

# The Everyday Dirt

by Dave McCann

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John come home all in a won - der, Rat - tled at the door

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just like thun - der. "Who is that?" Mis - ter Hend - ley cried,

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"It's my hus - band! You must hide!"

1. John come home all in a wonder,  
Rattled at the door just like thunder.  
"Who is that?" Mister Hendley cried,  
"It is my husband! You must hide!"
2. She held the door till old man Hendley  
Jumping and jerking went up the chimney.  
John come in, looked all around,  
But not a soul could be found.
3. John sat down by the fireside weeping,  
Up the chimney he got to peeping.  
There he saw the poor old soul  
Sittin' a-straddle of the pot-rack pole.
4. John built on a rousing fire  
Just to suit his own desire.  
His wife called out with a free good will,  
"Don't do that, for the man you'll kill!"
5. John reached up and down he fetched him  
Like a racoon dog he caught him.  
He blacked his eyes and then he did better:  
He kicked him out upon his setter.
6. His wife she crawled in under the bed,  
He pulled her out by the hair of the head.  
"When I'm gone, remember this!"  
And he kicked her where the kicking is best.
7. The law came down and John went up,  
He didn't have the chance of a yellow pup,  
Sent him down to the old chain gang  
For beating his wife, the dear little thing.
8. When he got off, he went back to court,  
His wife she got him for non-support.  
John didn't worry and John didn't cry  
But when he got close, he socked her in the eye.
9. Took John back to the old town jail  
His wife she come and paid his bail.  
Won't be long till he'll be loose --  
I could tell more about it but there ain't no use.

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The Everyday Dirt is a version of the old "Will the Weaver" song which had been in print as a broadside ballad as early as 1793.

Cotton mill worker Dave McCarn recorded this on May 19, 1930 (RCA/Victor Vi V-40274). He played guitar and harmonica.

McCarn also recorded:

- "Cotton Mill Colic" (1926)

- "Hobo Life" (1930)

- "Poor Man, Rich Man (Cotton Mill Colic No. 2)" (1930)

- "Serves Them Fine (Cotton Mill Colic No. 3)" (1931)

This was recorded by Mike Seeger, Doc Watson and others.

I learned this from a recording by Mike Seeger.

It was printed in Sharp's **English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians** (1917).