

The Dorsetshire March

"The Dorsetshire March", also known as "Dorchester March", "Dorcestershire March", "Captain Reid's Delight" or "The Third Buffs March." is an English and Scottish march in D Major. The parts are played AB (Huntington, Miller) or AABB (Knowles, Sumner).

The name Dorset stems from the Latin term *Dornsaete*, signifying the people whom made their homes around the Roman city of Dorchester).

Early printings of the melody appear in the **Gillespie Manuscript** (Perth, Scotland, 1768) a volume entitled **A Collection of the Best and Most Favourite Tunes for the Violin** (appears as "Dorchester March"). This was followed by numerous printings in London music publications around the year 1770, particularly fife and flute tutors and march collections. The march was common in the Revolutionary War period in the British army and was in use for many decades afterwards.

It also appeared in the manuscript of John Greenwood who was fife major (at age 15) of the 15th Massachusetts regiment in 1775 and 1776. The melody was also very popular in America in the Revolutionary and post-war eras and was included in a number of musician's copybooks.

It was printed in Aird's **Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 6** (1803), Huntington's **William Litten's** (1977) (appears as "Dorchester March"), Johnson's **A Further Collection of Dances, Marches, Minuetts and Duets of the Latter 18th Century** (1998), Knowles' **Northern Frisk** (1988), Miller's **Fiddler's Throne** (2004), Sumner's **Lincolnshire Collections, vol. 1: The Joshua Gibbons Manuscript** (1997), Thompson's **The Compleat Tutor for the Fife** (1760) and Moon's **Musick of the Fifes and Drums, Vol 2: Slow Marches** (1977).