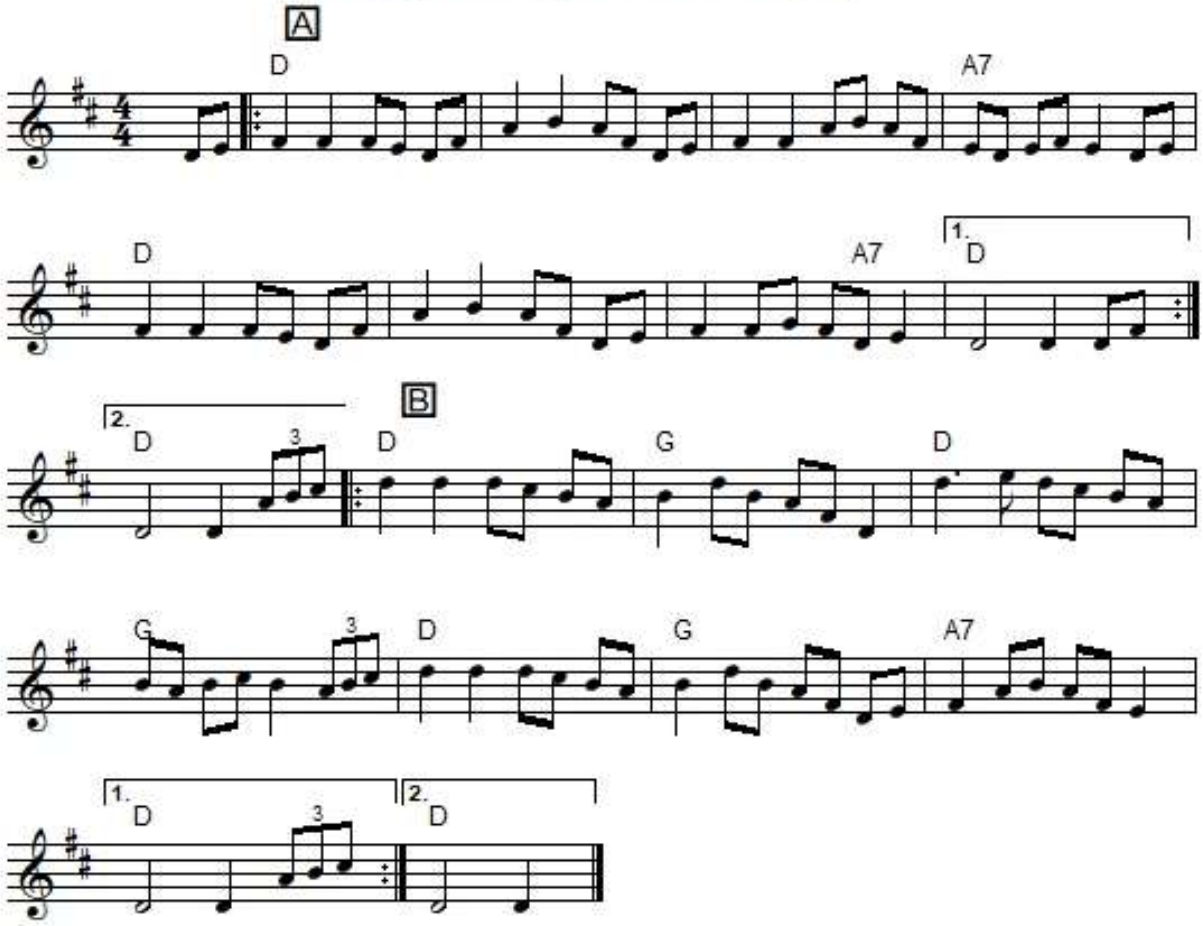
Camp Meeting on the 4th of July



"Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July" is an old-time march in D Major. It is played in standard or DDad fiddle tuning. The parts are played AB or AA'BB'.

Camp meetings were common outdoor revivals held on the American frontier during the 19th century by various Protestant denominations. These camp meetings filled an ecclesiastical and spiritual need in the unchurched settlements as the population moved west. Their origin is obscure, but historians have generally credited James McGready (c. 1760–1817), a Presbyterian, with inaugurating the first typical camp meetings in 1799–1801 in Logan County, Kentucky. Other ministers who associated with McGready subsequently spread his methods throughout the southern United States.

Those who attended such meetings came prepared to camp out. As many as 10,000 to 20,000 people were reported at some meetings. Activities included preaching, prayer meetings, hymn singing, weddings, and baptisms. The theology of the preachers varied, but a sudden conversion experience was usually emphasized.

The tune was originally used as a processional march at the beginning of these revival meetings. Its earliest documented use has been traced back to a series of camp meetings held in Alabama and Arkansas in the late 1800's.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002), James Bryan's **Festival of Fiddle Tunes** (1995) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Chris Coole on **Old Dog** (2010),