

# **Trad American Songs**

## **Songs for Dance**

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# All The Good Times

## *Chorus:*

*All the good times are past and gone  
All the good times are o'er  
All the good times are past and gone  
Little darling don't you weep no more.*

**I wish to the Lord I'd never been born  
Or died when I was young  
I never would have seen your sparkling blue eyes  
Or heard your lying tongue. Ch.**

**Now don't you see that turtle dove  
A-flying from pine to pine  
It's mourning for it's own true love  
Just like I mourn for mine. Ch.**

**Don't you see that passenger train  
Going around the bend?  
It's taking away my own true love  
To never return again. Ch.**

**Come back, come back my own true love  
And stay a while with me  
For if ever I've had a friend in this world  
You've been a friend to me. Ch.**

## **Angeline the Baker**

**Angeline the Baker, her age is twenty-three  
Feed her candy by the peck but she won't marry me. x2**

*Solo*

**Tell how I took Angeline down to the county fair,  
Her father chased me halfway home, told me to stay there. x2**

*Solo*

**Angeline the Baker, she lived on the village green;  
And the way that I love her, beats all to be seen. x2**

*Solo*

**Angeline in handsome, and Angeline is tall,  
She broke her little ankle bone from dancing in the hall. x2**

*Solo*

**She won't do the baking because she is too stout,  
She makes cookies by the peck, throws the coffee out. x2**

*Solo*

**Angeline the Baker, her age is twenty-three,  
Little children round her feet and a banjo on her knee. x2**

*Solo*

## **Boil Them Cabbage Down**

*Chorus:*

*Boil them cabbage down boys  
Bake that hoeecake brown  
The only song that I can sing is  
Boil them cabbage down.*

**Racoon has a bushy tail  
Possum's tail is bare  
Rabbit's got no tail at all  
But a little bunch of hair. Ch.**

**Raccoon and the possum  
Coming cross the prairie  
Raccoon said to the possum  
Did you want to marry me? Ch.**

**Raccoon up a simmon tree  
Possum on the ground  
Possum say to the raccoon  
Won't you shake them simmons down? Ch.**

**Jaybird died with the whooping cough  
Sparrow died with the colic  
Along came the frog with a fiddle on his back  
Inquiring his way to the frolic. Ch.**

## Buffalo Girls

As I was walking down the street,  
Down the street, down the street,  
A pretty little gal I chanced to meet,  
Oh she was fair to see.

*Chorus:*

*Oh Buffalo Gals won't you come out tonight,  
Come out tonight, come out tonight.  
Buffalo Gals won't you come out tonight  
And dance by the light of the moon.*

I stopped her and we had a talk,  
Had a talk, had a talk,  
Her feet took up the whole sidewalk  
And left no room for me. Ch.

I asked her if she'd have a dance,  
Have a dance, have a dance,  
I thought that I might have a chance  
To shake a foot with her. Ch.

I danced with a gal with a hole in her stockin',  
And her heel kept a-knockin', and her toes kept a-rockin'  
I danced with a gal with a hole in her stockin'  
And we danced by the light of the moon. Ch.

# Cindy

*Chorus:*

*Get along home Cindy, Cindy*

*Get along home Cindy, Cindy*

*Get along home Cindy, Cindy*

*I'll marry you some day*

**I wish I was an apple, a-hanging on a tree**

**And every time that Cindy passed**

**She'd take a bite of me. Ch.**

**She told me that she loved me, she called me sugar plum**

**She threw her arms around me,**

**I thought my time had come. Ch.**

**She took me to the parlor, she cooled me with her fan**

**She swore that I was the prettiest little thing**

**In the shape of mortal man. Ch.**

**Oh where did you get your liquor, where did you get your  
dram?**

**From an old moon-shiner**

**Down in Rockingham. Ch.**

**Cindy got religion, she had it once before**

**And when she heard my old guitar,**

**She danced all over the floor. Ch.**

**I wish I had a needle, as fine as I could sew**

**I'd sew my sweetheart to my back**

**And down the road I'd go. Ch.**

## **Cluck Old Hen**

**My old hen's a good old hen,  
She lays eggs for the railroad men;  
Sometimes nine, sometimes ten,  
And that's enough for the railroad men.**

