

## Hannah at the Springhouse

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Hannah at the Springhouse". It consists of five staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure, indicating the start of the 'A' part. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, Em7, D, A, D, A, Em7. The second staff continues with chords A, Em7, D, Em7, Am, Em7. The third staff starts with Am, Em7, A, Em7, Am. The fourth staff has Em7, Am, Em7, Am, D. The fifth staff has Em7, Am, Em7, Am. The music is in 4/4 time until the third staff, where it changes to 3/2 time. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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"Hannah at the Springhouse" is an American reel in cut time and A Mixolydian ('A' part) & A Dorian ('B' part). The parts are played AB. The tune is crooked with the last measure of the A part being in 3/2.

It was in the repertoire of legendary fiddler Lewis Johnson "Uncle" Jack McElwain (1856-1938) of White Oak, a tributary of Laurel Creek, near the village of Erbacon, Webster County, West Virginia. Local lore, remarks West Virginia musician and folklorist Gerry Milnes (**Play of a Fiddle**, 1999), gives that Erbacon was named by the habit of the cook at the local hotel, who invariably asked, "Do you want ham 'r bacon?" Investigating further, Milnes found that the town was actually named for E.R. Bacon, an official with the B & O railroad.

Copen, Braxton County, West Virginia, fiddler Melvin Wine (1909-2003) learned the tune from his father, Bob, who had it from his father Nels and Grandfather "Smithy."

It was printed sources in Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011) and Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995).

It was recorded by Melvin Wine on **Hannah at the Springhouse** (1989/1999).