

HUNTER'S CORNERS SONG & TUNE TITLES

JOE BANES' BARN DANCE (Trad.)

BOUND FOR ST. PETER'S (Trad. Newfoundland)

GENTIANNE MAZURKA (Trad. France)

THE WEAVER (Trad. Ontario)

LUCY FARR'S BARN DANCE (Trad. Ireland)

BROTHER JOHN (Trad. Newfoundland)

NORTHUMBERLAND WALTZ (Trad. Ontario)

RATTLE ON THE STOVEPIPE (Trad. Canada)

PORTSMOUTH/JAMAICA (Trad. England)

BIG BOW WOW (Trad. Newfoundland)

AWAY TO CANADA (Anon/Stephen Foster)

RUNNING THE GOAT (Trad. Newfoundland)

BROTHER JOHN (Trad. Newfoundland)

Bill learned this comic song from Daniel Payne of Cow Head, who got it from the late Sidney Goosen of Parsons Pond. Slightly different versions were collected by MacEdward Leach in 1951 and appear in Songs of Atlantic Canada.

NORTHUMBERLAND WALTZ (Trad. Ontario)

We learned this tune from Ian Bell, who found it in the Allan Ashe MS. Ashe was, amongst other things, an instrument maker and musician in Cobourg Ontario in the 19th C. He left a wonderful manuscript of tunes that remains unpublished. This one had no title, so Ian chose this one, since Cobourg was in Northumberland County.

RATTLE ON THE STOVEPIPE (Trad. Canada)

This song was collected by Edith Fowke from LaRena Clark. It appears to be related to the Riddle Songs. Apparently there is a somewhat different version in the USA and some of the verses turn up in other songs.

PORTSMOUTH/JAMAICA (Trad. England)

These two tunes were first published in John Playford's English Dancing Master. This is an amazing book that gives the tunes and dance steps for 100 English Country Dances. It was revised, with new tunes gradually added until 1728 when it finally ceased publication. Jamaica comes from the first edition of 1651 and Portsmouth from the 11th edition of 1701.

BIG BOW WOW (Trad. Newfoundland)

This fo'c'sle shanty or forebitter first appeared in print in 1910. It was popular on both sides of the Atlantic, with minor lyric changes that reflected the origins of the singer. Bay Bulls is a fishing community near St. John's.

JOE BANES' BARN DANCE (Trad.)

This popular session tune goes by a variety of names, including Dornoch Links, & probably has Scottish roots. Bill learned it from West Kerry concertina player Cormac Begley.

BOUND FOR ST. PETER'S (Trad. Newfoundland)

St. Pierre et Miquelon, only 12 miles off the Newfoundland coast, was briefly a British possession over 250 years ago. It is still called St. Peter's by many Newfoundlanders & there is a long & still lively tradition of smuggling there. This song was first published by Gerald S. Doyle in 1940. Doyle was a St. John's businessman who collected songs on his trips around the coast, & distributed them in free promotional booklets.

GENTIANNE MAZURKA (Trad. France)

We don't know much about this tune. Bill learned it over the Internet from English concertinist Alan Day. The folk tradition evolves!

THE WEAVER (Trad. Ontario)

O.J. Abbott was born in England & lived most of his life in the Ottawa Valley. He was an amazing singer with an almost inexhaustible repertoire of songs. He learned this one from Dan Leahy, an Irish farm labourer in Marchurst, Ontario around 1890. It was collected from him by Edith Fowke & published in the Penguin Book of Canadian Folk Songs.

LUCY FARR'S BARN DANCE (Trad. Ireland)

As a young girl in Galway, Lucy Farr learned to fiddle at local house dances in a time before the jig and reel came to dominate Irish traditional music. This tune is a nice echo of the great variety of music that was played before the Public Dance Hall Act of 1935 put an end to spontaneous rural dances.

AWAY TO CANADA (Anon/Stephen Foster)

The words to this song were published in a newspaper for the Black community, The Voice of the Fugitive in Windsor, Ontario in 1851. Windsor was one of the main Canadian entry points for slaves from the United States who were escaping on the Underground Railway. The Parliament of Upper Canada (now Ontario) passed a law in 1793 that banned the sale of slaves and intended to phase slavery out of existence in the colony. In 1833, the other Parliament in England abolished slavery throughout the Empire. From 1850 to 1860, thousands of slaves escaped into Canada where they were free from their former masters under British law. Appropriately, the tune for the song is American!

RUNNING THE GOAT (Trad. Newfoundland)

Running the Goat was a dance particular to Harbour Deep. Folklorists from Memorial University went to the soon to be resettled fishing community in 1980 and filmed four couples dancing at breakneck speed for nearly 20 minutes to a set of "singles" (polkas), played by accordionist Pieman Pollard. The first unnamed tune we play is Pollard's. Round Old Ruby's Garden and Said She Couldn't Dance were added to the set by the band Figgly Duff when the dance was revived in the 1990s.

HUNTER'S CORNER'S ARE:

Brad McEwen (vocals & Jack Spira cittern www.jackspiraguitars.com)
Bill Nesbitt (vocals, anglo concertina, harmonica & jaw harp)
www.hunterscorners.volasite.com hunterscorners@yahoo.ca

Background vocals on Big Bow Wow and Bound for St. Peter's:

James Claus-Nesbitt and the Duke of Erb Shanty Choir

Front Cover photo: Phil Cowles. Videography: James Claus-Nesbitt

Map on back cover courtesy of the City of Cambridge Archives

Recorded live at The Duke of Erb studio, Waterloo, Ontario, March 16, 2014.

Engineers: Bill Howard and Buck Thompson