

The Eighth of January

Part A

D G A7

1 2 Part B

D A7 D A7 D

"The Eighth of January", also known as "Go See the Widow" is a widely known American reel in D Major. It commemorates the date of the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812. The battle was fought from December 23rd, 1814 to January 8th, 1815, after the Treaty of Ghent had been signed by the British but before the signing by the Americans. Jackson's army consisted of militia, regular infantry, marines and French pirates totaling 5700 troops. The British fielded 8000 trained regular troops. During the battle the British suffered 2000 casualties. The Americans suffered 71.

The melody was originally named "Jackson's Victory".

Jimmy Driftwood used this tune for his song "The Battle of New Orleans" which he wrote to get his students interested in history.

It was printed in Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), R.P. Christeson's **Old Time Fiddler's Repertory, vol. 2** (1984), Ford's **Traditional Music in America** (1940), Kaufman's **Beginning Old Time Fiddle** (1977), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: Old Time Southern** (1989), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Ruth's **Pioneer Western Folk Tunes** (1948), **Sing Out, vol. 36, No. 2, August, 1991** and Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964/1981).

I play this tune in medleys with:

- Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine
- Come Dance and Sing
- Kitchen Girl
- Green Willis
- The Richmond Cotillion
- The Snouts and Ears of America

All of them are in this section.