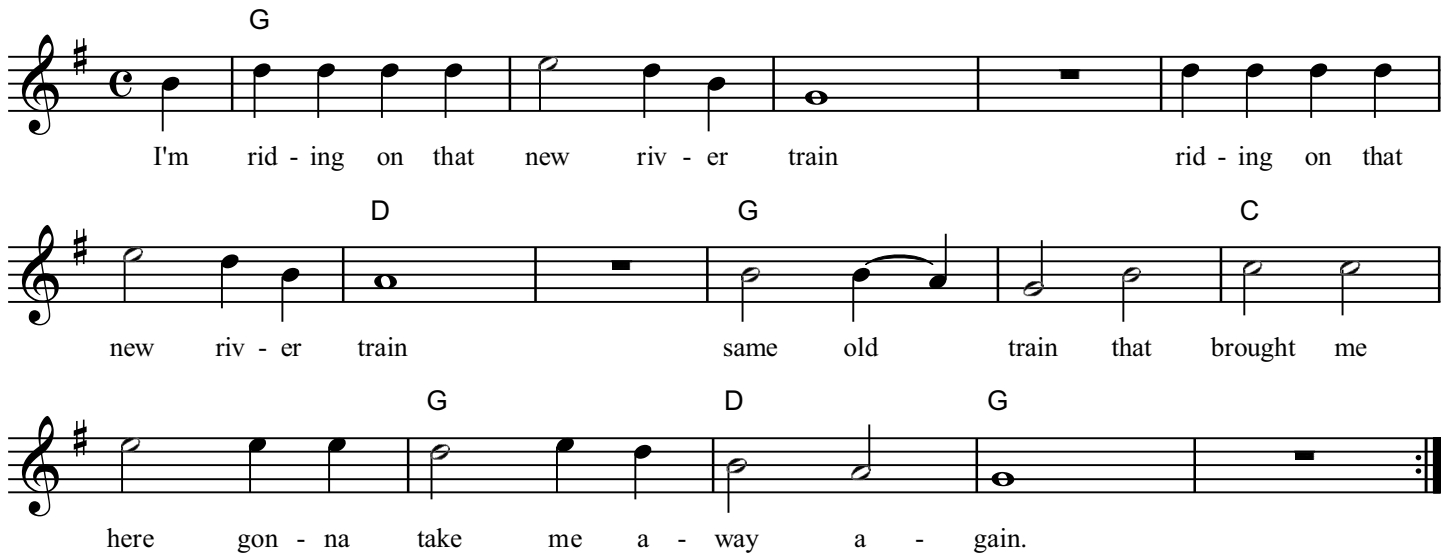


NEW RIVER TRAIN

Traditional Old-Time, Breakdown & Song; **DATE:** Late 1800's; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes **RECORDING INFO:** Kelly Harrell, "New River Train" (Victor 19596, 1925; on KHarrell01) Tommy Jarrell; Doc Watson, Fred Price & Clint Howard; Monroe Brothers – Feast Here Tonight/RCA; Charlie Poole and the Highlanders; Roscoe Holcomb and Wade Ward; **OTHER NAMES:** "Darlin' You Can't Have One;" "A Trip to New York On the Train (Instrumental)."
NOTES: The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad through the beautiful New River Gorge in southern West Virginia was completed in early 1873. The "New River Train" was probably written shortly after the railroad was completed. Fields Ward of the Ward Family, of Galax, VA, says he learned the song circa 1895. The version quoted from Bill Monroe is Harrell's. Later, Vance Randolph collected a version that went up to ten. The melody has been described as a "Blue Ridge Mountain standard." The tune and lyrics are similar to "Mole in the Ground" and "My Last Gold Dollar." There is also a resemblance to "Crawdad".



I'm rid - ing on that new riv - er train rid - ing on that
 new riv - er train same old train that brought me
 here gon - na take me a - way a - gain.

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G
 I'm riding on that new river train

D
 Riding on that new river train

G **C**
 Same old train that brought me here

G **D** **G**
 Gonna take me away again.

