

Tune Histories

John Peel (1776? – 13 November 1854) was an English Huntsman who is the subject of the nineteenth century song *D'ye ken John Peel*- "ken" meaning 'to be aware of' or 'to know' in some dialects of the North of England.

1. John Peel was one of the quick marches of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment before it was merged with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment and The Kings Regiment to become the Duke of Lancaster's
2. John Peel is the authorized march of The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment) and the Ontario Regiment (RCAC) of the Canadian Forces.
3. John Peel is the regimental march of the Queen's Own Yeomanry, an armoured formation reconnaissance regiment of the British Army.

Men of Harlech is widely used as a regimental march, especially by British Army and Commonwealth regiments historically associated with Wales. Notably, it is the slow march of the Welsh Guards, and the quick march of the Royal Welsh.

"Men of Harlech" or "The March of the Men of Harlech" (in Welsh: *Rhyfelgyrch Gwŷr Harlech*) is a song and military march which is traditionally said to describe events during the seven-year siege of Harlech Castle between 1461 and 1468. Commanded by Constable Dafydd ap Ieuan, the garrison withstood the longest known siege in the history of the British Isles. "Through Seven Years" is an alternative name for the song. The song has been incorrectly associated with the earlier, shorter siege of Harlech Castle around 1408, which pitted the forces of Owain Glyndwr against the future Henry the V of England.

"Men of Harlech" occupies an important place in Welsh national culture. The song gained international recognition when it was featured prominently in the 1964 film *Zulu*.

Brown Haired Maiden One of the most popular songs of the Highlands, this was translated from the Gaelic in the late 19th century by the Scottish poet John Stuart Blackie.

High Road to Gairloch The gaelic name for the tune is Gabhaidh Sinn An Rathad Mór (We will take the high (meaning main) road). It is used by the McIntyres, with a story relating to an incident when they were able to pass the Campbells on the main road due to their superior numbers, and did so playing this tune. The tune is said to have been composed by Ianin Breac MacEanruig, piper to the MacIains (MacDonalds) of Glencoe. When the 79th (Cameron) Highlanders were raised, the regiment marched out to the tune of "The High Road to Gairloch".

Green Hills of Tyrol The tune is a pipe tune The Green Hills of Tyrol which was written during the Crimean War (1853-1856) by John MacLeod, a Pipe Major in the 93rd Highlanders. He adapted it after hearing a Sardinian band play a continental tune. That tune was based on an Alpine folk tune, and had also been used by Rossini in William Tell. Tyrol is in Austria.

Scotland the Brave

Scotland the brave – aka "My Bonnie Lass," "Brave Scotland," "Scotland Forever." Scottish, March (2/4 or 4/4 time); Also an English, Morris Dance Tune, a tune used for a polka step in the North-West (England) Morris dance tradition, and a march in Scotland and Shetland.

Jack Campin believes it first appeared around the turn of the 20th century, with words set to it in 1950 by Cliff Hanley (which may be tongue-in-cheek, there is a story that Hanley, a great humorist, tried to put as many clichés about Scotland into the lyric as possible!). Another story told regarding the lyric is told by Harry Burns: "Robert Wilson, who was at the time at the peak of his career, was looking for a new song for his stage show. Hanley was commissioned to write the song. The fee was £25 and Wilson was to get the copyright. Hanley took the completed song to Wilson who read it, gave him the agreed £25 then refused to let Hanley sign away the rights. "Naw, naw son, this is far too good. I'd be cheating you if I took the rights to this," said Wilson."

The oldest appearance of the melody Campin has seen was in a Boys' Brigade pipe tune book from about 1911 where the title appeared as "Scotland, the Brave". Charles Gore says the tune appears to date from about 1891-5, when it was published in Keith Norman Macdonald's Gesto Collection of Highland Music under the title, "Brave Scotland" and/or "Scotland for Ever". However the same tune in various arrangements had been passed down as a medley sung to various lyrics in many languages in pubs through Europe in the 19th century.

