**Washington Hornpipe**

This tune is from the Northumbrian district of Washington, County Durham, the ancestral home

of George Washington. A little lesson in North English geography; County Northumberland is

north of County Durham, along the northeast coast of England, south of Scotland. Northum**bria**

encompasses both counties (and I believe two others.) Thus the word "Northumbrian" does

double duty, referring both to the single county and the larger region.

Sources of the tune:

**The "G" version** is that of the great Northumbrian piper Joe Hutton ( - 1995). I heard him play it

as he led the Alnwick Pipers' sesion in August 1994. The published version is Dragonfly Music's

*Northumbrian Pipers' Green Book*, where the original key is indicated as B*b*. Hutton was a

shepard by occupation; his sheep paddock was said to be right up against the Scottish border.

However, he key of Bb is said to be a right devil to play on Northumbrian pipes (in F, G, or D),

even for a distinguished piper like Joe, let alone normal mortals. Bb fiddle tunes are commonly

in G, in the Northumbrian piping tunebooks.

**The "A" version** is from *Kerr's Caledonian Collection*, James Kerr, publisher, Glasgow. This is

the key that matches the US tune "Good for the Tongue."

**The Bb version** is from *Kerr's First Collection of Merry (?Merrie) Melodies for the Violin*

(publisher as above)