Darling, you can't love one,
 Darling, you can't love one
 You can't love one and have any fun,
 Darling, you can't love one. *Chorus*

(Verse Two) You can't love two and still be true
 (Verse Three) You can't love three and still love me
 (Verse Four) You can't love four and love any more
 (Verse Five) You can't love five and get money from my hive
 (Verse Six) You can't love six, for that kind of love don't mix

NINE POUND HAMMER

Old-time Song; **DATE:** Late 1800's- Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Al Hopkins & his Buckle Busters (Brunswick 177, 1927); Frank Blevins & his Tar Heel Rattlers; Grayson and Whitter-1928; Flatt & Scruggs & the Foggy Mountain Boys; Greenbriar Boys; Jim & Jesse and the Virginia Boys; Monroe Brothers; Don Reno and Bill Harrell with the Tennesse Cutups; Merle Travis; **OTHER NAMES:** "Spikedriver Blues;" "Roll On, John;" "Roll On Buddy, Roll On" "Take This Hammer." **NOTES:** "Nine Pound Hammer" is one of the few work songs to ever enjoy popularity. Early string bands such as Frank Blevins' Tar Heel Rattlers and Al Hopkins Bucklebusters were the first to introduce it as a performance piece. Bluegrass pioneers Bill and Charlie Monroe and fingerpicker Merle Travis brought it to a wider audience and are largely responsible for its continuing popularity. Some versions use a second part that echos the melody.

This nine pound ham-mer is a lit-tle too hea - vy for my
 size bud - dy for my size Roll on
 bud - dy don't you roll so slow how can I
 roll when the wheels won't go?

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G C G D G

This nine pound hammer is a little too heavy, For my size, buddy for my size

C G D G

Roll on buddy, don't you roll too slow, How can I roll when the wheels won't go.

It's a long way to Harlan, it's a long way to Hazard
 Just to get a little booze just to get a little booze
 Oh, the nine pound hammer killed John Henry
 Ain't gonna kill me, ain't gonna kill me.

There ain't one hammer down in this tunnel
 That can ring like mine, that can ring like mine
 Rings like silver, shines like gold,
 Rings like silver, shines like gold.

Buddy when I'm long gone, won't you make my tombstone
 Out of number nine coal, out of number nine coal
 I'm going on the mountain, just to see my baby
 And I ain't coming back, no I ain't coming back.

OH DEATH

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Carter Family; (Charlie) Monroe's Boys; Dock Boggs; Sarah Ogan Gunning; Ralph Stanley; New Lost City Ramblers; **OTHER NAMES:** Money Cannot Buy Your Soul; Death Have Mercy on my Age/Soul; Conversation With Death; Death Is Awful; Awful Death; **NOTES:** A gripping version of "O Death" is sung by Ralph Stanley on the soundtrack of the movie "O Brother, Where art Thou?" Oh Death is found in both the white and black tradition from Texas to the Georgia Sea Islands and is available today in widely contrasting settings: unaccompanied vocal solo, hillbilly duet (with guitars), and bluegrass band. A similar dialogue with Death turns up in the traditional English song "Death and the Lady" published by J. Deacon between 1683 and 1700.

D * frequently F natural C D

What is this that I can see with i - cy hands tak - ing hold on me.

2 *

I am death and none can ex - cel I'll o - pen the doors to

C D 2 D

heav - en or hell. Oh death oh

C D 2

death Can't you spare me o - ver til a - noth - er year.

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D C D
Well what is this that I can't see, With ice cold hands taking hold of me?

C D
"Well I am death, none can excel, I'll open the door to heaven or hell."

D C D
Chorus: Oh, death- Oh death- Won't you spare me over til another year?

Whoa, death, someone would pray. Could you wait to call me til another day?
The children pray, the preacher preached; Time and mercy is out of your reach.

"I'll fix your feet til you can't walk, I'll lock your jaw til you can't talk,
I'll close your eyes so you can't see- This very hour come and go with me."

"In death I come to take the soul, Leave the body and leave it cold;
To drop the flesh off of the frame; The earth and worms both have a claim."

My mother came to my bed, Placed a cold towel upon my head,
My head is warm, my feet are cold, Death is a-movin' upon my soul.

