Captain George, Has Your Money Come
Traditional
Banjo Tuning: gCGCD

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This quirky fiddle tune was the very first recording by the Mississippi duo of fiddler William T. Narmour and guitarist Shell W. Smith, at a session for Okeh records on February 15, 1928. Years later Narmour's daughter would say that he had composed the tune himself, and only named it when asked for a title for the record label.

The most difficult hurdle in mastering this tune is internalizing the structure, which is a far cry from the standard AABB pattern of most fiddle tunes. Fundamentally, I guess it is ABABCB, with the B part a 12 beat flight of fancy which acts as a bridge to connect the other melodic strains. The A part has 21 beats, and qualifies as officially crooked, the C part has 30 beats, also squirrelly. Expect to play it through quite a few times before it makes sense to you.

There are a few measures where the melody is highly syncopated, where the notes that need to be emphasized are not necessarily on the beat. I have highlighted the most important ones in yellow. In the B part of the tune, I use an inside roll, bringing the right hand middle finger of the right hand over to pick the 2nd string. I have included the right hand fingering in those locations.