

Cooley's Reel

A

Em D

Em C

1. D Em 2. D Em

B

Em D

Em C

Am 1. D Em 2. D Em

Fine D Em

"Cooley's Reel", also known as "Fiddler Leahy's Reel", "Joe Cooley's Reel", "Luttrell Pass", "Put the Cake in the Dresser", "Reynold's Reel", "Ril na Tulai" or "Tulla Reel" is an Irish reel in E Dorian. The parts are played AAB (Carlin, Laufman), AABB (Brody, Mallinson, McNulty, Mulvihill, Songer, Taylor), AA'BB (Miller & Perron, Moylan) or AA'BB' (Alewine, Harker/Rafferty, O'Malley).

The tune is associated with the renowned button accordion player Joe Cooley (1924–1973), originally from Peterswell, County Galway, near the northern boundary of the *Sliabh Aughty* mountains. Cooley spent much of his later life in an itinerant lifestyle in various cities in America and back and forth to Ireland. He was a member for a time of the famous Tulla Céilí Band in Ireland.

The tune's origins date to the 1940's when the teenaged brothers attended a house session in the neighboring county of Clare. There they listened to an old man with a battered concertina playing in front of an open fire (Séamus remembers some of the buttons had been replaced by cigarette ends!), and one tune in particular caught their attention. On returning home the brothers tried their best to remember what the old man had played, staying up through the night working and worrying the remembered fragments until finally the reel took shape. Séamus credits Joe with the first part of their refashioned piece, while himself taking credit for the turn.

It was printed in Alewine's **Maid that Cut Off the Chicken's Lips** (1987), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Carlin's **Master Collection** (1984), Harker's **300 Tunes from Mike Rafferty** (2005), Laufman's **Okay, Let's Try a Contra** (1973), Mallinson's **100 Essential** (1995), McNulty's **Dance Music of Ireland** (1965), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (1977), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, 2nd Edition** (2006), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra** (1994), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), O'Malley's **Luke O'Malley's Collection of Irish Music** (1976), Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997), Taylor's **Music for the Sets: Yellow Book** (1995) and Valley & Piggott's **Blooming Meadows** (1998).

It was recorded by Sean Maguire on **Music of Ireland**, Wendy MacIssac on **The 'Reel' Thing** (1994), P. Fitzpatrick & flutist Desmond Higgins on **The Coleman Archive, vol. 2: The Home Place** (2005), Jim Donoghue on **The Coleman Archive, vol. 2: The Home Place** (2005), Marie Rhines on **The Reconciliation**, Frankie Gavin & Paul Brock on **Tribute to Joe Cooley**, Patricia Conway and Mick Moloney on **Irish Music: The Living Tradition**, Frank Ferrel & Joe Derrane on **Fiddledance** (2004), John McCutcheon on **Fine Times at Our House** (1982), Jay Ungar and Lynn Hardy on **Catskill Mountain Goose Chase** (1977), Russ Barenberg on **Cowboy Calypso**, Frank Ferrel on **Fiddle Tunes**.