

CUMBERLAND GAP

Traditional Old-Time, Breakdown; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes. **RECORDING INFO:** Carter Family; Cockerham, Jarrell and Jenkins; McGee Brothers and Arthur Smith; J. E. Mainer; **OTHER NAMES:** "Tumberland Gap;" "Doggett's Gap" (Lunsford); "Riding a Buckin' Mule Through Cumberland Gap;" "Big Stone Gap;" **NOTES:** The Cumberland Gap is a pass in the Appalachians between upper Tennessee and Kentucky. Thomas Walker explored and named Cumberland Gap in 1750. The tune is derived from the Child ballad, "Bonnie George Campbell" (Child 210). A similar version called "Dogget's Gap" came from Lamar Bascom Lunsford. The lyrics to "Cumberland Gap" also have frequent lines about the Civil War.

Me and my wife and my wife's pap We all live down in Cum-ber-land Gap

Cum-ber-land Gap Cum-ber-land Gap Way down yon-der in Cum-ber-land Gap.

© 2006 by Mel Bay Publications, Inc. BMI
All Rights Reserved.

G **Em** **D** **G**
Verse: Me and my wife and my wife's pap, We all live down in Cumberland Gap.

G **Em** **D** **G**
Chorus: Cumberland Gap, Cumberland Gap, Way down yonder in Cumberland Gap.

G **Em** **D** **G**
Cumberland Gap is a noted place, Three kinds of water to wash your face. *Chorus*

G **Em** **D** **G**
The first white man in Cumberland Gap, Was Doctor Walker, an English chap. *Chorus*

G **Em** **D** **G**
Daniel Boone on Pinnacle Rock , He killed Injuns with his old flintlock.

G **Em** **D** **G**
Lay down, boys, and take a little nap, Fo'teen miles to the Cumberland Gap.

G **Em** **D** **G**
Cumberland Gap ain't my home, I'm gonna leave before too long.

G **Em** **D** **G**
Lay down boys, take a little rest, We'll wake up in the whippoorwill's nest.

G **Em** **D** **G**
When I die I'll make my will, I want to be buried on Cumberland Hill.