

REEL 61A 213A-217B

0216A

7306-A-

7306-B- scratchy

7307-A

7307-B-

7308-A

7308-B- 2 voices, North River

10. Cheap Bretaunn Gaelic  
Gaelic Song

Psalm in Gaelic

Ill We Meet Again. Gaelic, sung at  
funerals  
Fiddle

Gaelic Song Conversation bet. sailor &  
capt. is unusual. The girl fears loneliness  
Bonny Birdie

Miss McKay

How Cape Breton Giant Written

214A. For radio.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

St. Ann's and North River.

June 10, 1944.

Rev. A.W.R. MacKenzie is doing everything he can to preserve the Gaelic tongue which is still widely spoken in Cape Breton. Few people can write it, but it is still used in many homes and many songs and poems are composed in it. On Monday evenings the Sydney station puts on a radio program which is largely the work of this enthusiast who himself knew no Gaelic before coming here from his native Scotland. But he drives many miles over narrow country roads to gather talent together and take them in to Sydney for the broadcasts

Throughout the country collections are taken and sent in to Sydney, and these have proved sufficient to keep the programs on the air. They are popular, and all through Cape Breton radios are tuned in although many of the listeners are not familiar with Gaelic. There are times when Mr. MacKenzie has difficulty in getting his people together, and he has long wished for a record that he could use, opening with their Theme Song continuing with bagpipes which fade away for Mr. Malcolm MacLeod whose talk is listed here as number 6. We intended to make this record in the proper order, but the power went off for some strange reason in the middle of Mr. MacLeod's talk which is the second strip. Oh dear, what is the third strip? This complicates matters as I haven't marked it down.

However, I would like to give Mr. MacKenzie a record made up for him to use on the radio to take about two and a half minutes. For the bagpipes which I couldn't get as I ran out of records, I suggest using the best parts of record number 5.

This, I think, is the order he wants;

Theme Song, listed here as 1.

Talk Mr. Kenneth MacLeod, listed here as 6.

Bagpipes fading away to be followed by the program for the evening.

Talk Mr. MacKenzie listed here as 5.

Theme Song. Farewell, listed here as 4.

I think I had better check up on the order and write Mr. MacKenzie so we can get this exactly as he wants it. I will let you know as soon as I hear from him.

214B. Gaelic.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

June 10, 1944.

At St. Ann's Gaelic College, St. Ann's, Nova Scotia.

The Lord Is My Shepherd.  
In the Sweet Bye and Bye.

These familiar hymns are sung in Gaelic. There is a large Gaelic speaking population in Cape Breton, and church services are often held in this tongue. The singers were working on the roof of the Gaelic College and sang for me before leaving for their homes at the end of the day's work. You will note that the Gaelic is different in the various parts of the island. These singers are natives of North River and are perhaps a little more harsh than some further north who are reputed sweeter singers. I would like to have gone north, but my supply of records would not allow. However these men are among the best on the island, and are the most experienced as they are often in demand for radio and concert singing. In Iona the singing is slightly different again just as speech in different parts of the mainland varies.

Singers; Dan K. MacLeod and Charles MacDonald; carpenters; natives of North River; middle aged or less!

216A. Fiddle.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

June 12, 1944.

At Mount Young, Cape Breton.

Fiddler; Mr. James D. Gillis; retired schoolmaster; born 1870 at Strathlorne, Cape Breton.

You may wonder why I have made three records from Mr. Gillis. He is a famous character in Nova Scotia literature, writing with great originality and a complete lack of humor. He has many followers, and his works are widely sold and enjoyed. A study of his character and his works has been made by William Arthur Deacon and published in his book called the Four Jameses. These records will be of immense interest to all people familiar with his strange personality and his writings. It was his own suggestion that he should play the violin. His playing, like his writing, is distinctive in being quite different from anybody else's.

This was recorded on the hill in front of his house on a beautiful day, overlooking the valley of Lake Ainslie.

Urquhart Castle.

Miss Ogilvie Grey by Nathaniel Gow.

Dr. Keith.

Carney's Canter.

When playing Mr. Gillis kept his eyes tightly closed and was completely unconscious of his audience. I had the machine in the back of the car where I worked and he stood as far away as the microphone permitted.

216B. Songs in Gaelic and English.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

June 12, 1944.

At Mount Young, Cape Breton.

Singer; Mr. James D. Gillis; retired schoolmaster and author of note; born 1870 at Strathlorne, Cape Breton.

1. The Sailor's Adventure sung in Gaelic.
2. Bonnie Birdie; one of his own compositions.  
A maid who dwells on yonder hill  
Is certain cure for all my ills.

The girl was Jessie Ann Dunbar whom he used to meet between roads at Lake Ainslie.

217A.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

June 12, 1944.

At Mount Young, Cape Breton.

Informant; James D. Gillis; born 1870 at Strathlorne, Cape Breton.  
See The Four Jameses by William Arthur Deacon, The Graphic Publishers,  
Ottawa, for his biography. It is an extremely clever piece of writing.

1. Miss McKay.

I regret to see you go, Miss McKay;  
Other hearts are sad I know, Miss McKay.

2. This was recorded partly for his dialect, and partly for the  
story. Anything by Jas. D. Gillis is of tremendous interest to  
his followers. I thought it would be interesting to have him talk  
on a subject that ~~interested him~~ he could expand upon.

Cont'd 217 B.