

strathspey

The Mill of Newe

Alexander Walker

MILL OF NEWE.

Walker: *A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Marches, &c., 1866; No. 138, pg. 47.*

Scottish, Strathspey. E Minor, AAB.

i. Dan R. MacDonald, LP, c.1960. ii. Winston Fitzgerald, LP, c.1964.

iii. Dan Hughie MacEachern, home tape, c.1970, reissued to CD.

iv. Alex Francis MacKay, CD, 1996. v. Ian MacDougall, CD, c.2006.

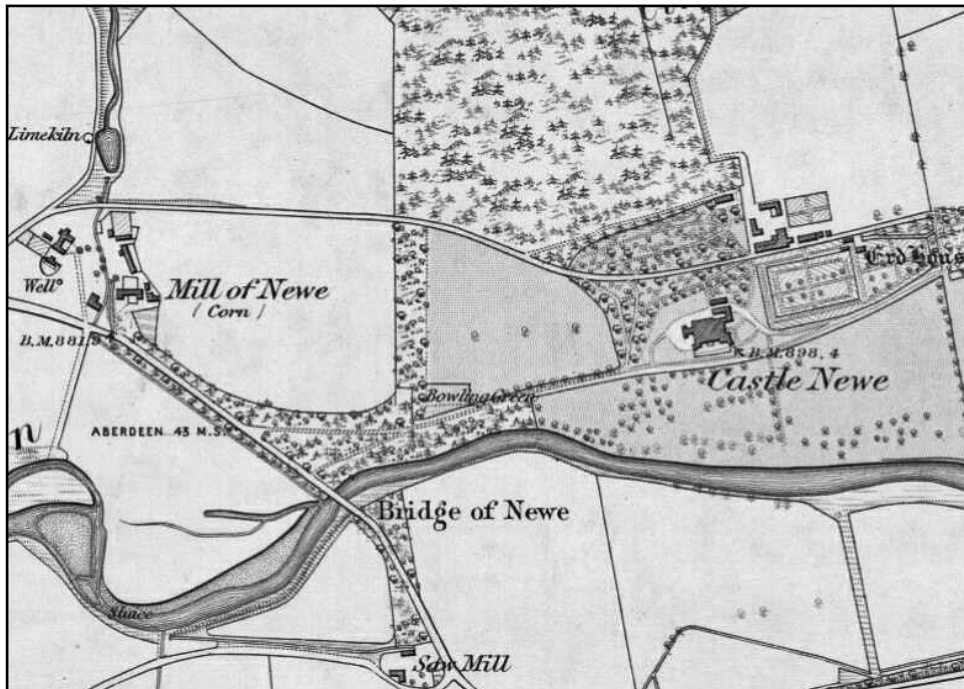
Composed by Alexander Walker, who also composed a tune entitled *Mr. Alexander Lawson* for a resident of the Mill area.



Mill of Newe

The Mill of Newe is approximately two miles east of the village of Bellabeg in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and was a large early corn mill with a prominent Aberdeenshire kiln vent (comprising revolving ventilator with polygonal slate base). The mill is just half a mile or so west of Castle Newe

The Don District Salmon Fishery Board's Hatchery is now located in the Mill of Newe. The Mill of Newe is approximately 2 miles east of the village of Bellabeg in Strathdon. The hatchery came into operation in 1964 as a result of former industrial pollution on the lower reaches of the River Don. Salmon stocks had become very poor on the middle and upper reaches of the river. The mill has three floors. The top floor holds the water feeder tanks for the egg troughs which are located below. The bottom floor houses some of the 14 rearing tanks. There are also two external rearing tank units. The egg troughs and rearing tanks are gravity fed by water from the Deochry Burn which flows past the hatchery.



Mill of Newe Map 1850 - Dwellings around the Mill at Newe are called the Milltown.

In 1851 the census read:

Mill of Newe

John Wattie	Head	62	Miller, carpenter & farmer (of 50 ac) empl 4
Grace	Wife	40	
Mary	Daur	14	Scholar
John	Son	8	Scholar
James	Son	6	Scholar
Alexander	Son	4	Scholar
Jannet	Daur	2	at home
George Wattie	Nephew	19	Carpenter
Barbra Coutts	Servant	36	General Servant
Adam Hay	Servant	30	Farm Servant

Mill of Newe

Harry Grassick	Head	44	Farm Servant
Jane	Wife	30	Wife
Mary	Daur	9	Scholar
John	Son	7	Scholar
Jane	Daur	5	at home
Helen	Daur	3	at home
Charles	Son	1	at home

Milltown of Newe

Jonathan Wattie	Head	59	Sawyer
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Milltown of Newe

Charles Ross	Head	34	Ag. Lab.
Elspet	Wife	28	

Milltown of Newe

James Forbes	Head	68	Carpenter
Jane	Wife	64	
Alexander Lawson	Grandson	8	Scholar

Milltown of Newe

George Forbes	Head	57	Farmer/40 acres employing 3 labourers
Jannet	Wife		
John	Brother	67(?)	Ag Lab retired
Charles Michie	Servant	34	Farm Labourer
Ephemia Shaw	Servant	24	House Servant
Charles Grassick	Servant	14	Cattleherd

Alexander Walker Connection

Alexander lived in the gardener's cottage at Castle Newe not far from the Milltown of Newe and would have known all the residents. Some were closer to Alexander as they were in the Newe band on the Lonach Society.

Another interest was that 'Mr. Wattie, (presumably senior) Bellabeg, Strathdon, possesses a violin in good preservation, bearing the following inscription, "Joseph Guamerius fecit y Cremonensis Sancia Teresia, 1684."



The photo above shows the Newe band with Alexander Walker on the left and Alexander Wattie on the right with the drums. He would have been about 19 years old at the time. Another member from the Milltown was Alexander Lawson (middle) who played the double bass.

The day's proceedings were wound up by a ball, which was numerously attended by the youth and beauty of the Vale of Alford, and the dancing was kept up to an early hour in the morning to the spirit-stirring strains of Messrs Walker, Castle Newe, and Skinner, teacher of dancing (violins); J. Walker, Castle Newe (double bass); Alexander Wattie, **Mil** of **Newe** (tenor drum), &c.

Tuesday 14 August 1866