

The Squirrel Hunters

A

B

1. 2.

"The Squirrel Hunters", also known as "Squirrel Hunting", "The Bell Cow" (Pa.), "Dilly's Favorite" (Pa.), "Jenny Put the Kettle On" (Pa.), "Nigger in the Woodpile" (Pa.), "Old Common Time" (Pa.) or "The Pennsylvania Quickstep" (Pa.) is an American march in 2/4 or 4/4 time and A Mixolydian. The parts are played AB or AABB.

This tune was known in Pennsylvania primarily as a fife "stop-beat" piece (in which both the fifes and drums stop playing to introduce a brief pause).

This version is approximately the same as Bayard's version A. Bayard gives it in 2/4 time with the note time values half of those given here. His version also has no repeats.

Bayard has identified it as a member of "one of the most widespread of our British Isles melodic families". He lists a few of the recurrent old-country titles of members of this melodic complex: "The Oyster Wives Rant", "The Haughs of Cromdale", "Wate You how the Play Began", "The Hillside", "Welcome Home" and "Fare Thee Well Sweet Killaloe" and in his note to this tune he cites numerous other references.

I got the banjo tab at a Midwest Banjo Camp but I forget who passed it out.

It was printed in Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981).

It was recorded by John Hartford on **Wild Hog in the Brush and a Bunch of Others You Might Not Have Heard** (1996) and Tallboys on **Yeah Buddy** (2006).