

## The Scotsman over the Border

"Scotsman Over the Border", also known as "Charlie over the water", "Scotch come over the Border", "Blue Bonnets Jig", "Blue Bonnets over the Border", "Scotchman over the Border" or "Over the Border" is an Irish and American Jig in 6/8 time and D Major (most versions), D Major/Mixolydian (Taylor). The parts are played AA'B (Feldman & O'Doherty), AABB (most versions) or AABBCDD (Kennedy). The tune is a form of the Scottish jig "Blue Bonnets over the Border", itself a variant of the 3/4 time "O Dear Minnie/Mother What Shall I Do?" which in the 18th century was fashioned into a 4/4 dancing piece variously called "The Braes of Auchtertyre", "Belles of Tipperary" and "Beaus of Albany". Both Stenhouse and Bayard, contradicting Gow, think that the "Braes of Auchtertyre" is derived from "O Dear Minnie".

The jig appears in the mid-19th century music manuscript collections of County Cork cleric and uilleann piper Canon James Goodman as "Charlie over the water" and in O'Neill's **Music of Ireland** (1903) as "Blue Bonnets Jig".

The tune was recorded in New York on a 78 RPM disc by Paddy Killoran (1904-1965) in October, 1934 (paired with "Tenpenny Bit"). Killoran, a native of County Sligo, immigrated to New York in 1922. It was printed in Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981) (appears as "Scotch come over the Border"), Colclough's **Tutor for the Irish Union Pipes** (c. 1830), Feldman & O'Doherty's **The Northern Fiddler** (1978) (appears as first "Untitled Jig"), Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Kennedy's **Traditional Dance Music of Britain and Ireland: Jigs & Quicksteps, Trips & Humours** (1997) (appears as "Over the Border"), Mallinson's **100 Essential** (1995), McGuire & Keegan's **Irish Tunes by the 100** (1975), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) (appears as "Blue Bonnets Jig"), Taylor's **Through the Half-door** (1992) (appears as "Scotsman Over the Border") and Taylor's **Traditional Irish Music: Karen Tweed's Irish Choice** (1994).

It was recorded by Jim Murphy, James Murray, Kevin Brehony on **The Mountain Road** (1999), Paddy Killoran (1934), Eugene O'Donnell on **Slow Airs and Set Dances** (1978), Paddy Killoran on **From Galway to Dublin** (1992) (Reissue of 1934 original), Brian Conway on **First Through the Gate** (2002), Noel Hill & Tony Linnane (1978) and Shaskeen on **Atlantic Breeze**.