dactyls

George Gordon, Lord Byron, used dactylic tetrameter in his poem "The Bride of Abydos." Here is a sample:

> Know ye the land where the cypress and myrtle
> Are emblems of deeds that are done in their clime—
> Where the rage of the vulture, the love of the turtle
> Now melt into softness, now madden to crime?

Byron was being very clever here. Notice that the first line ends with what appears to be a trochee; Byron has moved an unstressed syllable (*Are*) down to line two. The lines read like perfect dactyls, but he played with the placement of the syllables.

1 2 3

Know ye the / land where the / cy press and