

## Sheep Shell Corn

The musical score for "Sheep Shell Corn" is written in G major (two sharps) and cut time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'A' and contains the first ending. The second staff is labeled 'B' and contains the second ending. The third and fourth staves continue the melody. Chord symbols (A, E7, D, A, G, D, A7) are placed above the notes. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

---

"Sheep Shell Corn", also known as "Sheep Shell Corn by the Rattling of his Horn", "Sheep Shuckin' Corn", "Sheepy Shell Corn" and "Fuller's Reel" is an American reel in cut time and A Major ('A' part) & D Major/ A Major ('B' part). The parts are played AB (Silberberg) or AABB (Kuntz, Phillips).

"Sheep Shell Corn" is a Galax, southwestern Virginia, standard and was in the repertoire of older Grayson County fiddlers such as Emmett Lundy (1864-1953), Roscoe Parish (1897-1984) and Luther Davis (1887-1986).

Lundy learned some of his repertoire from an older fiddler named Greenberry Leonard (1810-1892), although there is no indication whether "Sheep Shell" was one of the tunes acquired from that source. However, the title (as "Sheepie Shell Corn") appears in a list of traditional Ozarks Mountains fiddle tunes compiled by musicologist/folklorist Vance Randolph, published in 1954.

Contemporary Mid-West fiddler Brad Leftwich calls the melody "Fuller's Reel" after his source, who had no name for it.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His comment:

Learned from Highwoods. None better.

Lundy and Reeves sang no verses to the tune, but verses dating to the 19th century are extant but usually set to different tunes.

Several versions of lyrics were published in the **Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore, vol. III** (1922) and Thomas Talley's **Negro Folk Rhymes** (1922).

It was printed in Kuntz's **Ragged but Right** (1987) (two versions), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Highwoods String Band on **The Young Fogies** (1985), Luther Davis, Roscoe & Leone Parish on **The Old Time Way** (1986) and Dan Gellert & Shoofly on **Forked Deer** (1986).