

Possum Up a Simmon Tree

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the first measure. The second staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above it. The third staff has a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above it, which concludes with a boxed letter 'B'. The fourth and fifth staves continue the melody and include various chord markings such as Em, D, A, and Em7. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"Possum up a Simmon Tree" is an American reel in cut time and A Mixolydian/Major. The parts are played AABB.

"Little Sally Ann" and "Sally Ann the Gal I Like" from Pike County, Ky. fiddler Owen "Snake" Chapman and "Nancy Anne" from West Virginia fiddler and banjo player W. Franklin George are close cognates.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher who got it from the Troublesome Creek String Band. A 'Simmon tree is the American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), native to the central and eastern United States. The name persimmon comes from 'putchamin', a phonetic rendering of the name used by the Algonquin tribe of the American Indians.

The tune was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994).

It was recorded by Buddy Thomas on **Buddy Thomas** (2005) and on **Kitty Puss: Old-Time Fiddle Music from Kentucky** (1976) and Troublesome Creek String Band on **Fast As Time Can Take Me** (2003).