

Old Flannigan

A

D A7 A

E7 A

D E7 A

D A E7 A

B

E A B7 E

E A B7 1. E

2. E

"Old Flannigan" is an American reel in cut time in A Major ('A' part) & E Major ('B' part). It is played in standard or AEae fiddle tuning. The parts are played ABB (Songer) or AABB' (Phillips).

One story is that the tune was brought north to Kentucky by a fiddler named Brack Flannigan, who was originally from Texas and settled in the Gallatin/Grant County area. It was recorded by a Grant County, northeast Kentucky, band called The Blue Ridge Mountaineers in 1929 in Richmond, Indiana, one of only two sides the group recorded. The Mountaineer's fiddler, Frank Miller, had the tune from his uncle John Hall who had learned it from Flannigan, and Miller and his cousin (John's son, Jarvie Hall) were the only two fiddlers who are known to have played the tune. Having no name for it, they called it after their original source. Whether or not the story is apocryphal, the tune appears to be derived from "Old Mother Flanagan". It is also related to Missouri melody "A & E Rag".

Collector John Harrod explains the Ohio River fiddle style, a la Frank Miller, sounds similar to Canadian fiddling, fast and 'notey'.

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997).

It was recorded by the Blue Ridge Mountaineers (78 RPM) (1929), on **Kentucky Mountain Music: Classic Recordings of the 1920s & 1930s, disc 4** and **Way Down South in Dixie** (1980), Harold Zimmerman on **Along the Ohio's Shores, vol. 1 - Fiddle Music Along a Great River** (2020).