

Folding Down the Sheets

A

D A7 D A7 G A7

D A7 D A7 D A7

G D 1. A7 D 2. A7 D

B

A7 G A7 D A7 G D A7 D

A7 G A7 D A7 G D 1. D A7 D

2. D A7 D

"Folding Down the Sheets", also known as "Hanging Out the Sheets" (Ky. title), "Mackilmoyle Reel" and "Winding Sheep" is an old-time breakdown known in southwestern Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky in D Major. Fiddlers play it in either Standard or ADae tunings. The parts are played AB (Silberberg) or AABB.

Canadian fiddlers, such as Don Messer, have a version of the melody (most similar in the 'B' parts) calling it "Mackilmoyle Reel".

Most modern players learned the tune from the playing of southwest Virginia fiddler Henry Reed (Glen Lyn, Va.). Henry Reed told Alan Jabbour that he learned the tune from his mentor, Old Man Quince Dillion (formerly a fifer in the Civil War) and from John Dillion and an unidentified "Falls", but that "all of 'em played it".

This tune was well-known to both Northern and Southern musicians at the time of the Civil War.

The banjo tab is from Josh Turknnett's **Brainjo** web site.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Silberberg's **Complete Fiddle Tunes I Either Did or Did Not Learn at the Tractor Tavern** (2002) and Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980).

It was recorded by Wilson Douglas on **Back Porch Symphony**, Bob Carlin on **Melodic Clawhammer Banjo**, Hollow Rock String Band on **Traditional Dance Tunes** and Wry Straw on **From Earth to Heaven** (1978).