

Eighth of January

Score

Traditional - American

♩=160

fast reel

The musical score is written for a violin in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. Above the first staff are the chords D, G, A, and D. Above the second staff are the chords D, G, A, and D. Above the third staff are the chords D and A D. Above the fourth staff are the chords D and A D. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#), a time signature of 4/4, and a tempo marking of ♩=160. The piece is a fast reel. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The second staff starts with a measure rest of 5. The third staff begins with a repeat sign. The fourth staff starts with a measure rest of 13.

This fiddle tune commemorates Andrew Jackson's victory over British forces at the Battle of New Orleans, 8th January, 1815. Neither side was aware that the war had been ended by the Treaty of Ghent on 24th December, 1814.

It is set here as a 32 bar reel for dancing. The Arkansas folksinger and teacher, Jimmy Driftwood, set lyrics to the melody as "The Battle of New Orleans." The first line, "In 1814 we took a little trip," sometimes leads people to believe the battle was in 1814, not realizing the time it took to move an American army to New Orleans and to fortify the city for the battle in early January.

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