

# BARLOW KNIFE

arr. Mel Durham

Tablature for Banjo (T, B) and Fiddle (Mdn.) in G major, 4/4 time.

**Tablature:**

0 2 3 3 2 2 3 5 3 0 5 0 2 3 3 2 2 0 2 0 5 0 2 3 3 2 2 3 5 3 0 5 0 2

**Fiddle:**

7 3 3 2 2 0 0 5 5 0 5 2 5 0 5 5 5 0 5 2 0 5 2 0 5 5

13 0 5 2 5 0 5 5 5 0 5 2 0 2 0 5 5 0 0 5 2 2 0 5 2 2 0 5 2 2

19 0 5 2 0 5 2 0 5 5 0 0 5 2 2 0 5 2 2 0 5 2 0 5 2 0 5 5

This is an Old-Time tune from the southeast USA. Variants are known as Blue Goose, Cabin Creek, I've Got a Grandpa and Boatin' Up Sandy. Fiddle players tend to call it Cabin Creek while "banjo players more frequently refer to it as Barlow Knife."

A barlow knife was a pocket knife imported from England in the late 18th to early 20th centuries. It was made in Sheffield and one of the earliest makers was a man known as Barlow. The knife had either single or double blades that opened only in one direction. ([tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Barlow\\_Knife](http://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Barlow_Knife))

I found two sets of lyrics to the tune: *I been livin' here all my life, All I got is a Barlow knife.*

*Buckhorn handle and a Barlow blade, Best dang knife that ever was made.*

*I been married all my life All I've got is a Barlow Knife*

[https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Barlow\\_Knife\\_\(1\)](https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Barlow_Knife_(1))

and: *I've been a poor boy all my life, An' all I got was a Barlow knife. (Repeat)*

*Barlow handle and a Barlow blade, Best dang knife that ever was made. (Repeat)*

*Take my money, take my wife, Just don't take my Barlow knife*

[www.vitheidler.com/barlow-knife-fiddle-tune-a-day-day-244/](http://www.vitheidler.com/barlow-knife-fiddle-tune-a-day-day-244/)