



This is a pretty tune. According to the Fiddler's Companion, Joe Coleman was a shoemaker from Adair County in south central Kentucky, who in 1899 was convicted of murdering his wife. Claiming his innocence to the last, he reportedly played this tune while riding in the cart, sitting on his coffin on the way to the gallows. It was said that before he was hanged, he offered his fiddle to whoever could play the tune as well as he did. A fiddler named Prewitt came forward and met the test, ensuring the survival of both the tune and the fiddle.

On the up the neck B part starting in measure 12, make sure that you hold the melody notes on the second string for as long as possible so that they continue to sustain, while the open drone notes are sounding in the background. In the low break, in measure 26, and again in measure 35, the hammer onto the 4th string, 2nd fret is really a ghost hammer, as the open drone will have just about stopped ringing by then. In most of those situations where you are hitting the open 4th string as a drone, you want to pick it a liitle softer than the other notes, so that it stays somewhat in the background.