***Chorus:***

***Cluck Old Hen, cluck and sing,  
Ain't laid an egg since late last spring.  
Cluck Old Hen, cluck and squall,  
Ain't laid an egg since way last fall.***

**Sometimes one, sometimes two,  
Sometimes three and sometimes four.  
Sometimes five, sometimes six,  
Sometimes seven and sometimes eight. Ch.**

**My old hen died and what will I do  
Guess I'll have some chicken stew.  
First time she cackled she cackled in the lot,  
Next time she cackled she cackled in the pot. Ch.**

**Cluck old hen, cluck all night,  
Soon you will be Chicken Delight  
Cluck Old Hen, cluck I tell you,  
If you don't lay an egg, I'm gonna sell you. Ch.**

**I don't know what I've been told  
Streets of Heaven are lined with gold  
When I die and I get there soon  
I'll sing this song and I'll fiddle this tune. Ch.**

**Had a little hen, she had a wooden leg  
The best dang hen that ever laid an egg  
Lay more eggs than any hen around the barn  
Another little drink wouldn't do me any harm. Ch**

## Cripple Creek

I got a girl at the head of the creek,  
Go up to see her 'bout the middle of the week  
Kiss her on the mouth just as sweet as any wine,  
Wraps herself around me like a sweet potato vine.

*Chorus:*

*Going up Cripple Creek, going on a run,  
Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun  
Going up Cripple Creek going in a whirl,  
Going up Cripple Creek to see my girl.*

Girls on the Cripple Creek really have grown,  
Jump on a boy like a dog on a bone  
Roll my britches up to my knee,  
I'll wade old Cripple Creek when I please. Ch.

Cripple Creek's wide and Cripple Creek's deep,  
I'll wade old Cripple Creek afore I sleep  
Roads are rocky and the hillsides muddy  
And I'm so drunk I can't stand steady. Ch.

I got a girl and she loves me,  
She's as sweet as sweet can be  
She's got eyes of baby blue,  
Makes my gun shoot straight and true. Ch.

I got a girl and a hound dog too,  
If the gal don't love me, then the hound dog do  
Grab your gal and kiss her on the head,  
If she don't like biscuits give her corn bread. Ch. x2

## **Down Yonder**

**Down yonder someone beckons to me,  
Down yonder someone reckons on me.  
I seem to see a race in memory  
Between the Natchez and the Robert E. Lee.  
Swanee shore I miss you more and more;  
Everyday my mammy land, you are just simply grand  
Down yonder when the folks get the news,  
Don't wonder at the hullabaloo  
There's Daddy and Mammy, Ephram and Sammy,  
Waiting down yonder for me.**

## **Fly around my pretty little Miss**

**The higher up the cherry tree  
The riper grows the cherries  
The more you hug and kiss the girls  
The sooner they will marry.**

***Chorus:***

***Fly around my pretty little Miss***

***Fly around my daisy***

***Fly around my pretty little Miss***

***You almost drive me crazy.***

**Solo**

**Coffee grows on white oak trees  
The river flows with brandy  
If I had my pretty little Miss  
I'd feed her sugar candy. Ch. & Solo**

**Going to get some weevily wheat  
I'm going to get some barley  
Going to get some weevily wheat  
And bake a cake for Charlie. Ch. & Solo**

**Fare you well my pretty little miss  
Fare you well my honey  
If I'm not there by the middle of the week  
You can look for me on Sunday. Ch. & Solo**

## **Gal I left behind me**

**I struck the trail in seventy nine,  
The herd strung out behind me  
As I jogged along my mind ran back  
To the gal I left behind me. x2**

***Chorus:***

***That sweet little gal, that true little gal,  
The gal I left behind me  
That sweet little gal, that true little gal  
The gal I left behind me. x2***

**The wind did blow, the rain did fall,  
The hail did fall and blind me  
I thought of the gal, that sweet little gal,  
The gal I left behind me. x2 Ch.**

**If I ever get off the trail  
And the Indians they don't find me  
I'll make my way back again  
To the gal I left behind me. x2 Ch.**

