Some say the tune is named for a woman but both the sound and the name make me think of a paddle-wheel steamer. (As Alan Jabbour noted in his Library of Congress notes on Henry Reed’s version, river steamers often had such names.) Partly for that reason I like it at a moderate tempo, maybe 90 to 100 bpm.

I also like the sound of it on a clawhammer banjo, so I like to play it with a lot of eighth notes to keep some of that feel, and with cross-string slurs that remind me of banjo pull-offs and hammer-ons.

This arrangement is more or less how I play it on the fiddle, though I vary the bowing, slurs and use of drones some from one time to the next; what’s shown here is only one of many possibilities. See the Fiddlers Fakebook for a smoother version. (I’ve always played it in G, but the version in the Fiddlers Fakebook that sounds most like this is notated in D.)

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