


# Red Steer

**A**



Musical notation for section A, first system. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords A and D are indicated above the staff.

**B**



Musical notation for section B, first system. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords A, D, and E7 are indicated above the staff.

**C**



Musical notation for section C, first system. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords A, E7, and A are indicated above the staff.

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"Red Steer". also known as "Brown's Dream" or "John Brown's Dream" is an American reel in cut time and A Major. It is played in GDgd or AEae fiddle tuning. The "Red Steer" version of the tune is sourced to the playing of fiddler John Dykes (c.1882- 1940's?) of the Kingsport, northeast Tennessee, area (on the border with Virginia), leader of the Dykes Magic City trio, which also included Myrtle Vermillion on autoharp and Hub Mahaffey on guitar (with vocals sometimes later supplied by Dykes' brother-in-law, Dock Boggs).

Kingsport at the time was boosting itself as the "magic city" because of its progressiveness. An article in the Kingsport Times on February 18th, 1927, reported "The Kingsport Trio, known as John R. Dykes' String Band... were introduced by Kiwanian T.R. Bandy [who] announced that this trio had been selected out of a group of 50 such organizations by the Brunswick Phonograph Company, of New York, to make records."

The trio recorded "Red Steer" in New York in March, 1927, for Brunswick records, although the 78 was not released until January of the following year ("Red Steer" was backed with "Callahan's Reel"). The reel is a member of the "John Brown's Dream" family of tunes and is a tune associated with another fiddler, Fiddlin' Cowan Powers (1879-1953), who was active in the teens and twenties in the same southwestern Virginia/northeast Tennessee area, who had recorded it in 1924 (as "Brown's Dream").

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His notes:

from the Dykes Magic City Trio. Learned at the Gettysburg Jam.

It was printed in Clare Milliner & Walt Koken's Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle (2011).

It was recorded by Dykes Magic City Trio on **Dykes Magic City Trio: Complete Recordings**, originally recorded on a Vocalion (Brunswick) 78 (1928).