



# Junior Hoedownner

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The Carpenter of **Sollas** is a tune written by my friend, Willie Doig, in Scotland.

He shared this tune with me, now with his permission I want to share this tune with you. Alice has researched the history that goes with the carpenter.

The Black Rock Celidh Band - Claire Sutherland - fiddle, Euan Campbell - mandolin, Dave Munro - bass, William Doig - guitar. Produced by Camden Street Recording Studio - Evanton Ross - Shire, Scotland.

During the 1700 and 1800s many Scot farmers were victims of "Land Clearances." The rent paid by these people was not enough to satisfy the landowners. Raising sheep on the land would be more profitable. So the people living in the Highlands were routed from their homes, often violently. **The people in the Scottish highlands still feel the pain of the "clearances."**

Many of these displaced people went to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia to settle and start new lives. One of the emigrants was a carpenter from **Sollas**. He was An-

gus MacDonald, known as An Saor Mor (the big carpenter), because of his large stature. With his carpentry skills, he was a big help getting his neighbors' homes as well as his own built before winter came.

Angus was born on North Uist (EWE-ist) in the Hebrides, the islands of western Scotland. His gr-gr-gr-granddaughter says he was born in 1781, came to Cape Breton in 1828 aboard the "Commerce." The voyage took six weeks and two days. He died in 1857.

The tune, "The Carpenter of **Sollas**," was written by Willie Doig who lives at Inverness, Scotland, near **Loch** Ness. We often exchange e-mails, tapes, DVDs and CDs with him. Willie is a musician and has played guitar with several groups, including The Murphy Brothers, and his own band, The Plaid. Willie's wife Suzanne sings with them. They have **two** grown sons.

Willie is very pleased that we in the Pacific Northwest are learning his "wee tune." He writes, "I'm so pleased you enjoy the tune."

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It is a new experience this month to have both the sheet music and **be able to listen to the music of a tune on the web**. And now I hope you enjoy the tune, too. Lew

transcribed by  
Alice Holt 4-04

## THE CARPENTER OF SOLLAS

by Willie Doig  
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