Oh death, how you're treatin' me, You close my eyes so I can't see.
Well, you're hurtin' my body, you make me cold, You run my life right out of my soul.

Oh, death, please consider my age. Please don't take me at this stage.
My wealth is all at your command, If you'll remove your icy hands.

"Oh the young, the rich or poor, All alike to me you know.
No wealth, no land, no silver or gold, nothin' satisfies me but your soul."

OLD BLUE

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Jim Jackson- 1928; Mike Seeger and Alice Gerrard; Dillards; **OTHER NAMES:** Dog Blue; **NOTES:** Hill people and back country folk used to live off hunting, and a good hound dog was worth his weight in gold. Old Blue has been sung by African-American construction gangs, 1915-1916 and Perrow collected a version in 1909.

I raised a dog and his name was Blue, And I betcha five goes
E - ver - y night just a - bout dark Blue goes

dol - lars he's a good one too. Come on Blue you good dog you,
out and be - gins to bark

Come on Blue you good dog you.

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D **A7** **D**
I had an old dog and his name was Blue, Betcha five dollars he's a good dog too.

D **A7** **D**
Every night just about good dark, Blue goes out and begins to bark

A7 **D** **A7** **D**
Come old Blue, you good dog you. Come old Blue, you good dog you.

Blue chased a possum up a 'simmon tree, Barked at the possum and grinned at me.
Chased that possum way out on a limb, Blue sat down and he talked to him
Come old Blue, you good dog you. Come old Blue, you good dog you.

Blue got sick, he got mighty sick, Called for the doctor to come right quick.
The doctor come and he come in a run, But he said old Blue your huntin's done.
Come old Blue, you good dog you. Come old Blue, you good dog you.

Old Blue died and he died so hard, He shook the ground in my back yard.
I dug his grave with a silver spade, And lowered him down with a length of chain.
Come old Blue, you good dog you. Come old Blue, you good dog you.

There's just one thing that troubles my mind, Blue went to heaven and left me behind.
When I get to heaven, first thing I'll do, Is get my horn and call for Blue.
Come old Blue, you good dog you. Come old Blue, you good dog you

OLD DAN TUCKER

Old-Time and Bluegrass Song- Daniel Decatur Emmett; **DATE:** 1841; Published in 1843; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Fiddlin' John Carson- 1924; Uncle Dave Macon- 1925; Homer and the Barnstormers; **OTHER NAMES:** Dan Tucker; **NOTES:** In Richard Walser's *'North Carolina Legends'*, 1980, is the legend of 'Old Dan Tucker', where it is said that he was born in London in 1714, and moved with his parents to Bath Town, North Carolina six years later. He is said to have married Margaret DeVane in 1740 and moved to what is now Randolph County and built a cabin there. Daniel Decatur Emmett wrote the song from black sources and published it in 1843. The *Dan Tucker* melody used was by Bob Wills in "Stay All Night" and is similar to the *Johnny Booker* songs.

Old Dan Tuck-er's a fine old man, washed his face in a fry - ing pan.

Combed his head with a wag - on wheel. Died with a tooth - ache in his heel.

Chorus Get out the way old Dan Tuck-er. You're too late to get your sup-per.

Sup-per's gone and din - ner's cook-in'. Old Dan Tuck-er just stands there look-in'.

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G D
Old Dan Tucker's a fine old man, Washed his face in a frying pan,
G D G
Combed his hair with a wagon wheel, Died of toothache in his heel.

G C D G
Chorus: Get out the way old Dan Tucker, You're too late to get your supper,
C D G
Supper's gone and dinner's a-cookin', Old Dan Tucker's just stands there lookin'.

Old Dan Tucker he come to town, Riding on a billygoat, leading a hound,
Hound dog bark and the billygoat jump, Threwed Dan Tucker on top of a stump.

