Batoche refers to the Northwest Resistance of 1884-85 by Red River Métis and others, culminating in their defeat by a (British) Canadian Militia Force at the Battle of Batoche 9 - 12 May 1885. Batoche, in Saskatchewan north of Saskatoon, is now a Canadian Historic Site, and the site of the present-day Red River Métis annual gathering.

The original (from which this differs nontrivially) was written by Andy Dejarlis to commorate the historic event. More than a few Metis fiddlers have their own versions. Stuart Williams got this version from a videocassette, called "Medicine Fiddle", of Metis fiddling across Canada, and associated lore. On it was the version played by Mike Page (originally Page'), a Metis fiddler living on the Turtle Mountain Res., whose town is Belcourt ND, in north-central ND, about 5 mi south and 20 mi east of the border Peace Garden. Phil Katz and Pleasures of Home (the precursor of Small Pleasures) got it from Stuart. Listening to the video some time later, PLK found that Stuart had "nailed" the transcription. The only exception was that the original had a pronounced "chopped" B note in bars A2, A6 (a common Metis fiddlers' ornament) whereas Stuart played and passed on to other players, a long note (quarter note) there.

Phil Katz added the A major chord in bars B2, B6 (the original recording had Em for B1-2, B5-6); the added drama commemorates the fury of the battle. Interestingly on the Medicine Fiddle video, the tune is actually played to a view of driving the road from the Res, north to Batoche.

This is the version current among WA oldtime, contra, and Quebec players in the Pacific NW, having been taught at several workshops and played in several bands. It is worth noting that Andy Dejarlis' version exists recorded (and copied to CD), John Arcand has a version, Jimmy Laroque (also from Turtle Mt Res, and older than Mike Page) recorded a version, which has been transcribed. Jamie Fox has a version which I think she said was an amalgam of Arcand's and Jimmy Laroque's versions (ask her), but being an ear player she may be losing that version to the one she hears in sessions here. And Mike Page (d 1/25/2016) no longer played the tune this way; more recently he had a "crooked" version.

There are many excellent fiddlers on the Turtle Mountain Res. The local community FM station KEYA Radio Belcourt 88.5FM plays fiddle music from noon to 1pm Monday through Thursday. Several local fiddlers, younger than Mike Page, have CD's out, and you can hear some at Phil's.

**Medleys**

Pleasures of Home 1997-2000: Piper's Lass (D)/ Road to Batoche (Em) / Little Roy's Breakfast (D)

Small Pleasures 2000 - present:

above medley, then Piper's Lass (D) / Road to Batoche (Em) / Julie Delaney (Dm)

Earlier we tried Piper's Lass (D) / Sackett's Harbour (Am) / Road to Batoche (Em)

Grey Owl 2004 - 2007: Northern Lights (G) / Road to Batoche (Em) / Festival du Voyageur (Am);

Oyster River (G/Bm) / Road to Batoche (Em) / Festival du Voyageurs (Am) /

Big John (A) sometimes w/o #1 or #4

Common Ground - 2010: Reel Joseph (D/A)/ Road to Batoche (Em) / Festival du Voyageurs (Am)

Phil Katz likes to play Lucky Trapper (G) / Road to Batoche (Em) / Festival du Voyageurs (Am)

In New England at the Nelson NH dance he plays just Piper's Lass (D) / Road to Batoche