

Buck Mountain

The musical score for "Buck Mountain" is written in D Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains a first ending. The second staff continues the first ending. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains a second ending. The fourth and fifth staves continue the second ending. The sixth staff is a final chord on a D note. Chord symbols D, G, and A7 are placed above the notes. First and second endings are indicated by brackets and numbers 1 and 2.

"Buck Mountain" is an American reel in D Major. The parts are played AAB'B' (Phillips, Silberberg), AA'BB (Songer) or AA'B (Lamancusa).

Buck Mountain in northwestern Albemarle County, Virginia is the only peak in its vicinity and a fairly prominent local feature.

The tune is sourced to Napoleon Bonaparte "Uncle Nip" Chisholm, a fiddler from Woodridge, in southern Albemarle County, Virginia, who was active in the 1930's. "Uncle Nip" supposedly derived his nickname from his drinking habits and not from a shortening of his given name. The tune was popularized regionally by a group called the Virginia Vagabonds, formed in 1932, whose guitar player, Earl Smith, was related to Chisholm and learned the melody from him (the elderly fiddler was perhaps his great uncle). Remarkably, the Virginia Vagabonds survived as a band, with some original and near-original members, into the 21st century.

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021) and Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997).