

CUMBERLAND MTN. DEER CHASE

Traditional Fiddle Tune

This tune was made popular by David Harrison Macon, who learned it in the 1880's from the black stevedores who worked alongside the Cumberland River near his childhood home. Better known as Uncle Dave Macon, his notoriety grew as the first star of the Grand Old Opry.



He was born October 7, 1870 into a well-to-do family in central Tennessee. After the family suffered financial reversals following the Civil War, they moved to Nashville where they ran a hotel which served as the venue for vaudeville performers passing through town. The teenaged Macon watched the rehearsals and became fascinated with the various "trick" banjo players, then in vogue. After talking his parents into buying him a banjo, it wasn't long before he excelled as a musician and storyteller. Although, he ended up starting a freight line when this did not produce a steady

income, he never stopped entertaining the locals and never went anywhere without his banjo.

One day a talent scout offered Macon a job on the vaudeville circuit, where he became an immediate hit in cities from Birmingham to Boston. By 1924, he began making records for Vocalion. He first recording "*Cumberland Mountain Deer Chase*" (which he usually referred to as "*Cumberland Mountain Deer Race*") in 1932. He continued touring and performing at the Grand Old Opry right into his eighties, and did his last show just months before he died in 1952 at the age of 82.

In music and friendship,

~Tull