

# Sugar Hill

Tommy Jarrell

Key: D / Fiddle tuning: ADAE

Structure: A1, A2, B1 (verse), B2

Verses:

Five cents in my pocket change, two dollars in my  
bill

If I had ten dollars more, I'd climb old Sugar Hill

If I had no horse to ride, I'd be found a walkin',  
Up and down old Toenail Gap, a-hear that gal a-  
talkin'

Jaybird and the sparrow hawk, they had a fight  
together,  
They fought all around the briar patch, and never  
jerked a feather.

Possum on a 'simmon tree, cider's in my mill  
And if I had ten dollars more, I'd climb old Sugar  
Hill.

Verses can be sung in any order, but the first verse is usually sung first.

The first 3 verses are from the June Apple album and are sung in the porch jam. The Traditional Tune Archive says the last verse comes from Jarrell, Cockerham and Jenkins but if that's true, it's not from Down to the Cider Mill (listen for yourself), and none of my recordings of Tommy has him singing that verse. I like the verse though, so it's here if you want it. The Archive also says the verse is "Possum sittin' on a 'simmon tree" but I think it works better as "Possom on a 'simmon tree."

Tommy was known to start on either part, but he consistently ended on the B part.

The porch jam version starts on the A part. The Down to the Cider Mill version starts on the B part.

On this tune, Tommy also did the old-time fiddler thing of playing the B / low part as many times as he wanted and signaling when to go back to the high part. He does this on Down to the Cider Mill. On the porch jam, you can see him raising his fiddle to signal that he's going back to the high part.

Recommended Recordings:

Tommy Jarrell – [Jamming on a porch](#) (YT)

Tommy Jarrell – [Down to the Cider Mill](#) (YT)