

Abe's Retreat

The musical score for "Abe's Retreat" is written in A Mixolydian mode (one sharp, F#) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: A, Em, A, Em, A. The second staff continues the melody with chord symbols Em, A, Em, A, Em, and a first ending bracket labeled "1." above an A chord. The third staff features a second ending bracket labeled "2." above an A chord, followed by chord symbols Em, A, Em. The fourth staff continues with chord symbols A, Em, A, Em, D. The fifth staff concludes with two first ending brackets labeled "1." and "2." above an A chord.

"Abe's Retreat", also known as "The Battle of Bull Run" or "Manassas Junction" is an old-time breakdown in A Mixolydian. It is played in standard, AEae or GDgd fiddle tunings. The parts are played AABB.

The title clearly refers to Abraham Lincoln, who, as President, was Commander in Chief of the brand-new Union army that met a disastrous defeat at the Battle of Bull Run (or, in the South, the 1st Battle of Manassas), Virginia, July 21st, 1861.

It was printed in Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021) and Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980).

It was recorded by Cordelia's Dad on **Spine** (1998), Harvey Sampson and the Big Possum String Band on **Flat Foot in the Ashes** (1986/1994), Wilson Douglas on **Back Porch Symphony and Fiddle Tunes from Central West Virginia**, Red Clay Ramblers on **Stolen Love** (1975), New Lost City Ramblers on **There Ain't No Way Out**, Rafe Stefani on **Hell and Scissors** and Jim Taylor on **The Civil War Collection** (1996).