

Twenty-eighth of January

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are marked with a boxed 'A' and contain the main melody with chords Am, Dm, Am, Dm, Am, G, and Am. The last two staves are marked with a boxed 'B' and contain a more complex melodic line with many sixteenth notes.

"The Twenty-eighth of January", also known as "Miller's Reel" is an American reel in cut time and A Dorian. The parts are played AB (Silberberg) or AABB (most versions).

Alan Jabbour saw the title of this tune as a condensation of the names of two other tunes; the well-known "The Eighth of January" (the date of Andrew Jackson's victory at New Orleans) and "The Twenty Second of February" (the date of Washington's birthday and the title that "Miller's Reel" appears under in George Knauff's 1839 publication **Virginia Reels**). He believes "The Twenty Eighth of January" to be a minor version of "Miller's Reel".

Modern 'revival' fiddlers source the tune from Bluefield, West Virginia, fiddler Franklin George, who learned it from his mentor Jim Farthing. Farthing was a fiddler from Virginia near the North Carolina border who had moved to West Virginia for mining related jobs and who performed carpentry with George's father.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021), Phillips'

Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1 (1994), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002), Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997) and Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980).

It was recorded by Reed Island Rounders on **Wolves in the Wood** (1997), Fuzzy Mountain String Band on **Fuzzy Mountain String Band** (1972) and Bing Brothers on **Old Time Music on the Air, vol. 2** (1996).