## Lord Mayo



This march is credited to David Murphy (Dáithi Ó Murchadha), a harper whose patron was Lord Mayo (Theobald Bourke, 1681-1741, of Castlebar, County Mayo), but who in the course of his career incurred the wrath of the greatest harper of the time, Turlough O'Carolan, who complained of his "lofty impudence."

"Murphy had a great opinion of himself, because he once played before King Louis XIV of France. This made him conceited, and his behaviour to his colleagues was such that they heartily disliked him. One day, Murphy came into the inn where Carolan was, and said that Carolan's tunes were like bones without beef. 'Damn me' says Carolan, 'But I'll compose a tune before I quit you, and you may put what beef you please on the bones ot it'. With that he seized Murphy by the hair of the head, dragged and kicked him through the room unmercifully, during which time Murphy's screeches could be heard at a great distance: Carolan saying to him while he was roaring 'put beef to that air, you puppy'. And it's likely according to the account, that if it were not through some interference he would not leave a drop (of blood) in Murphy'"

(Grainne Yeats, Complete Collection..., pg. 5)