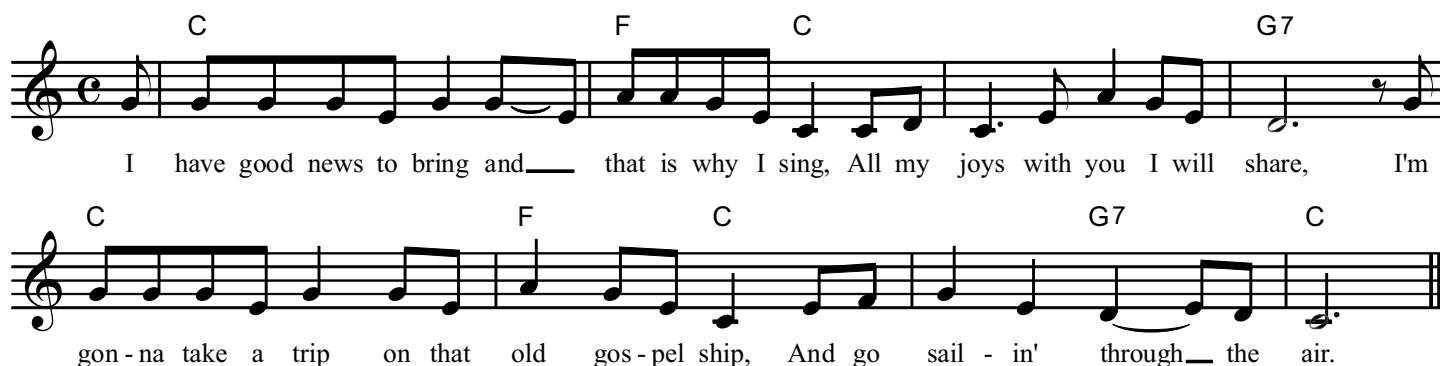
Old Dan Tucker, he got drunk, Fell in the fire and he kicked up a chunk,
Red hot coal got in his shoe, Oh my Lawdy how the ashes flew.

Old Dan Tucker, he come to town, Swinging the ladies round and round,
First to the right and then to the left, And then to the gal that he loved best.

And now old Dan is a dead gone sucker, And never will go home to his supper,
Old Dan he has had his last ride, And the banjo's buried by his side.

OLD GOSPEL SHIP

Traditional Southern Gospel Song; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Southern Gospel Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Carter Family-1935; Monroe Brothers-1937; Red Smiley and the Bluegrass Cut-Ups; Joan Baez; New Lost City Ramblers; **OTHER NAMES:** Gospel Ship; **NOTES:** This popular Southern gospel song shares the melody with "Have a Feast Here Tonight." A.P. Carter and the Carter Family have an excellent version. Alan Lomax collected a version from Ruby Bass on Southern Journeys- Vol. 4, Brethren, We Meet Again: Southern White Spirituals. The melody for the chorus is almost identical to the verse.



I have good news to bring and that is why I sing, All my joys with you I will share, I'm
gon-na take a trip on that old gos-pel ship, And go sail - in' through the air.

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C **F** **C**
I have good new to bring and that is why I sing,
G7
All my joys with you I will share
C **F** **C**
I'm gonna take a trip on that old gospel ship,
G7 **C**
And go sailing through the air.

C **F** **C**
Chorus: I'm gonna take a trip on that old gospel ship
G7
I'm going far beyond the sky
C **F** **C**
I'm gonna shout and sing, until the bells do ring
G **C**
When I'm bidding this world good-bye.

If you are ashamed of me, you ought not to be
And you better have a care
If too much fault you find, you'll sure be left behind
When I'm sailing through the air.

I can hardly wait, I know I won't be late
I'll spend all my time in prayer
And when my ship comes in, I'll leave this world of sin
And go sailing through the air.

OLD JOE CLARK

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Late 1800's, Journal of American Folklore 1912; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Fiddlin' John Carson 1923; Carter Family; Dillards; Kentucky Colonels; Clark Kessinger; Kingston Trio; **NOTES:** Bayard thinks it was originally a song tune that later became a fiddle standard and play party tune. Mike Seeger relates the local story of the origins of the tune where he lives in Rockbridge County, Va.: Joe Clark's father settled around Irish Creek, near South River, in the early 1800's. Joe Clark had a daughter, and a jilted beau is said to have written the song, out of jealousy, in the late 1800's. The Clarks have been family-style string musicians right down through the years. Another investigation determined the source of the tune to be the murder in Maryland of a traveling salesman named Herbert Brown by Joe Clark and Brown's wife Betsy sometime after the Civil War. Joe and Betsy attempted to cover up the crime by asserting that Brown was on a trip up North. This perhaps explains the verse: "Old Joe Clark killed a man/Layed him in the sand" and the chorus which includes "goodbye Betsy Brown." Virginia family band "Fiddlin'" Cowan Powers and Family's recording of the piece was the third best-selling country music record of 1924, while the Skillet Lickers (north Georgia) 1926 recording was the fourth best-selling for that year. Typically it is played A B B form.

