

Great Eastern Reel

Ryan's Mammoth Collection, 1883

variation as played
by Patti Kusturok

Appears in Ryan's Mammoth Collection (1883) under this title and also as Bennett's Favorite. The name is attributed to the steamship built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1858, which at the time was the largest in the world. The tune is also known to Irish fiddlers as Silver Spire (probably named for the Empire State Building), recorded in 1931 by Paddy Killoran and Paddy Sweeney. Other titles include La Grondeuse and John Brennan's Reel. It is sometimes played as a hornpipe.