

Belle of Lexington

The musical score for "Belle of Lexington" is presented in five staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The first staff, labeled 'A', shows the first part of the tune with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The second staff, labeled 'B', shows the second part of the tune with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The third staff, labeled 'A', shows the first part of the second system with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The fourth staff, labeled 'B', shows the second part of the second system with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The fifth staff shows the final two measures of the piece, with first and second endings indicated by '1.' and '2.' above the staff. Chord symbols (D, G, A) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic structure.

"Belle of Lexington", also known as "Belle Election" (John Patterson's title), "The Hauling Home", "Kitty's Wedding", "Mrs. Smith's Reel", "Smith's Delight" or "Smith's Reel" is an old-time breakdown in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

The tune, related to "Smith's Reel" and apparently derived from the Irish hornpipe "Kitty's Wedding", was recorded by legendary southwestern Virginia fiddler Emmett Lundy (1864-1953, as "Belles of Lexington"). He played it with the A and B parts reversed.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Krassen's **Masters of Old Time Fiddling** (1983), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, Vol. 1** (1994), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002), Susan Songer with Clyde Curley **Portland Collection vol. 3** (2015) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by John Patterson on **Old Originals, vol. 2** (1978), Skip Gorman on **Trail to Mexico** (1987), Lost World String Band on **Ready To Wear** (1981) and Emmett Lundy on **Fiddle Tunes from Grayson County** (1977).