

Going down the River

A

B

1.

2.

I had a wife and she was a Quaker.
She wouldn't work and the devil couldn't make her.

I had a wife and she was a weaver.
She wouldn't weave and I wouldn't either.

Oh my little girl if you don't do me better.
I'll build me a boat and I'll sail down the river.

"Going down the River", also known as "Going up the River", "Boating Up Sandy", "Sandy River" (Western N.C. title), "Little Dog Trottin' Down The River", "Little Dutch Girl" (Ozarks title), "Sailing Down the River" and "Davy Davy" is an old-time breakdown in F Major (Dr. Smith's) or A Major (Fraley). It is played in standard or AEae fiddle tuning (J.P. Fraley). The parts are played AABB.

The tune can be accompanied by playing a major chord throughout. The lyrics are pretty much an after-thought like those used with "Fly Around / Western Country" and are mainly for fun and to keep the band alert while playing for long dances.

The melody is rhythmically similar to "Sally Goodin".

"Going Down the River" was recorded for Victor Records in Memphis, Tenn., in September 1928 by the Arkansas group Dr. Smith's Champion Hoss Hair Pullers, although it was not released by Victor until 1929. It featured the twin fiddling of Brian Lackey and Clark Duncan on the cut. However, a very similar version had been recorded a year earlier by The Hill Billies (Tony Alderman & Charlie Bowman, fiddles) as "Boating Up Sandy". It is a very different tune from the one in this collection.

In some parts of North Carolina and Tennessee the tune is called "Sandy River".

The source for this version is the recording of Dr. Smith's Hoss Hair Puller's transposed to A. It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Johnson's **Kitchen Musician No. 2: Old-Timey Fiddle Tunes** (1982, revised 1988, 2003), Kaufman's **Beginning Old Time Fiddle** (1977), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994).

It was recorded by Dr. Smith's Champion Hoss Hair Pullers (78 rpm)(1929), Dr. Smith's Champion Hoss Hair Pullers on **Echoes of the Ozarks, vol. 2** (1970), Western N.C. fiddlers Osey and Ernest Helton (as "Sandy River"), New Lost City Ramblers, J.P. and Annadeene Fraley on **Wild Rose of the Mountain**.