

## About "Tars of The Victory"

Back in about 1983 I was looking for early Ontario music in the Toronto Reference Library. There they had a shabby book of fiddle tunes and dances called "Button & Purday's Book of Country Dances" - or something like that! It was from about 1810. I photocopied it and learned a few tunes out of it including one called "The Tars Of the Victory" - a jig whose title referred to the sailors on Lord Nelson's flagship. I always wonder whether the tunes in old books ever actually got played - apparently this one did. Not long after I found a reference to the tune in an account of the celebrations of Queen Charlotte's birthday in York (Toronto) in 1817 dated January 23, 1817. Here's what the Upper Canada Gazette had to say:

"On Saturday last, the Anniversary of Her Majesty's [i.e. Queen Charlotte's] Birth Day, the Principal Officers of Government, the Officers of the Garrison [at Fort York] and His Majesty's Ship Charwell, lying in the Harbour, and the Gentlemen in the vicinity, partook of an elegant entertainment, given by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in Honor of the day. ... The Ice having made in the Bay, has added greatly to the gaiety of the place, by affording an easy access to His Majesty's Ship Charwell. ... On Monday evening, the Deck of His Majesty's Ship presented a novel, and interesting appearance; the gallant Captain ... had converted it into an elegant Ball room, by extending sails from the foremast, to the mizzen, so well disposed, that the inclemency of the weather was completely excluded ... by means of a judicious arrangement of Stoves. ... The company assembled about 8 o'Clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Gore honored the company with their presence. ... The

Starboard side of the Deck, was appropriated for dancing, - at 8 o'Clock Mrs. Gore led off "The Tars of Victory" [an English Country Dance] and was followed by twenty couples who kept up the dance with great spirit, till one o'Clock, when they were summoned to the Supper Tables, laid out on the Larboard side, which were covered with a profusion of every delicacy, displaying at once the taste and hospitality of the gallant entertainer. After Supper the dancing recommenced, and at four the Company separated, highly gratified with the evening's Amusement." [Quoted in Edith Firth's *The Town of York, 1793-1815.*]

Note: the glass stains on the music are from me - not some 19th century inebriate.

Ian Bell 2024

Col: Wardle's Reel.

Mr W. Parke's Fancy.

The image shows two columns of musical notation. The left column, titled 'Col: Wardle's Reel', consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, featuring a complex, rhythmic melody with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The right column, titled 'Mr W. Parke's Fancy', also consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, with a similar complex, rhythmic melody. The notation includes treble clefs, key signatures, and various note values and rests.

Hands four round & back again lead down the  
Middle up again and turn round.  
Le Sylphe 1810.

Sett & half right & left & back again lead down  
the middle up again hands 6 round & back again.

Fine

D.C.

Labyrinth

Lady Berkeleys Whim



Musical notation for 'Labyrinth' consisting of four staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are some markings above the first staff, possibly 'tr' for trills.

Musical notation for 'Lady Berkeleys Whim' consisting of four staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The number '630' is written below the first staff.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lady foot it to 2<sup>d</sup> Gent. not turn the 2<sup>d</sup> Gent. do the same to the 2<sup>d</sup> Lady ♪ lead down the middle up again and allemande ♪

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> Cu. change sides back again ♪ lead down the middle up again foot it ♪ and hands 4 round back again ♪ right and left at top ♪

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### 268 Lady Dashwood's Reel

615

The musical notation for 'Lady Dashwood's Reel' consists of four staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a single line across the four staves, with various rhythmic values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> Cu. change places reel on each sides and back to your own places the 1<sup>st</sup> Cu. lead down the middle up again hands 4 round and foot it out sides with Partner ☺

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### Johnny Pringle

616

The musical notation for 'Johnny Pringle' consists of four staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a single line across the four staves, featuring more complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cu. set to the 2<sup>d</sup> Lady and hands three round the 1<sup>st</sup> Gent. do the same with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lady ☺ .  
poussette round with the 2<sup>d</sup> Cu. right and left ☺

Lord Wellington's Waltz .

Rothbury House .

The Gentleman follow his Partner round the first Cou:  
 the Lady follows him back lead down the middle up again .

Cast off two Couple up again lead  
 down the middle up again & Poussett.

Le Sylphe 1810.

Maid of Suabia

*Handwritten signature*

Musical notation for 'Maid of Suabia' consisting of four staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff includes a circular stamp with the number 625. The piece concludes with the initials 'D.C.' at the end of the fourth staff.

Hands 4 round back again lead down the middle up again right and left ☺

Paddy O Connor

*Handwritten signature*

Musical notation for 'Paddy O Connor' consisting of four staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff includes a circular stamp with the number 273. The number '626' is printed below the first staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lady set to the 2<sup>d</sup> Cu. and hands three round, the 1<sup>st</sup> Gent. do the same with the 2<sup>d</sup> Cu. lead down the middle up again and pousette ☺

10 Mr. Elliston's Caper.

Duke of Kent's Waltz.

MUSICAL NOTATION FOR MR. ELLISTON'S CAPER AND DUKE OF KENT'S WALTZ.

The Lady turns the first Gentleman quite round into her own place the Gent: turns the first Lady in the same manner lead down the middle up again.

Turn three with the first Lady the same with the first Gent: lead down the middle up again and turn round.

Le Sylphe 1810.



Miss Eddie's Waltz.

Lady Hereford's Reel.



The image shows two columns of musical notation. The left column contains four staves of music for 'Miss Eddie's Waltz', written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/8 time signature. The right column contains four staves of music for 'Lady Hereford's Reel', written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). Both pieces feature intricate melodic lines with many eighth and sixteenth notes. The notation includes repeat signs at the end of the first and second staves in each piece.

Change sides and back again lead down the middle up again and right and left.

Half right and left and back again lead down the middle up again and Pousette.

Le Sylphe 1810.

### Talavera Reel.

### Dancing Hearts.

The image shows two columns of musical notation. The left column is for 'Talavera Reel' and the right column is for 'Dancing Hearts'. Each column contains four staves of music. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and repeat signs. There are two circular library stamps: one on the left side of the first staff of 'Talavera Reel' and one on the right side of the first staff of 'Dancing Hearts'. The stamps contain the text 'PUBL.' and 'COLLEGE'.

Sett and half right and left and back  
 again lead down the middle up again & Poussette.

Hay contrary sides then on your own lead down the  
 middle up again hands 4 at bottom right & left at top.

Le Sylphe 1810.



The Tars of the Victory

Musical notation for 'The Tars of the Victory' consisting of four staves of music in 2/4 time, featuring a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> Cu. hands round and back again, down the middle up again, right & left at top.



Faddy O' Carroll

*J. Hill*

Musical notation for 'Faddy O' Carroll' consisting of four staves of music in 2/4 time, featuring a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Change sides and back again, down the middle, up again, swing corners and lead outsides.

