

## Brushy Fork of John's Creek

The image shows the musical notation for the fiddle tune "Brushy Fork of John's Creek". It is written in A Mixolydian mode (one sharp, F#) and 2/2 time. The notation is divided into two sections, A and B. Section A is the first two lines of music, and Section B is the third line. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, Em, A, Em, A for Section A, and Em, D, Em, A for Section B.

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"Brushy Fork of John's Creek", also known as "Brushy Fork of Buckthorn" or "The Long Fork of Buckthorn" is an old-time American breakdown from eastern Kentucky in A Mixolydian, usually played in AEae tuning on the fiddle. The parts are played AB (Titon/Stamper), AAB (Titon/Salyer) or ABB'CC (Phillips).

It is in the repertoires of Kentucky fiddlers Hiram Stamper and John Salyer. It is closely related to "Long Fork of Buckhorn" and "Old Christmas Morning". Versions of the tune were in the repertoires of West Virginia fiddlers Burl Hammons and Ed Haley. Kentucky fiddler Hiram Stamper learned the tune from Shade Sloan, a Civil War veteran and said that Alton Sizemore played it and called it "Brushy Fork of Buckhorn". Hiram's son, the late Art Stamper, recorded a version in standard tuning he called "The Long Fork of Buckhorn".

Gerry Milnes suggests the title may relate to John's Creek in West Virginia's Big Sandy Valley, where one branch of the Hammonds family settled in 1791 (members of the family spell their last name differently). John Hartford (Fiddler) says older informants have told him the title commemorates a Civil War battle either on Brushy Fork of John's Creek in Pike County, Kentucky, or near Old Bedstead Mountain in southern Floyd County, Kentucky. The battle was supposedly one of the last of the war, according to the veteran Sloan.

The standard notation/mandolin tab version is based on Hiram Stamper's playing. John Letscher did the banjo tab and his version is based on John Salyer's playing. It was printed in **Fiddler Magazine, Winter 2005/06, vol. 12, No. 4** (two versions), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Titon's **Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001).