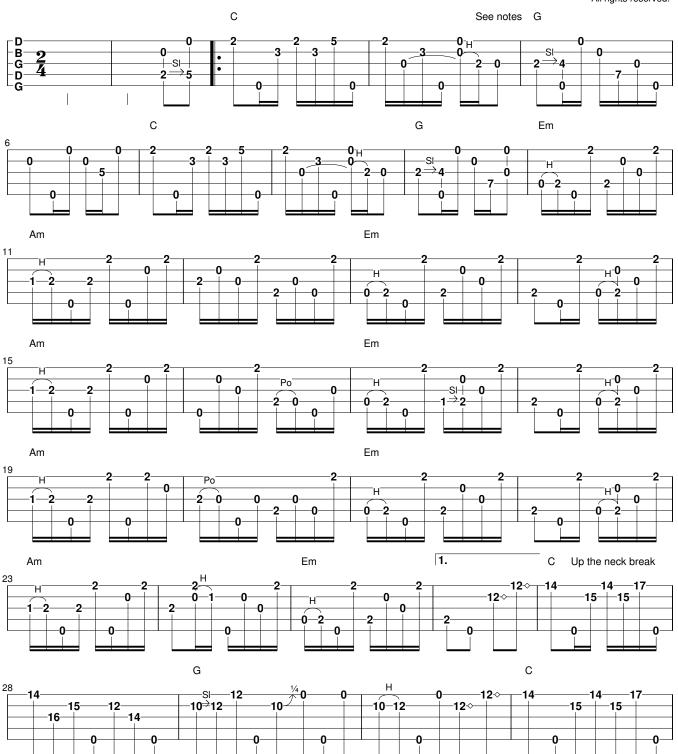
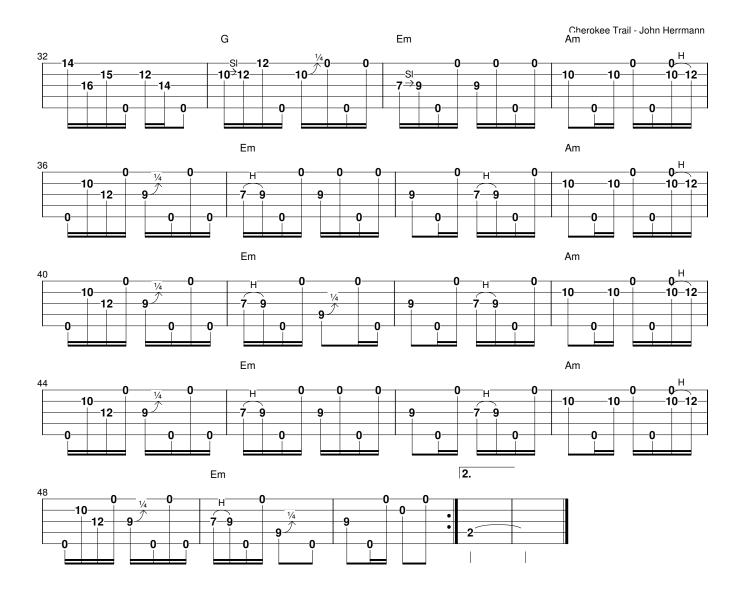
Cherokee Trail John Herrmann

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Don Couchie turned me onto this tune, when he sent me a link to a YouTube video of Dirk Powell, John Herrman, and Tim O'Brien playing this tune at a festival. The trio recorded the tune on a 1999 CD called Songs of the Mountain. I suspect the title refers to the Trail of Tears, the forced relocation in 1838 of ten of thousands of members of the Cherokee tribe from their ancestral homes in Appallachia to reservations west of the Mississippi. Thousands perished during the long march. The tune, written by Herrmann, is in the long tradition of Native American themed tunes and songs in Southern mountain music, reflecting the often overlooked influence of that community on mountain culture.

Measures 4 and 8 include what is essentially a ghost hammer, a hammer that is executed without first plucking the string. The 3rd string is plucked earlier in the measure as a drone note, but it will be pretty well faded by the time of the hammer.

The B part of the tune is a simple melody which seesaws between the Am and Em chords. In the open position version, I've given a variety of variations, but I will generally play whatever feels right at the moment.