Old Joe Clark was a good old man Nev-er did no harm said he would not
 hoe my corn might hurt his fid-dl-ing arm Fare thee well Old Joe Clark Fare thee well I
 say Fare thee well Old Joe Clark I am going a-way.

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G **F**
 Old Joe Clark was a good old man, Never did no harm
G **D** **G**
 Said he would not hoe my corn, Might hurt his fiddling arm.

I went down to Old Joe's house, Never been there before
 He slept on a feather bed, And I slept on the floor.

G **F**
Chorus: Fare thee well Old Joe Clark, Fare thee well I say
G **D** **G**
 Fare thee well Old Joe Clark, I am going away

I went down to Old Joe's house, Old Joe wasn't home
 Ate up all of Old Joe's meat, And left Old Joe the bone.

I went down to Old Joe's house, He invited me to supper
 Stumped my toe on a table leg, And stuck my nose in the butter. *Chorus*

OLD RATTLER

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** George Reneau- 1924; Elizabeth Cotton; Grandpa Jones-1947; John Snipes; **OTHER NAMES:** Here Rattler Here; **NOTES:** Listed as *Here Rattler Here* by Meade from George Reneau's 1924 recording, Old Rattler closely resembles the song, Fox Chase. The classic recording of this song is Grandpa Jones recording on King 668 in 1947.

Old Rat - tl - er was a good old dog. As blind as he could be.

Ev - 'ry night at sup - per time, I be - lieve that dog could see. Here, Rat - tl - er, help help

Here, Rat - tl - er, Help call Rat - tl - er from the barn. Here, Rat - tl - er, here.

C Old Rattler was a good old dog; **G7** As blind as he could be

C Ev'ry night at supper time; I believe that dog could see.

G7 **Chorus:** Here! Rattler, (Help! Help!) Here! Rattler! (Help!)

C Call old Rattler from the barn; Here! Rattler! Here!

Old Rattler tree'd the other night; And I tho't he'd tree'd a 'coon
When I come to find out; He was barkin' at the moon.
Well, grandma had a yeller hen; We set her as you know
We set her on three buzzard eggs; And hatched out one old crow.

Grandpa had a muley cow; She was muley when she's born
It took a jaybird forty year; To fly from horn to horn.
Now if I had a needle and thread; As fine as I could sew
I'd sew my sweetheart to my back; And down the road I'd go

Old Rattler was a smart old dog; Even tho' he was blind
He wouldn't hurt one single thing; Tho' he was very fine.
One night I saw a big fat 'coon; Climb up in a tree
I called old Rattler right away; To get 'im down fer me.

But Rattler wouldn't do it; Because he liked that 'coon
I saw them walkin' paw in paw; Later by the light of the moon.
Now old Rattler's dead and gone; Like all good dogs do
You better not act a dog yourself; Or you'll be goin' there too.

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OLD SOLDIER (RED HAIRD BOY)

Traditional Irish and American Reel or Breakdown; **DATE:** Bunting's 1840: A Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **RECORDING INFO- REDHAIRD BOY:** Doc Watson; Tony Rice; Norman Blake; **OTHER NAMES:** Red Haired Boy; "The Duck Chews Tobacco;" "The First of May"; "Gilderoy" "Johnny Dhu;" "The Little Beggarman" "The Old Soldier with a Wooden Leg" **NOTES:** "Old Soldier with a Wooden Leg" from the Civil War period, is a US version of the "Red Haired Boy" tune popular at bluegrass and fiddle conventions. The song is quite common as "The Little Beggarman" throughout the British Isles.

