowke collected an Ontario variant from Mr. Albert Simms. None of these versions include a fifth verse that is commonly sung today and we haven't recorded it here.

6. JOEY CLEMENTS/COMING FROM THE RACES/RED ISLAND TUNE (Trad. Newfoundland) Notes by Bill

I picked up these “singles” at various sessions in St. John's and thought they made a nice set. In Newfoundland a “single” is a fast dance tune nominally in 2/4 time. The first two are from, respectively, accordion players Cyril Flynn of Croque, and

Bridget Mahr (Frank's mom) of the Battery in St. John's. I don't know the origins of Red Island Tune, but I learned it from Danny Mills of the Freels. Gerry Strong made me play this set for Jackie Daly at a session in Carbonear. I was extremely nervous, but Jackie was very kind and remarked that they sounded like West Kerry polkas

7. WILD ROVIN' (Trad. English/Irish) Notes by Brad

This song started out life as an English Temperance song and ended up as an Irish drinking song! Like so many songs that become universally known, people often stop listening to the lyrics and just wait for the next chorus. Well, I've dropped the chorus and added a short refrain instead and changed the melody. The tune I've used is best known as the air for "The Next Market Day".

8. JACK THE SEA COOK (Trad. Newfoundland) Notes by Bill

I first heard this sung by John Roberts at a concertina workshop in Massachusetts and was intrigued by the story of a doctor procuring an illegal corpse for anatomical studies from some crafty sailors. I've since found a handful of variants, three of them from Canada, including "The Black Devil", once again collected by Kenneth Peacock from another member of the Bennett family (Freeman Bennett) of St. Paul's. Some other variations are known as "The Black Cook", "The Sea Cook" and "Three Jolly Jack Tars".

My version is based on Bennett's except that I've specifically set it in St. John's, and have given a name to the previously anonymous cook. I feel that this yarn of the triumph of wit and resourcefulness over authority has all the hallmarks of a traditional Newfoundland Jack Tale.

9. THE LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN (Trad. USA/Canada) Notes by Brad

This is a Nova Scotia version of an American song that was made popular in the 1970s by Irish acts like Planxty and Paul Brady. It was collected by Helen Creighton from Mrs. Thomas Osborne of Eastern Passage, N.S. and published in *Songs and Ballads of Nova Scotia* in 1932. We feel it has an almost Edwardian drawing room feel to it and Big Red, Bill's giant double-reeded South African concertina, sounds here a bit like the harmoniums used in parlour music!

10. THE CUCKOO'S NEST (Trad. English) Notes by Brad

Brad's solo performance of this three part setting of this familiar tune is taken from the *Vickers MS*, c. 1770, one of the oldest known versions. It is related to the hornpipe "Jacky Tar". Both are said to be descended from an old Scots Measure called "Jack Tar, Come Ashore, Your Trousers On".

11. JIM FISHER THE CALLER (Jack Hayes, Ontario) Notes by Brad
Solo performance by Bill. This quirky tune was written by an Ontario fiddler and
dance caller whose best-known and least attributed composition is “The
Lemonville”, a popular session tune commonly believed to be traditional. Hayes
wrote a vast number of tunes, many of which can be found on the *Ontario
Traditional Music Library* website curated by Ian Bell.
<http://www.ontariotraditionalmusic.ca/>

12. THE RED RIVER VALLEY (Trad. Canadian) Notes by Brad
This song is generally thought to be an American country and western song, but in
fact it is Canadian. Edith Fowke included it in her *Penguin Book of Canadian Folk
Songs*. She dates it to the time of the Red River Rebellion of 1870. It was known
in at least five Canadian provinces by 1896. The last two verses refer to an
interracial relationship between a young Indigenous or Metis woman and a white
soldier who was there under the command of Colonel Wolseley. They are
generally left out of most versions of this song.

Brad McEwen: Cittern & vocals

Bill Nesbitt: Concertinas, harmonica, jaw-harp & vocals

The Phantom Badger: Special guest accompaniment on track 5

Special Thanks to Fran Wade for fiddle on “Enrico”, “The Foggy Dew”,
“Fourpence Ha’penny Farthing/Guildford Assembly”, “Wild Rovin’”, “Lakes of
Pontchartrain”, “Joey Clements” set and “The Red River Valley”.
Accompaniment on “She’s Like the Swallow” by The Phantom Badger.

Recorded at the Badger Workhouse in Stroud, Gloucestershire, UK in September
2018 and July 2019. “Jack the Sea Cook” recorded by Ron Cole in Ancaster,
Ontario and mixed in Stroud. Mixed and Mastered in November 2019 and January
2020. Many thanks to Tony Curtis for his skill and endless patience.