

Napoleon Crossing the Rhine

Scotland, Ireland, America
LM version

March

Quite often called “Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine”, this tune (untitled, or under other titles) has been common in Southern Pennsylvania probably since before the American Revolution, and was often played on the fife. If you can get to it, see Sam Bayard’s book. I have notated it in cut time because it is a march and the tempo is much slower than a reel, or even a hornpipe. It’s not hard to figure out the tempo and the way it should ‘go’ - just march to it!

The tune is a standard among old time musicians, and many bluegrass pickers play it as well. One of my personal favorites.

Bayard, Samuel P., ed. *Dance to the Fiddle, March to the Fife: Instrumental Folk Tunes in Pennsylvania*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1982. Out of Print.