Yellow Rose of Texas

Traditional

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I first learned this tune from Doug Tanner, an old time fiddle player living in western Massachusetts. I had known Doug back in the early seventies, when we often ran into each other as fledgling musicians in the jam sessions and bars in and around the so-called “Cambridge music scene.” I had not seen him in many years, until I ran into him at the Winterhawk festival in the Berkshires about ten years ago. He had matured, blossomed really, into a tremendous musician, with a complete mastery of traditional fiddling. He taught me this tune at Winterhawk. Doug is now playing in a band called the Gypsy Wranglers. He can also sound like Stephan Grapelli when he wants to.

This tune is obviously closely related to the song by the same name, which I think is the official state song, or something. The
melody is simple, and the arrangement here is not too difficult. I actually play the second string hammer in measures 13 and 17 a little later than I've shown in the tablature, at about the same time the fifth string is picked, but I think it will be easier to hear and to learn the way I've written it here. There is a double stop in measure 14 that you roll into from the first string that may take some practice.