**When we sold out I took the train,  
I knew that I would find her.  
When I got back we had a smack  
And I'm no golderned liar! x2 Ch.**

## **Oh Susanna**

**I come from Alabama with my banjo on my knee  
I'm going to Louisiana, my true love for to see  
It rained all night the day I left, the weather it was dry  
The sun so hot, I froze to death; Susanna, don't you cry.**

***Chorus:***

***Oh Susanna, oh don't you cry for me  
For I come from Alabama  
With my banjo on my knee. x2***

**I had a dream the other night when everything was still  
I thought I saw Susanna coming down the hill  
The buckwheat cake was in her mouth, a tear was in her eye  
I said I'm coming from the south, Susanna don't you cry.  
Ch.**

**I soon will be in New Orleans and then I'll look around  
And when I find my Susanna, I'll fall upon the ground  
But if I do not find her, this man will surely die  
And when I'm dead and buried, Susanna don't you cry.  
Ch.**

## **Old Joe Clark**

**Old Joe Clark, the preacher's on, preached all over the plain,  
The only text he ever used was 'High, low, jack and the game'.  
x2**

***Chorus:***

***Round and around, Old Joe Clark, round and around I say  
He'd follow me ten thousand miles to hear my fiddle play. x2***

**Old Joe Clark had a mule, his name was Morgan Brown  
And every tooth in that mule's head was sixteen inches around.  
x2 Ch.**

**Old Joe Clark had a yellow cat she would neither sing or pray  
She stuck her head in the buttermilk jar and washed her sins  
away. x2 Ch.**

**Old Joe Clark had a house, fifteen stories high  
And every storey in that house was filled with chicken pie. x2  
Ch.**

**Wish I was a sugar tree, standing in the middle of some town  
Every time a pretty girl passed, I shake some sugar down. x2  
Ch.**

**Old Joe Clark was a good old man, never did no harm  
Said he would not hoe my corn, might hurt his fiddling arm.  
x2 Ch.**

## **Old Soldier**

**Oh I had a little duck and he had a web foot,  
And he built his nest in a mulberry bush,  
And he ruffled up his feathers to keep himself warm,  
Another little song wouldn't do us any harm. x2  
Solo**

**There was an old soldier and he had a wooden leg  
He had no tobacco but tobacco he could beg.  
Another old soldier as sly as a fox  
He always kept tobacco in his old tobacco box. x2  
Solo**

**Said one old soldier, 'Won't you give me a chew?'  
Said the other old soldier, 'I'll be hanged if I do,  
Just save up your money and put away your rocks,  
And you'll always have tobacco in your old tobacco box.' x2  
Solo**

**Well the one old soldier he was feeling mighty bad  
He said 'I'll get even, I will begad!'  
He goes to a corner, takes a rifle from the peg  
And stabs the other soldier with a splinter from his leg. x2  
Solo**

**Now there was an old hen and she had a wooden foot  
And she made her nest by the mulberry root  
She laid more eggs than any hen on the farm  
And another wooden leg wouldn't do her any harm. x2  
Solo**

## **Polly Wolly Doodle**

**Oh I went down south for to see my Sal**

***Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day***

**My Sally she's a spunky young gal**

***Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day.***

***Chorus:***

***Fare thee well, fare thee well,***

***Fare thee well my fairy fay***

***For I'm off to Lousiana for to see my Susianna***

***Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day***

**Oh my Sal she is a maiden fair,**

***Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day***

**With laughing eyes and curly hair,**

***Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day.* Ch.**

**Behind the barn down on my knees, *sing Polly...***

**I thought I heard a chicken sneeze, *sing Polly...* Ch.**

**He sneezed so hard with the whooping cough, *sing Polly...***

**He sneezed his head and tail right off, *sing Polly...* Ch.**

**Oh a grasshopper sitting on a railroad track, *sing Polly...***

**A-picking his teeth with a carpet tack, *sing Polly...* Ch.**

## **Sally Ann**

**Ever see a muskrat Sally Ann  
Dragging his slick tail through the sand  
Pickin a banjo Sally Ann  
I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann.**

*Chorus:*

*I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal  
I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann  
I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal  
I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann.*

