

Tune of the Month – Shenandoah Falls, Revised

An edited version of the August Tune of Month, which didn't parse, courtesy of David Elliker-Vegsberg, of Eugene.

1. A D A

4 E A D A E

8 1. A 2. A Bm

12 A Bm

16 A E 1. A 2. A Last time A

SHENANDOAH FALLS. Old-Time, Breakdown. A Major. Standard tuning. AABB (Johnson): AA'BB (Phillips). Clyde Curley and Susan Songer, in notes to *The Portland Collection*, traces the tune. Vermont fiddler Pete Sutherland learned it from West Coast musician Carol Robinson, originally from Sebastapol, who herself learned it as an untitled reel from a mandolin player named 'Cookie', once a fellow student with her at Sonoma State College. It is thought Sutherland titled it, perhaps thinking it reminiscent of Bill Monroe's bluegrass composition "Shenandoah Breakdown." Source for notated version: Pete Sutherland (Vermont) [Phillips]. Johnson (*The Kitchen Musician No. 2: Occasional Collection of Old-Timey Fiddle Tunes for Hammer Dulcimer, Fiddle, etc.*), 1982 (revised 1988 & 2003); pg. 15. Phillips (*Traditional American Fiddle Tunes*), vol. 1, 1994; pg. 219. Songer (*Portland Collection*), 1997; pg. 182. Dancing String, Randy Zombola - "Snowflake Breakdown" (1986). Epact Music, Pete Sutherland - "Eight Miles From Town" (1982). Marimac 9031, Sutherland, Pete - "Eight Miles From Town" (1986). Marimac 9043, Boiled Buzzards - "Fine Dining" (1991). In 1763 the Virginia Assembly established the town of "Shenandoah Falls at Mr. Harper's Ferry." The name was also used as the name of a series of rapids on the Virginia side where the Shenandoah River and the Potomac River join near the present location of Harper's Ferry.