

Chinquapin Hunting

The musical score for "Chinquapin Hunting" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'A' and contains the first measure. The second staff is labeled 'B' and contains the second measure, including a triplet. The third staff is labeled 'C' and contains the third measure. The fourth staff contains the fourth measure. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Chinquapin Hunting", also known as "Chinquapin" or "Chinqui Pin Hunting" is an old-time breakdown known in Virginia and Kentucky in A Major. The parts are played AA'BB' (Silberberg) or AA'BCC (Phillips). It is a different tune than the similarly titled "Chinky Pin" or "Chinquapin." Fiddler Hiram Stamper (Hindman, Knott County, Kentucky) played a version that appears to be unique and felt the tune was at least as old as the Civil War.

Chinquapin probably refers to the *Castanea pumila* tree, commonly known as the Allegheny chinquapin, American chinquapin or dwarf chestnut, is a species of chestnut native to the southeastern United States. Native Americans made an infusion of chinquapin leaves to relieve headaches and fevers. The bark, leaves, wood and seed husks of the plant contain tannin. Chinquapins attract wildlife when it grows multiple stalks producing a thick cover used by turkeys. The nuts are consumed by squirrels and rabbits while white tail deer graze on the foliage.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes**, vol. 1 (1994), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002) (appears as "Chinquapin") and Titon's **Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001).