

Water Witch

Composed by James Down
London, March 18, 1867
Chord suggestions by Ian Bell

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In the early 1980s I transcribed this from a large manuscript of tunes inscribed "James Down, Oxford Mills, Ingersoll, Canada West, April 15, 1862". It appears to be an original tune by Mr. Down. If pressed, I guess I'd say it was a polka. In Ontario "water witch" generally refers to someone who can find groundwater with the use of a divining rod - "witching water".

The rest of the book consisted of 109 Scottish strathspeys and reels, and it gave the impression of perhaps having been copied wholesale from a published collection rather than pieced together one tune at a time over the years.

The book was nicely bound with a hard cover by: "C. Chapman Binder London, Canada West
The original is in Special Collections at the Toronto Public Library.