Somewhere along the line, the New England fiddle tune Flying Cloud Cotillion made it into the repertoire of Posey Rorer, the fiddler for Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers, and this tune, Flyin' Clouds is the result. The Ramblers recorded it for Columbia Records in 1926. Its very close relationship to the New England tune is obvious. Not how, in the manner of a cotillion, it changes keys in the B part.

The Flying Cloud was a clipper ship, designed and built in East Boston by the great Donald McKay. Launched in 1851, she set the sailing record for the fastest passage from New York to San Francisco, a record not overtaken until 1989.