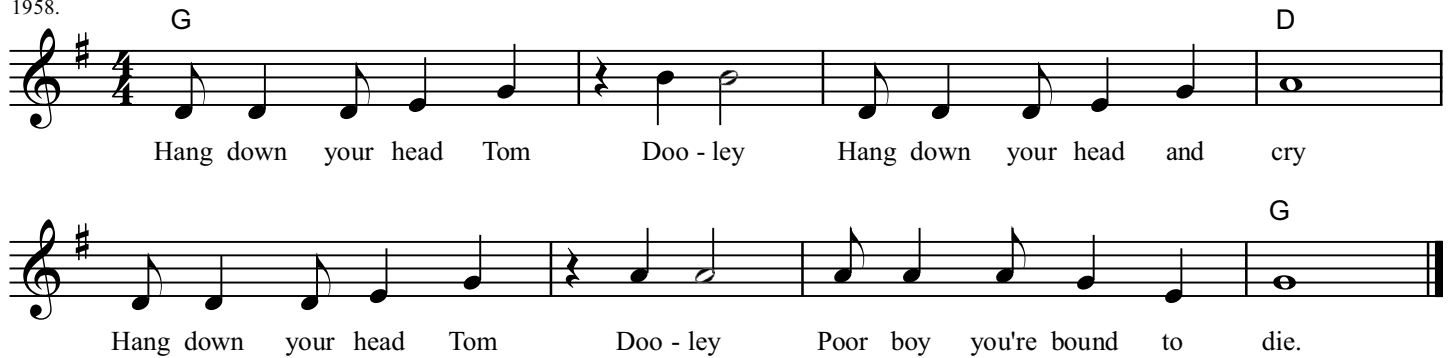


# TOM DOOLEY [LAWS F36A]

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Late 1800's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** First recorded Grayson and Whitter- 1929; Frank Proffitt; Doc Watson; Kingston Trio; **OTHER NAMES:** Murder of Laura Foster; Tom Dula; **NOTES:** In 1866 Laura Foster was murdered by Thomas C. Dula and his sweetheart Ann Melton. On May 1, 1868 Tom Dula is hanged for the murder. The details and various versions about this famous love triangle could fill a short book. After Frank Warner collected the song from Frank Proffitt in NC, The Kingston Trio picked up Warner's version, and made a huge hit of it in 1958.



Hang down your head Tom Doo - ley Hang down your head and cry

Hang down your head Tom Doo - ley Poor boy you're bound to die.

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**G** **D**  
**Verse 2:** Hang your head, Tom Dooley. Hang your head and cry.

**G**  
You killed poor Laura Foster. You know you're bound to die.

You took her on the hillside, as God Almighty knows.  
You took her on the hillside, and there you hid her clothes.

You took her by the roadside, where you begged to be excused.  
You took her by the roadside, where there you hid her shoes.

You took her on the hillside, to make her your wife.  
You took her on the hillside, where there you took her life.

Take down my old violin, play it all you please.  
This time tomorrow, it'll be no use to me.

I dug a grave four foot long. I dug it three foot deep.  
Poured cold clay o'er her, and tromped it with my feet.

This world one more morning, then where you reckon I'll be?  
Hadn't 'a been for Grayson, I'd 'a been in Tennessee.

[Here is the Kingston Trio's version]  
Met her on the mountain, there I took her life.  
Met her on the mountain, stabbed her with my knife.

This time tomorrow, reckon where I'll be?  
Hadn't have been for Grayson, I'd been in Tennessee.

This time tomorrow, reckon where I'll be?  
Down in some lonesome valley, hanging from a white oak tree.