

Going to a Free State

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a boxed 'A' above it. The second staff ends with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above it. The third staff begins with a boxed 'B' above it and a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above it. The fourth staff begins with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above it. The fifth staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above it. Chord symbols A and E7 are placed above the notes throughout the score.

"Going to a Free State", also known as "Going to the Free State", "Gone to the Free State" or "Clinton" is an old-time breakdown in A Major. It is played in standard or AEae fiddle tuning. The parts are played AB.

The "Clinton" title for the melody was a misnomer by 'revival' fiddlers in the 1970's. The source for the tune and correct title is northeast Virginia fiddler John Ashby and the title refers to the attempt of Fauquier County Virginia to break away from the rest of the state to set up a 'free state' (a name that refers to the anti-tax sentiment of its residents. "Free State Hornpipe" refers to the same event.)

There was also a community of free African-American people located near what is now Albemarle County. The land was known as "Free State" since at least the early 1870s, but the origins of the community extend back to 1788, when Amy Bowles Farrow, a free African-American woman, purchased the original 224 acres of land.

The tune was printed in Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002) and Songer & Curley's **Portland Collection, vol. 2** (2005).

It was recorded by John Ashby and the Free State Ramblers on **Down on Ashby's Farm** (1974) and **John Ashby & the Free State Ramblers** (2007).