O there was an old sol - dier and he had a wood - en leg, He____
had no to - bac - co but to - bac - co he could beg. A noth - er old sol - dier, as____
sly as a fox, He____ al - ways had to - bac - co in his old to - bac - co box.

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C **F**
Oh, there was an old soldier and he had a wooden leg.
C **B \flat** **C** **F**
He had no tobacco but tobacco he could beg. Another old soldier, as sly as a fox,
C **G** **C**
He always kept tobacco in his old tobacco box.

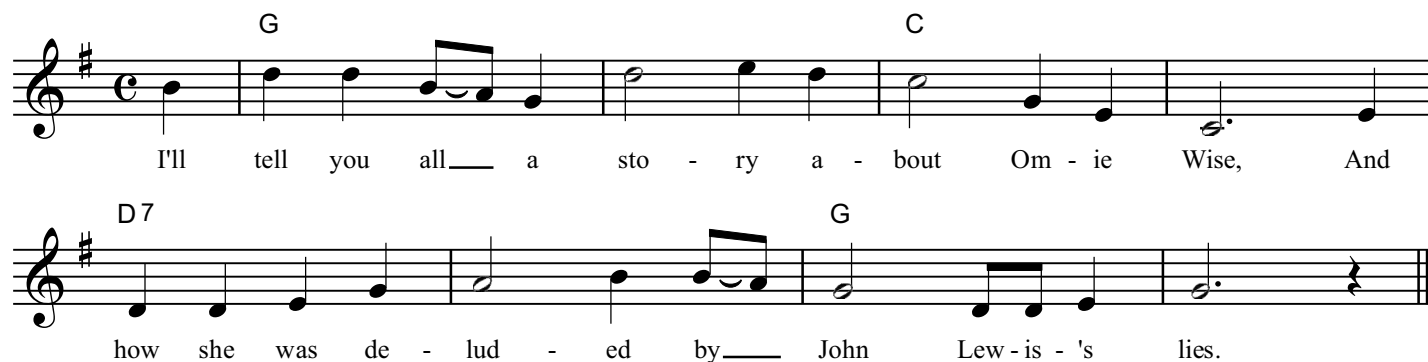
Said one old soldier, "Won't you give me a chew?"
Said the other old soldier, "I'll be hanged if I do,
Just save up your money and put away your rocks,
And you'll always have tobacco in your old tobacco box."

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

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 that any hen on the farm,
And another wooden leg wouldn't do her any harm.

OMIE WISE (LAWS F4)

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** 1874; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Grayson & Whitter-Victor 21625, 1927; Clarence Tom Ashley-1929; Doug Wallin; Dock Boggs; Roscoe Holcomb; Doc Watson; **OTHER NAMES:** Naomi Wise; **NOTES:** Nineteen year old Naomi Wise was murdered in the summer of 1808, in Deep River near Asheboro NC. Her husband Jonathon Lewis was arrested for the crime, escaped, and not recaptured until 1815 at which time he was acquitted.



I'll tell you all a sto - ry a - bout Om - ie Wise, And
how she was de - lud - ed by John Lew - is - 's lies.

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G **C** **D7** **G**
I'll tell you all a story about Omie Wise, How she was deluded by John Lewis's lies

G **C**
He told her to meet him at Adams's spring

D7 **G**
He'd bring her some money and some other fine things.

He brought her no money nor other fine things
But get up behind me, Omie, to Squire Ellet's we'll go
She got up behind him, so caref'ly we'll go
They rode 'til they came where deep waters did flow.

John Lewis he concluded to tell her his mind
John Lewis he concluded to leave her behind
She threw her arms around him "John spare me my life
And I'll go distracted and never be your wife."

He threw her arms from 'round him and into the water she plunged
John Lewis he turned 'round and went back to Adams's hall
He went inquiring for Omie but Omie she is not here
She's gone to some neighbor's house and won't be gone very long.

John Lewis was took a pris'ner and locked up in the jail
Was locked up in the jail around, was there to remain a while
John Lewis he stayed there for six months or maybe more
Until he broke jail, into the army he did go.