

Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, The - A new song

Synopsis

A description of the opening of the first section of the line including a verse looking forward to its completion.

Themes: Opening ceremony;
Anticipated economic benefits

Text

On the ninth day of March in the year thirty-five
The railway was crowded with people alive
From Blaydon to Hexham the engines did move
With all the subscribers united in love
In one hour and ten minutes on that noted day
They returned back on the Newcastle railway

The grand locomotives from Newcastle came
How quick is their speed, how great is their fame
The brilliant Comet she could not well lead
For Rapid came in with abundance o' speed
The air it did ring with the cry of hurra
When they came to open the Carlisle railway.

The hills were all clad on the south side of Tyne
To view the procession along the new line
The drum they did beat and the colours did fly
To cheer the spectators as they passed by
The men will rejoice and the women will pray
For all that subscribe to Newcastle railway

The masons they are the first workmen in town
And some by hard labour can earn a full crown
The blacksmiths and joiners all work to their plan
I can scarcely tell you who is the best man
Let none of these workmen have reason to say
They cannot live by the Carlisle railway.

There is Squire Beaumont, for the sake of his heirs
It is well known that he owns fifty shares
Long may he live with his own darling son
So let us praise him for what he has done
He will hear the birds sing in the sweet month of May
When he travels along on Newcastle railway

There is Mr Blackmoor a worthy young man
To forward this line he will do all he can
In two or three years he will finish it well
And make a through passage into the canal
Long may he live and still carry the sway
And set out more work on Carlisle railway

When you see the steam coaches and all things complete
For four or five shillings you may take a seat
You may dine at Newcastle and then take your flight
And sup at Carlisle on the very same night
The new Expedition she will not delay
As long as she runs on Newcastle railway

Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, The - A new song

The cannons were planted upon the low ground
 They made all the vallies to ring with their sound
 The drums they did beat and the music did play
 Before they went back to Newcastle that day
 Both the young and the old may remember that day
 When they drank success to the Carlisle railway

When you see the waggons move on at full speed
 Well laden with liquor, provisions and lead
 You may fill a glass with good rum or strong beer
 And then drink a health to the head engineer
 I hope he will live to see that happy day
 When they have completed Newcastle railway

Source of Text: Bodleian Library, *allegro* Catalogue of Ballads; Harding B 13(176)

Music. The broadside gives the tune of Patrick O'Neil

PATNEAL-- Patrick O'Neil



www.abcnotation.com/tunes

Source of Music: www.abcnotation.com

Printer: Boag, W. (Newcastle)

Author : G. J.

Date: 1835.

The date given in the song matches the historical record. The song was probably printed very soon after the events described in order to maximise sales.

Notes on the Song and Its Historical Background:

This song celebrates the opening of the first section of the Newcastle to Carlisle railway on 9th March 1835. Ref: <http://www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk/Newcastle.php>

Ref: <http://www.gateshead-history.com/railways.html>

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The section from Blaydon to Hexham, was 17 miles long. The song says that "*In one hour and ten minutes on that noted day / They returned back on the Newcastle railway*" suggesting that either the average speed was at least 34 mph! Or they travelled to Hexham at about 17mph and after a short break returned to Newcastle. "*One hour and ten minutes*" is a very precise measure of time and suggests that the information may have been gleaned from a newspaper report.

John Blackmore designed the bridges so presumably was the chief engineer.

Ref : <http://www.bridgesonthetyne.co.uk/lipwood.html>

For a general discussion of songs celebrating the arrival of the railway songs see....

The Newcastle to Carlisle line opened in 6 stages. It finally reached the canal at Carlisle in 1837 thus creating a connection between the River Tyne and the canal basin at Carlisle.

Ref: <http://www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk/Newcastle.php>

The locomotive No. 1 "Comet," was delivered by R. & W. Hawthorn in 1835. It was the first loco to run the full length of the line from Newcastle to Carlisle.

<http://spellerweb.net/rhindex/UKRH/NorthEastern/NewCarRly.html>

Simon Batchelor, Assistant Curator at the National Railway Museum adds "*Rapid and Comet* were the two locomotives used at the opening (I suspect that "*Expedition*" refers to the railway as a whole rather than to a locomotive). [The song provides] evidence of early locomotive naming and its obsession with speed.

9th March 1835 was when the line opened for passenger traffic - T.W.Beaumont Lead company had already shipped over 500 tons of lead over the line up to the end of 1834.

Thomas Wentworth Beaumont Esq. MP was the owner of the T.W.Beaumont Lead Company.

John Blackmore was appointed engineer after Francis Giles was appointed to the London & Southampton Railway."

Another song with the same title exists; see Bar502. However the first line of Bar502 is "*Now folks I will tell you, although I'm no clown*"; the same as that of Bar269 of which it is probably a variant.