

Blue Tail Fly

Dan Emmett



1. When I was young I used to wait
On Massa's tabble an pass de plate;
An han around de bottle when he git dry,
And bresh away de blue tail fly.

Chorus:

Jim crack corn I don't care,
Jim crack corn I don't care,
Jim crack corn I don't care,
Ole Massa gone away.

2. Den arter dinner massa sleep,
He bid dis nigger vigil keep;
An' when he gwine to shut his eye,
He tell me watch de blue tail fly.

Chorus

- 3 An' when he ride in de arternoon,
I foller wid a hickory broom;
De poney being berry shy,
When bitten by de blue tail fly.

Chorus

4. One day he rode aroun' de farm,
De flies so numerous dey did swarm;
One chance to bite 'im on the thigh,
De debble take dat blu tail fly.

Chorus

5. De poney run, he jump, an' pitch,
An' tumble massa in de ditch;
He died, an' de jury wonder'd why,
De verdic was, de blue tail fly.

Chorus

- 6 Dey laid 'im under a 'simmon tree,
His epitaph am dar to see;
'Beneath dis stone I'm forced to lie,
All by de means ob de blue tail fly.

Chorus

7. Ole Massa's gone, now let 'im rest,
Dey say all tings am for de best;
I neber shall forget till de day I die,
Ole Massa an' de blue tail fly.

Chorus

- 8 De hornet gets in your eyes an nose,
De skeeter bites y'e through your close,
De gallinipper sweeten high,
But wusser yet de blue tail fly.

Chorus

This song is by Dan Emmett. In association with Billy Whitlock, Dick Pelham, and Frank Brower, he organized the Virginia Minstrels, which made their first appearance before a paying audience at the Chatham Theatre in New York City in 1843. The group's full-length blackface performance is generally considered to have been the first true minstrel show.

Dan Emmett is also credited with composing "Dixie" and "Polly Wolly Doodle".

I play this in a medley with:

Campton Races

Oh! Susanna

Both are by Stephan Foster and are in this section.