

MIDNIGHT ON THE WATER

Luke Thomasson

4

7

12

16

20

The tune **Midnight on the Water** is attributed to the Texan fiddler Luke¹ “Red Luke” Thomasson, dating back to around 1900.² It gained notable recognition after being recorded by his son, fiddler Benny Thomasson (1909 – 1984), in 1970 for his album ‘Country Fiddling from the Big State,’ subsequently becoming popular within Old Time music circles. There is speculation that certain sections of **Midnight on the Water** bear resemblance to **Old Paint**,³ a tune by Jess Morris, potentially indicating mutual inspiration, given the proximity of the Morris and Thomassons in the Texas panhandle during that time period. Often performed in Deadman’s Tuning (DDAD) alongside the standard GDAE tuning, both are viable options, yet Deadman’s Tuning lends the composition a deep resonance, enriching its serene ebbing character.

—Kitty Steetle

¹I also found ‘Lucas’ and ‘Lewis Alexander’:

<https://utaholdtimefiddlers.org/author/fiddler/page/2/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benny_Thomasson

²https://tuneearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Midnight_on_the_Water

³I think ‘Old Paint’ refers to a horse, but I can’t find confirmation. [*“Paint’s a good pony, and she paces when she can” is a line in the chorus, at least as sung by Bruce Molsky. —Josh*]