Scots wa hae Scots Wha Hae ("Scots, Who Have"; Scottish Gaelic: Brosnachadh Bhruis) is a patriotic song of Scotland which served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country, but has lately been largely supplanted by Scotland the Brave and Flower of Scotland. Robert Burns wrote the lyrics in 1793, in the form of a speech given by Robert the Bruce before the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, where Scotland maintained its sovereignty from the Kingdom of England. Although the lyrics are by Burns, he wrote them to the traditional Scottish tune Hey Tuttie Tatie (this title is supposed to imitate a trumpet) which, according to tradition, was played by Bruce's army at the Battle of Bannockburn. The tune was brought to France by Scottish archers and was heard when Joan of Arc entered Orleans and also Rheims for the coronation of the French king whose bodyguard was Scottish. The song was sent by Burns to his publisher, at the end of August 1793, with the title Robert Bruce's March To Bannockburn, and a postscript saying that he had been inspired by Bruce's "glorious struggle for Freedom, associated with the glowing ideas of some other struggles of the same nature, not quite so ancient." This is seen as a covert reference to the Radical movement, and particularly to the trial of the Glasgow lawyer Thomas Muir of Huntershill, whose trial began on 30 August 1793 as part of a British government crackdown, after the French Revolutionary Wars led to France declaring war on the Kingdom of Great Britain on 1 February 1793. Muir was accused of sedition for allegedly inciting the Scottish people to oppose the government during the December 1792 convention of the Scottish "Friends of the People" society, and was eventually sentenced to fourteen years transportation to the convict settlement at Botany Bay, Australia. Burns was aware that if he declared his Republican and Radical sympathies openly he could suffer the same fate. It is notable that when Burns agreed to let the Morning Chronicle, of 8 May 1794, publish the song, it was on the basis of "let them insert it as a thing they have met with by accident, and unknown to me."

Minstrel Boy The words are by Thomas Moore (1779-1852). The tune is an Ancient Irish Air. In 1798 two of Moore's friends participated in the rebellion of the United Irishmen. One died in prison, another was wounded and another later hung. He refused to testify against them.

Kelly, The Boy from Killane John Kelly (Kelly of Killanne) (died c. 22 June 1798) lived in Killane in the parish of Rathnure and was a United Irish leader who fought in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. His exploits are commemorated in the famous Irish ballad **Kelly the Boy From Killane** written by Patrick Joseph McCall (1861–1919). While Kelly was obviously well known to rebel and loyalist alike during the short duration of the Wexford rising, almost nothing is known of him outside this time. He was one of the leaders of the rebel victory at the Battle of the Three Rocks which led to the capture of Wexford town but was later seriously wounded while leading a rebel column at the Battle of New Ross.

Robert Gogan describes how Kelly was under orders from the Wexford commander Bagenal Harvey to attack the British outposts around New Ross but on no account to attack the town itself.

The rebels outnumbered the British forces and so Harvey sent a messenger to give them an opportunity to surrender. The messenger was shot while carrying a white flag. This angered the rebels who began the attack without receiving the official order from Harvey.

Kelly's column of 800 men attacked and broke through Ross's "Three Bullet Gate" and proceeded into the town itself. After initial success, they were eventually beaten back by British troops and Kelly was wounded in the leg. He was moved to Wexford to recuperate but after the fall of Wexford on 21 June was dragged from his bed, tried and sentenced to death. He was hanged on 25 June 1798 along with seven other rebel leaders on Wexford Bridge, after which his body was decapitated, the trunk thrown into the River Slaney and the head kicked through the streets before being set on display on a spike.

Liam Gaul describes how McCall wrote the song to commemorate the centenary of the 1798 Rebellion, although it was not published in book form until it appeared in McCall's Irish Fireside Songs in 1911.

Gaul says the origin of the melody used in the song is uncertain. There is no known reference to it before it was used in Kelly the Boy From Killane and so it's likely that McCall, who was a talented musician, wrote the tune himself.

Atholl Highlanders is a Scottish ceremonial infantry regiment. The regiment is not part of the British Army but is in the private employ of the Duke of Atholl, and based in Blair Atholl, where it serves as a tourist attraction. Although it has no military role, and is made up of around 80 friends and estate workers, it has been called the United Kingdom's, or Europe's, only "private army" recognized by the law.

The name *Atholl Highlanders* dates to the formation of the 77th Regiment of Foot by the 4th Duke in 1777. The regiment was formed as a relief for other regiments serving in North America, and spent most of its existence in Ireland. The terms upon which the regiment was raised stated that the men were to be employed for either three years or the duration of the war in America. In 1781, the original three-year term ended, and the men expected the regiment to be disbanded. However, the regiment was transported to England and marched to Portsmouth to be embarked for service in the East Indies. Upon learning of this, the men mutinied, and the embarkation orders were countermanded. The regiment was marched to Berwick, where it disbanded in 1783.