

West Fork Girls

The musical score for "West Fork Girls" is written in D Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are labeled with a boxed 'A' and represent the first section. The last two staves are labeled with a boxed 'B' and represent the second section. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, A7, and D.

"West Fork Girls" also known as "West Fork Gals" or "Westfort Gals" is an American reel in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

It is known as a (central) West Virginia tune. Perlman (1979) thinks it may be related to the Irish reel "The Wexford Lasses".

Clay County, West Virginia, fiddler Wilson Douglas identifies the location of the title as the West Fork of the Little Kanawha river, in West Virginia, and thinks that influential regional fiddler Ed Haley learned the tune in Clay County, W. Va. The West Fork is where "they used to have their big dances when (his mentor, French Carpenter) was a young man, back when they were logging," states Douglas, who also said that French played the tune in the 1920's along with one Anderson Dawson, who knew Ed Haley. Gerry Milnes says the river flows through Calhoun County, W.Va. and that there is a large, traditional old-time music community in that area. Krassen (1973) notes the tune is popular with fiddlers in the Gilmer County, West Virginia, region.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Carlin's **English Concertina** (1977), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Rodney and Randy Miller on **Castles in the Air**, Hollow Rock String Band on **Hollow Rock String Band** (1974), Fuzzy Mountain String Band on **Summer Oaks and Porch** (1973), Gerry Milnes & Lorriane Lee Hammond on **Hell Up Coal Holler** (1999), Wilson Douglas on **The Right Hand Fork of Rush's Creek** (1975) and John Hartford on **Wild Hog in the Red Brush and a Bunch of Others You Might Not Have Heard** (1996).