

## Betty Baker

GDad tuning

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"Betty Baker" is an American reel in cut time and G Major. It is played in GDad fiddle tuning. The parts are played AABB.

The tune has been called a 'West Virginia standard' but versions also were played in east Kentucky. This version of the tune is from Copen, Braxton County, central W.Va., fiddler Melvin Wine (1909-2003) and it was in the repertoire of Ernie Carpenter (related to, not closely, French Carpenter), who learned the reel from legendary fiddler Uncle Jack McElwain (1856-1938) of Webster County, W.Va. Wine learned the tune from Tom Allen a member of a musical family from around Napier, Braxton County. Gerry Milnes (**Play of a Fiddle**, 1999) says at least six members of the family were fiddlers, although all have since died.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His comment:

Initially from the playing of Tom, Brad and Alice. Latest modifications from listening to Mr. Wine. No one more engaging!

It was recorded by Melvin Wine on **Hannah at the Springhouse** (1989) and Christian Wig & Mark Ward on **Come Back Boys & Feed the Horses: Fiddling on the Frontier** (2011).