**Make my living in Sandy Land  
Make my living in Sandy Land  
Make my living in Sandy Land  
Make my living in Sandy Land. Ch.**

**Going to the Wedding Sally Ann  
Going to the Wedding Sally Ann  
Sift that meal and save your bran  
I'm going home with Sally Ann. Ch**

**Shake that little foot Sally Ann  
Shake that little foot Sally Ann  
Great big wedding up Sally Ann  
I'm going home with Sally Ann. Ch.**

**Pass me the brandy Sally Ann  
Pass me the brandy Sally Ann  
I'm going away with Sally Ann  
Great big wedding up Sally Ann. Ch.**

**Whose going to dance with Sally Ann?  
Whose going to hold her trembling hand?  
When that fiddler takes the stand  
Whose going to dance with Sally Ann? Ch.**

## **Sally Goodin**

**Had a piece of pie and I had a piece of puddin',  
And I give it all away just to see my Sally Goodin.  
*Had a piece of pie and I had a piece of puddin',  
And I give it all away just to see my Sally Goodin.* Solo**

**Well, I looked down the road and I see my Sally comin',  
And I thought to my soul that I'd kill myself a-runnin'.  
*Well, I looked down the road and I see my Sally comin',  
And I thought to my soul that I'd kill myself a-runnin'.* Solo**

**Love a 'tater pie and I love an apple pudding ,  
And I love a little gal that they call Sally Goodin. x2 Solo**

**And I dropped the 'tater pie and I left the apple puddin',  
But I went across the mountain to see my Sally Goodin. x 2  
Solo**

**Sally is my dooxy and Sally is my daisy,  
Sally says she hates me I think I'm goin crazy. x2 Solo**

**Little dog'll bark and the big dog'll bite you,  
Little gal will court you and a big gal'll fight you. x2 Solo**

**Raining and a-pouring and the creek's running muddy,  
And I'm so dam drunk I can't stand steady, x2 Solo**

**I'm goin up the mountain and marry little Sally,  
Raise corn on the hillside and the devil in the valley. x2 Solo**

## **Shortnin' Bread**

**Two little babies, lying in bed  
One was sick and the other almost dead  
Sent for the doctor and the doctor said  
'Give those children some shortnin' bread.'**

*Chorus:*

*Mama's little baby loves shortnin', shortnin'  
Mama's little baby loves shortnin' bread  
Mama's little baby loves shortnin', shortnin'  
Mama's little baby loves shortnin' bread*

**Going to the kitchen to put on the lid  
Put on the skillet for shortnin' bread  
Shortnin' bread and bake it thin  
Always makes them children grin. Ch.**

**Put on the skillet, slip on the lid  
Mama's gonna bake a little shortnin' bread  
This ain't all she's gonna do  
Mama's gonna make a little coffee too. Ch.**

**Messing round the kitchen like a busy bee  
The busiest mammy you ever did see  
Gotta hurry up with shortnin' bread  
Gotta get them children right out of bed. Ch.**

**The other little fellow sick in the bed  
When he hears tell of shortnin' bread  
Popped up well to dance and sing  
Skipped around and cut the pigeon's wing. Ch.**

## **Soldier's Joy**

**Grasshopper sitting on a sweet potato vine**

**Grasshopper sitting on a sweet potato vine**

**Grasshopper sitting on a sweet potato vine**

**Along comes a chicken and says 'you're mine!' x2 Solo**

**Dance all night and fiddle all day**

**Dance all night and fiddle all day**

**Dance all night and fiddle all day**

**That's a Soldier's Joy. x2 Solo**

**I love somebody, yes I do,**

**I love somebody, yes I do**

**I love somebody, yes I do**

**And I bet you five dollars you can't guess who. x2 Solo**

**Twenty-five cents for the whiskey**

**Fifteen cents for the beer**

**Twenty-five cents for the whiskey**

**They're gonna take me away from here. x2 Solo**

**I'm gonna get a drink, don't you want to go**

**I'm gonna get a drink, don't you want to go**

**I'm gonna get a drink, don't you want to go**

**All for the Soldier's Joy. x2 Solo**

## **Sourwood Mountain**

**My true love's a blue-eyed daisy,  
Hey, ho, diddle-um day.  
She won't come and I'm too lazy.  
Hey ho, diddle-um day.**

