



## Scottish Poets and Poetry

### John Imlach

**J**ohn Imlach was a forebear of one of the most popular singers and entertainers in the Scottish Folk Revival, the late Hamish Imlach.

He was born in Aberdeen, seventh successive son of a country innkeeper, whose family had been farmers for many generations in the parish of Fyvie.

He became a skilled piano tuner who worked for six months each year in London and then the next six months travelling around Scotland. There was hardly a town between Edinburgh and Inverness, where he did not have a circle of friends. In 1845, he travelled to visit two of his brothers in Nova Scotia and then moved on to Jamaica. He contracted a tropical disease and died in Jamaica in January 1846.

While he never emigrated from Scotland, he must have often felt the emotions of those who left the country every time he travelled back to London.

