

Nancy Blevins

ADad fiddle tuning

The musical score for "Nancy Blevins" is written in ADad fiddle tuning (D major). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure. The second staff has a boxed 'B' above the fourth measure. Chord markings include D, A7, and B. The music is in 2/4 time and features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

"Nancy Blevins" is an American reel and song in cut time and D Major. It is played in ADad tuning. The parts are played AB.

The melody is known as a Surry County, North Carolina, regional tune, sourced to fiddler and instrument maker Albert Hash (1917-1983), who lived in nearby Whitetop Mountain, Grayson County, Virginia.

Albert Hash (1917-1983) said he learned the tune from Jim Reedy, who learned it from his father, Bob Reedy.

Apparently, Nancy Blevins (11/5/1852 - 1/30/1939) was related to Hash's grandfather and in her time was a noted fiddler. She was also said to smoke a pipe and practice witchcraft (probably an echo of the old belief that expertise on the fiddler was related to the devil).

The tune is similar in the first strain to another tune by a regional fiddler, Norman Edmonds, called "Hawks and Eagles".

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher who says it is:

From the playing of Allison DeGroot and Tatiana Hargreaves. Best at breakneck speed. It was recorded by Albert Hash on **Albert Hash vol. 1: Recordings from the collection of Kilby Spencer** (2015), Albert Hash & Thornton Spencer on **Old Originals, vol. 2** (1978), Wade Ward on **Uncle Wade - A Memorial to Wade Ward: Old Time Virginia Banjo Picker, 1892-1971** (1973) and Allison DeGroot and Tatiana Hargreaves on **youtube**.