Country guitar pioneer Sam McGee played this tune on five string banjo, in an old time three finger style of picking. He picked it in standard C tuning, if I remember right. I used to teach it to my bluegrass students, as part of their exposure to pre-bluegrass three finger picking. I have set it here in open D, but I have still tried to retain some of the feel of McGee's parlor style. McGee played with his brother Kirk, and fiddlin' Arthur Smith, and together they often backed up Uncle Dave Macon, who also supplemented his frailing with some occasional three finger picking.