



StrathPotomac Fiddler

January 2010

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December Fiddle Club Meeting Report

by PVSFC President Becky Ross

The December meeting was hosted by Karin Loya in Laurel, Maryland. The theme for this month's workshop was tunes from the Gow Collection, Book 3, following on previous years' workshops on Books 1 and 2. Elke found when picking tunes for this month that we already have about 25 tunes from Book 3 in Fiddle Club Books. But not to worry, she still found more great tunes for us to learn and enjoy!

We learned two tunes by ear: the strathspey "Hon. Captain Elphinston's Strathspey" and the 3/2 hornpipe "Miss Baird of Saughtonhall's Hornpipe." We learned the tune *and* the title of the latter by ear—I was expecting it to be spelled "Sockton."

Miss Baird was probably a music student taught by Nathaniel Gow; the hornpipe he wrote is in the older 3/2 style that was no longer common at that time (~1800).

Nearly all the tunes this month are named for particular people, perhaps patrons (i.e., commissioned tunes), friends or students. The final page for this month has two versions of the tune "Miss Clementina Loughnan." first as a rather flowery strathspey and second as modified by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society to be the specified tune for the dance "Polharrow Burn," a reel.

We enjoyed a fine potluck and jam afterwards. See you all next year!

Response Needed by February 1 to Continue Receiving the Newsletter by U.S. Mail

As we announced last month, the PVSFC Board has decided to reduce the number of paper copies of the *StrathPotomac Fiddler* as much as possible. Therefore you **must send notice by February 1, 2010**, to continue to receive copies of the newsletter by U.S. mail.

Send your notice by writing to newsletter@potomacvalleyscottishfiddle.org, or to StrathPotomac Fiddler, c/o Becky Ross, 9200 Brink Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20882. If we do not hear from you by February 1, we will assume that you do not need a paper copy.

If you have not been receiving the electronic version of the newsletter by e-mail and would like to do so, please send your e-mail address to the newsletter address above.

The newsletter is one of the benefits of membership in the Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club. If you have not yet renewed your membership for the 2009-2010 year, please see the renewal form on page 6. At \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families, PVSFC membership remains a bargain!