

MIXTER MAXTER 34



Strachur - the river valley of the Cur - is a parish in Cowal, Argyll on the shores of Loch Fyne. Its main settlement is the village of Strachur which, in the late 19th century, had a post office and savings bank, a library and cattle fairs every May and

October. Notable people from the area include General John Campbell of Strachur (1727-1806) and Sir Harry Lauder 1870-1950) who lived at Glenbranter.

The Tinker's Heart (Nigel Gatherer)

slow air



The Tinkers' Heart is a commemorative monument set in what was the original crossroads of Cairndow, Lochgoilhead and Dunoon. Local legend has it that after Culloden (1746) traveller women placed quartz stone in memory of their fallen men.



MM34-1

There were two passenger steamers named Lord of the Isles, the first built in 1877, its replacement in 1891. Their route was usually from the Broomielaw in Glasgow, stopping at various piers - including Strachur - on the way to Inveraray.



Lord of the Isles (trad)

Chords: Bm F#m Bm F#m G

Chords: Bm A A A F#m Bm A F#m Bm F#m G Bm

Chords: Bm D D A F#m Bm G A F#m

Chords: F#m D Bm A F#m Bm F#m G Bm

Lord of the Isles (traditional)

strathspey

Chords: G Am D7 G

Chords: Am D7 G G G Am D7

Chords: G C G Am D7 G

The first tune, as "Macdonald Lord of the Isles" is from Captain Fraser's 1815 collection, while the strathspey is from Kerr's Merry Melodies (c1880s), which I then adapted into a reel (opposite page).

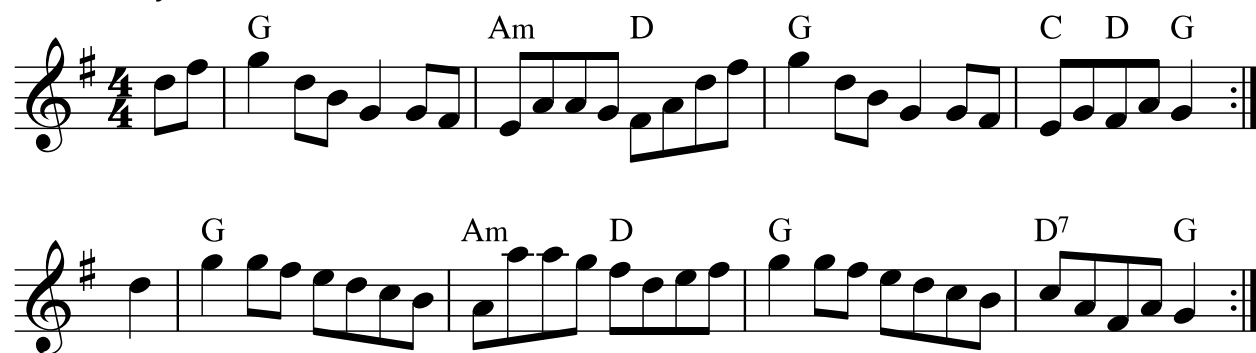
The postcard on the right is from 1904 and shows the Lord of the Isles at Strachur.



Nigel Gatherer's Workshops

Lord of the Isles (traditional)

reel



The Heron (Brian McNeill)



The name Strachur probably means "twisting valley," but an alternative theory suggests an origin in the Gaelic for "the glen of the heron." This tune is based on the composer's 1985 album *Unstrung Hero*.

MM34-3



LOCH FYNE is the longest sea loch in Scotland, stretching some 40 miles from the Sound of Bute to the beginning of River Fyne. Its industries have included oyster fishing and, in the late 19th/early 20th centuries, tourism, when pleasure steamers would travel from Glasgow and visit various piers on the Loch.

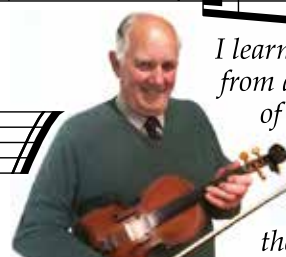
The Shores of Loch Fyne (J Kelly)

This lovely air was composed by John Kelly, a long time member of the Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop, who lives not too far from Strachur.



Nigel Gatherer's Workshops

The Shores of Loch Fyne (J McLaughlin)



I learned this pipe retreat from a 1968 recording of Dundonian fiddler John Ellis, but I don't have much information about the composer.

Stuart Liddell's Farewell to Loch Fyne (unknown)



Piper Stuart Liddell has won many top piping awards throughout the world and, as pipe major of the Inveraray & District Pipe Band, has won the World Pipe Band Championships four times. I got this tune from a band called Pipedown, but I don't know who composed it (possibly Liddell himself).

Katey of Loch Goil (traditional)

G D7 G C G D7

'Twas on the year E - le-ven-ty__ nine and March the for - tieth__ day,

G Am D7 G D7

That Ka - tey__ of Loch goil, my boys, to__ sea she'll bore a - way, a - way,

G D7 G

to__ sea she'll bore a - way.



2. T'ere was Tonal'd More an' Tougald More, Shon Tamson an'
Shon Roy, an' all our whole ship's com-pan-ie was twa laddies
and a boy, my boys, twa laddies and a boy.

3. The captain, being kind to us, put on a muckle pot
Wi' scatyuns for to boil for us, but de'il a ane we got, my boys, but de'il a ane we got.

4. As we steered round the Ailsa Craig, she blew a wondrous gale; says Tougald More tae Tonal'd
More, we'll turn aboot her tail, my boys, we'll turn aboot her tail.

5. Noo Katey, she is hame again, an' safe on Greenock key;
And when she goes tae sea again, she'll be sailing wi'oot me,
my boys, she'll be sailing wi'oot me.



I got this song from a book published in Glasgow in 1857 called "The Universal Comic Song Book." As more Highlanders arrived in the Central Belt for work, there were a number of songs published as broadsides making fun of their ways and accent, hence Donald and Dougal'd became Tonal'd and Tougald. "Scatyuns" are small potatoes.

Nigel Gatherer's Workshops

Clachan Ghlinn-Da-Ruadhail (traditional)

air

D Bm A D D D F#m G

Bm G D F#m

A F#m G D



Post Card

Clachan of Glendaruel.

Captain Campbell of Glendaruel (traditional)

pipe jig

A A A G

A A A G A

A A G A A G

A G A A G A



Glendaruel

The name simply comes from the Ruel, a salmon and trout stream. Glendaruel is thought to be one of the glens featured in the Gaelic poem The Lament of Deirdre found in the 15th-century manuscript in Edinburgh (which itself may be a copy of an original dating as early as 1238). The main settlement is Clachan of Glendaruel.

I got the first tune, which could be translated as The Hamlet of Glendaruel, from the singing of Skerryvore. The jig I adapted from a 2/4 bagpipe march.

Ardkinglas (Amy Geddes)*slow reel*

Fiddler Amy Geddes founded Fyne Fiddles in 2014 with guitarist Donald Knox, and their main event has been an annual residential course at Ardkinglas House, Cairndow. Built in 1907. Amy's tune Ardkinglas at Last is a great tune, but I found it difficult to play. It was originally in F major and had a good smattering of accidentals; I have tweaked it to suit my own playing. I won't tell Amy if you don't!

