

The King's Head

The musical score for "The King's Head" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed section marker 'A' and a D chord. The second staff features chords G, A7, D, and A7. The third staff starts with a D chord, followed by a boxed section marker 'B', and then D, A7, and D chords. The fourth staff contains chords A7, D, A7, D, and A7. The fifth and final staff begins with a D chord and ends with a double bar line.

"The King's Head", also known as "Soldier's Joy", "King's Hornpipe", "I Love Somebody", or "Payday in the Army" is an English (originally) and American reel in D Major. The parts are played AB.

"Kings Head" was the name "Soldier's Joy" went by in areas of the northern U.S., especially in Pennsylvania; it is known to most folk fiddlers.

The title "The King's Head" probably has something to do with its association to the alternate titles "Soldier's Joy" and "Payday in the Army". It may refer to coins with the king's portrait stamped on the obverse. The King's Head was also the name of many taverns in England, referred to from the 16th century on. One famous King's Head was at the corner of Chancery Lane, dating from the time of Edward VI, was the residence of Izaak Walton and appears in all the illustrated editions of his book **The Compleat Angler**, which he advertised to be "sold at his shopp in Fleet Street; under the King's Head tavern". The term, especially in pub names, probably originated in the reign of Henry VIII when pubs called The Pope's Head where renamed The King's Head.

Bayard traces the tune itself to Europe and cites a number of French, Danish and Finnish sources. In his 1981 publication he stated the tune dated back to the latter part of the 1700's, and that it had since become as popular on the fife as on the fiddle.

Tunes by this name were collected by Samuel Bayard from Mrs. Sarah Armstrong, (Derry, Pennsylvania, 1943), Hiram White (elderly fiddler from Greene County, Pa., 1930's), George Reed (elderly fiddler from Centre County, Pa., 1930's), and George Strosnider (elderly fiddler from Greene County, Pa., 1930's).

It was printed in Adam's **Old Time Fiddlers' Favorite Barn Dance Tunes** (1928), Aird's **Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 1** (1782), **American Veteran Fifer, No. 93**, Bayard's **Hill Country Tunes** (1944), Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), Burchenal's **American Country Dances, vol. 1** (1918), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), DeVille & Gold's **Universal Album** (1912), Ford's **Traditional Music in America** (1940), Greenleaf and Mansfield's **Ballads and Sea Songs of Newfoundland**, Harding's **Original Collection**, Howe's **School for the Violin** (1851), **Jigs and Reels, vol. 2** (1908), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1875), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Levey's **Dance Music of Ireland, 1st Collection** (1858), Linscott's **Folk Songs of Old New England**, O'Neill's **Music of Ireland** (1903), Raven's **English Country Dance Tunes** (1984), Robbins's **Collection of 200 Jigs, Reels, and Country Dances** (1933), Roche's **Collection, vol. 2**, Saar's **Fifty Country Dances** (1932), O'Malley & Atwood's **Seventy Good Old Dances** (1919), Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964), Sym's **Old Time Dances** (1930), Thede's **The Fiddle Book** (1970) and White's **Excelsior Collection**.