***Chorus:***

***Chickens a-crowing on Sourwood Mountain,  
Hey, ho, diddle-um day.  
So many pretty girls I can't count 'em,  
Hey ho, diddle-um day.***

**Big dog bark and little one bite you,  
Hey, ho, diddle-um day  
Big girl court and little one spite you,  
Hey ho, diddle-um day. Ch.**

**My true love's a blue-eyed daisy, Hey, ho...  
If I don't get her, I'll go crazy, Hey, ho..... Ch.**

**My true love lives at the head of the holler.....  
She won't come and I won't foller..... Ch.**

**My true love lives over the river.....  
A few more jumps and I'll be with her... ..Ch.**

**Ducks in the pond, geese in the ocean.....  
Devil's in the women if they take a notion... ..Ch.**

## **Tennessee Waltz**

**I was waltzing with my darling to the Tennessee waltz  
When an old friend I happened to see  
I introduced him to my loved one  
And while they were dancing  
My friend stole my sweetheart from me**

**I remember the night and the Tennessee waltz  
Only you know how much I have lost  
Yes I lost my little darling the night they were playing  
The beautiful Tennessee waltz.**

## **Turkey in the Straw**

**Well I had an old hen and she had a wooden leg  
Just the best old hen that ever laid an egg.  
Well, she laid more eggs than any hen on the farm  
But another little drink wouldn't do her any harm.**

*Chorus:*

*Turkey in the hay, turkey in the hay  
Turkey in the straw, turkey in the straw  
Pick 'em up, shake 'em up, any way at all,  
And strike up a tune called 'Turkey in the Straw'.*

**Well if frogs had wings and snakes had hair  
And automobiles went flying through the air  
Well if watermelons grew on a huckleberry vine  
We'd have winter in the summer time.  
Ch.**

**Well I come to the river and I couldn't get across  
So I paid five dollars for an old blind horse  
Well he shouldn't go ahead and he wouldn't stand still  
So he went up and down like an old saw mill.  
Ch.**

## **Wabash Cannonball**

**From the great Atlantic ocean to the wide Pacific shore  
The green old flowing mountains to the south down by the  
moor**

**She's mighty tall and handsome, she's known quite well by all  
A regular combination on the Wabash Cannonball.**

***Chorus:***

***Listen to the jingle, the rumble and the roar***

***As she glides along the woodland, o'er the hills and by the shore***

***She climbs the flowery mountain, hear the lonesome hobo's call***

***As you travel across the country on the Wabash Cannonball.***

**Oh the eastern states are dandy so the western people say  
From New York to St. Louis and Chicago by the way  
To the hills of Minnesota where them rippling waters fall  
No changes can be taken on the Wabash Cannonball. Ch.**

**Here's to Daddy Claxton, may his name forever stand  
In the hills of Tennessee, in the courts throughout the land  
When his earthly race is over and them curtains round him  
fall  
We'd take him home to Dixie on the Wabash Cannonball. Ch.**

**I went down from Birmingham one cold December day  
She pulled into that station you could hear them people say  
There's a fellow from Tennessee, boys, he's long and he's tall  
He came down from Alabam on the Wabash Cannonball. Ch.**

## **Yellow Rose of Texas**

**There's a yellow rose in Texas that I am going to see  
No other cowboy knows her, no cowboy only me  
She cried so when I left her, it almost broke my heart  
And if I ever find her, we never more will part.**

***Chorus:***

***She's the sweetest rose of colour this fellow ever knew,  
Her eyes are bright as diamonds, they sparkle like the dew,  
You may talk about your Clementine and sing of Rosalie,  
But the yellow rose of Texas beats the belles of Tennessee.***

**Where the Rio Grande is flowing and the starry skies are  
bright  
She walks along the river, I dream of her each night.  
She thinks if I remember where we parted long ago  
I promised to come back again because I love her so. Ch.**

**Oh now I'm going to find her, for my heart is full of woe  
And we'll sing the song together that we sung so long ago  
We'll play the banjo gaily and we'll sing the songs of yore  
And the yellow rose of Texas shall be mine forever more. Ch.**