

Judge Parker, Take These Shackles Off Of Me

A tune from Eastern OK/Western AR - (see footnotes)

Traditional - From Uncle Dick Hutchison, Disney, OK
Mike Long Transcription - GES Finale 01

5

10

14

Legendary fiddler Uncle Dick Hutchison lived just up the road from Brad & Shirley Adams in the next town (on the other end of Pensacola Dam) on Grand Lake, OK This is his version as found at time 2:26 on this youtube recording <https://youtu.be/mWhBDCQQSMk>

Tricia Spencer & Howard Rains also play this version on a 2016 Clifftop jam recording

Other versions depart from, Uncle Dick Hutchison with a more "notey" B part without the half notes.

Here is a bit of history for Oklahomans as this is definitely a "regional" tune.

Between the years of 1875 ad 1896 it was said that 164 men were sentenced to the gallows by Judge Isaac Parker of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. As United States District Judge, his jurisdiction extended over a part of Arkansas and about 70,000 square miles of untamed land to the west, including the Indian territory that would later become Oklahoma. His was the only court until 1889, when it became possible to appeal to the US Supreme Court. *Until that time, his decision was final.* During his reign he began to be called "the hanging judge" With typical buffoonery, fiddlers started a comical tune in his honor. Also called "Take the Shackles Off" and "Take Your Shackles Off of Me," "Judge Parker" or "Old Judge Parker"

Oklahomans Woody Guthrie and Bobby Barnett both sang songs about the famous judge. (ref: The Fiddle Book - Marion Thede)