

Marche de Quêteux Pomerleau

La Marche Pomerleau

Thomas Pomerleau (d. 1940)



Lisa Ornstein collected "Marche de Quêteux Pomerleau" from Henri Landry (1923-2001), a wonderful fiddler living in Pontbriand (near Thetford-Mines), Quebec. He was a spirited player whose brisk, rock-steady tempos reflected his long career as a dance musician. Henri played fiddle for community dances and house parties for most of his life. After a long career as a truck driver in the mines, he spent an incredibly joyful retirement playing fiddle at local galas, contests, and house parties. He and his wife Fernande were immensely hospitable and kind, and they hosted many the memorable party, where good food and music and company filled the house to overflowing.

In addition to playing the standard local repertory, Henri had a repertory of tunes which he learned as a young boy from left-handed fiddler Thomas Pomerleau, a poor, reclusive and eccentric old man who lived in a tiny hut abutting the Landry family farm. Henri would hide "listening to the beggar and forgetting dinner time" which included "on some evenings strange music". Although Thomas Pomerleau was known locally as "Quêteux" (beggar) Pomerleau and lived a marginal, hand-to-mouth existence, his fiddle playing was in demand at local weddings and dances. Thomas Pomerleau's repertory included a number of truly beautiful and very singular tunes. Henri only recorded one of them and never played them in public settings like galas and contests - as he likely sensed they were just too "out of the box."

Rhythm: March

2018.05.22

Source: PC3 / history PC3, web