

THREE GOOD OLD TIME TUNES PROBABLY NEVER PUBLISHED, WITH OTHERS.

The following three tunes, "Three Forks of Cumberland", "Big Tennessee" and "Chadwell's Station," were played by David R. Hamblen (1809-1893) of Cumberland Gap, Lee County, Virginia. It is believed they were never published except as they were passed by ear from one local player to another and were composed by some local musician of that region. Mr. Hamblen moved to Brown County, Indiana, 1857. No one outside the Hamblen families ever knew or played them there.

John Marshall Gillaspay was a professional musician as was also his brother Richard J. Gillaspay. They both traveled and played extensively over Indiana and Illinois. Both asserted that they never heard any one play these tunes except as stated above. John Marshall Gillaspay (1877-1952) composed a number of excellent compositions. Among them were the marches, "With Flag And Fleet" and "Culver Black Horse Troop" which were published, copyrighted and played by military bands extensively. The later was adjudged by some very competent band masters as, "The greatest march ever written."

Mr. Gillaspay was a grandson of the Reverend William Hamblen, a brother of David R. Hamblen. A. Porter Hamblen who arranged these melodies in this booklet in co-operation with Mr. Gillaspay was a grandson of David Russel Hamblen and played the violin and composed a number of songs and instrumental numbers.

Referring to "THREE FORKS OF CUMBERLAND" Mr. Gillaspay wrote;
"This tune was my favorite of all dear Uncle David's library and I believe it is the hardest tune to put on paper I have ever tackled. This haunting melody will come to you as you play it. Tune your violin with D and G strings up (to E & A) David called it "Italian Key". I am mailing you as perfect a photograph of Uncle David's playing this tune as it would be possible for me to make. You know it has been a long time since I sat at his knee to record it and he pronounced it perfectly. Let us hope that nothing has slipped.