For many years the Lancashire town of Rochdale was regarded as the birth of the co-op when a group of working-class men set up a shop selling good quality goods at a fair price. In fact some 83 years earlier on the 9th November 1761, a

met secretly to set up a society for the benefit of the community. Its achievements include a credit union (the first recorded), buying food in bulk and selling smaller portions at a cut price to members, and in 1808 the society founded a subscription library. The Fenwick Weavers Society folded in 1873, but not before other societies sprang up in imitation. Greenock, Glasgow, and most successfully Rochdale were established on similar principals, and led to the Cooperative movement we now know. Today the "Cope" is as much a part of many communities as the town hall or the local football team.

group of weavers in Fenwick, Ayrshire,



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Milk Pudding (or "Mock Pudding") comes from the Henry Atkinson manuscript dated 1694. The tune most likely predates the Irish harper Turlough O'Carolan, but I think we can hear how he was influenced by this sort of tune.



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Gracie Fields released

a recording of this

song in 1930.

Ch. Stop and shop at the Cwop, the Co-op Shop, what a shop is the Cwop, the Co-op Shop! You can buy from a chop to a prop or a mop, or a bottle o' ginger pop at the Cwop Shop. As the Pop Shop is next to the Cwop shop, when you've done your popping in the Pop Shop, you hop out of the Pop Pop Shop and into the Cwop Shop, a proper

1. There's a shop called the Cwop in the High Street,

By gum it's a great idea; For out of what you spend, you

get a dividend Three times ev'ry year. When Ma takes two

place to shop at is the Cwop Shop!

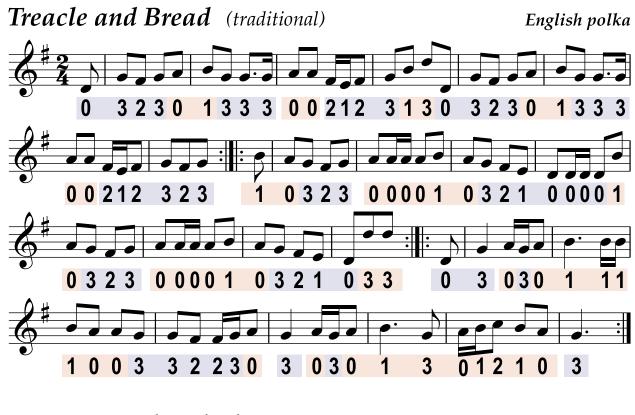
1. They have tripe nice and ripe at the Cwop Shop. Pink pills, powder puffs, pork pies. Paraffin and jam, carbolic soap and ham, clothes pegs and glass eyes, And pigs-heads all grinning in a row. Will you join in this chorus sweet and low? Sweet and low, sweet and low!

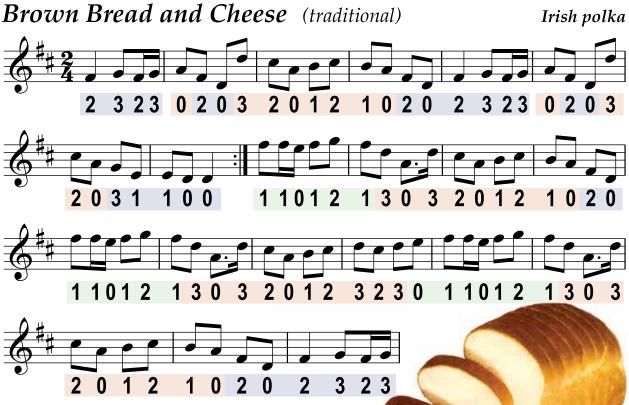


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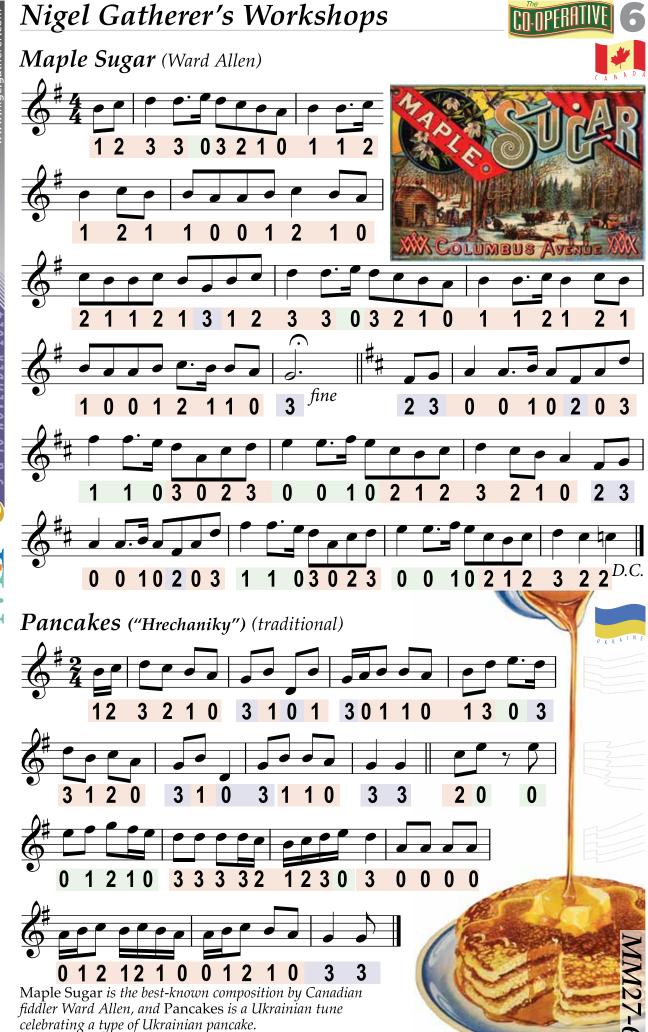


I got the first tune from a 1981 album from The Old SwanBand. It was originally collected in 1908 by Cecil Sharp in Derbyshire.

2031

The second is an Irish polka also known as Maurice O'Keeffe's.

0203





The first tune started out as a strathspey called S Toigh Leam Fhìn Buntàta 's Ìm alias ("I am fond of potatoes and butter"), and I turned it into a simple jig. Skim Milk is a pipe tune from a 1949 bagpipe collection.



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The Fenwick Weavers (tune: trad/words: Nigel Gatherer)









1. They a' met thegither, in Seventeen Sixty One, And the bond they formed between them will never be undone; Tae work thegither for the sake o' each an' every one, so remember the Fenwick Wea - vers.

D

E EG GD F# E

Ch: So salute the Fenwick Weavers, an' a' that they achieved, tae share and be fair was the scheme that they conceived, noo we a' benefit from the things that they believed, so remember the Fenwick Wea - vers!

2. In ev'ry toon in Scotland, the Co-Op stands supreme, the legacy o' Fenwick is held in such esteem; Their success is more than they coud ever dream, So remember the Fenwick Weavers.

Ch: So salute the Fenwick Weavers, an' a' that they achieved, tae share and be fair was the scheme that they conceived, noo we a' benefit from the things that they believed, so remember the Fenwick Wea - vers!



An attempt to memorialise the Fenwick Weavers. It's set to the common Scots song The Wark o' the Weavers.