



StrathPotomac Fiddler

April 2010

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March Fiddle Club Meeting Report

by PVSFC President Becky Ross

A full house of fiddlers and other musicians convened at Peter Walker's house for the March meeting. The theme was "Tunes from the Atholl Collection." This collection was compiled by James Stewart Robertson and was first published in 1884. We learned three tunes by ear: the reel "Lord Saulton," the strathspey "Cutting Ferns" (which is also sometimes played as an air or a reel) and the reel "Cabair Feidh" (it means deer's antlers). "Cutting Ferns" (alternate title "Pulling Bracken") refers to the compound branched fluffy bracken fern of Scotland, which was pulled or cut to stuff mattresses. The bracken forms dense thicket-like areas that is a good hiding place for animals or those who don't wish to be found.

Other tunes in this month's music include "Speed the Plough," which is found in many collections but Elke

particularly recommends this one. "Whigs of Fife" is an 18th century tune referring to the Jacobite time of

1745 or so. The jig "My Wife's a Wanton Wee Thing" is included because it is the four-part version; the two-part version is in Fiddle Club Book 1. We learned that Largo Law does not refer to anything legal, but instead Law is a hill in lowland Scotland. After the workshop, we enjoyed a nice potluck and a rousing jam session.

Visit the PVSFC Web Site!

The PVSFC Web site at www.potomacvalleyscottishfiddle.org will have each month's meeting location and contact information. We are just getting started on upgrading the site to provide other resources for PVSFC members. Please check frequently for updates!

Newsletter Now Distributed Primarily Via E-Mail

As we announced in December, the PVSFC Board has decided to reduce the number of paper copies of the *StrathPotomac Fiddler* as much as possible. Thanks to those who have responded to let us know you would like to continue receiving copies of the newsletter by U.S. mail.

If you want to continue receiving a paper copy and haven't responded yet, please write to newsletter@potomacvalleyscottishfiddle.org, or to StrathPotomac Fiddler, c/o Becky Ross, 9200 Brink Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20882.