

# Old Dan Tucker

*Dan Emmett*



## Chorus:

Get out the way for old Dan Tucker,  
He's too late to have his supper,  
Supper's over, dinner's a-cookin',  
But Old Dan Tucker's just standin' there lookin'.

1. Old Dan Tucker's a mean old man,  
Washed his face in a frying pan,  
Combed his hair with a wagon wheel,  
Died of toothache in his heel.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. I come to town the other night,  
To hear the noise and see the fight  
The people, they was running around (or: watchman, he was..)  
Cryin' Old Dan Tucker's come to town.

6. Ol' Dan and me we did fall out,  
An' what do you reckon it was about?  
He stepped on my corn, I kicked him on the shin,  
An' that's the way this row begin.

(And 3 less-well-known verses:)

7. Ol' Dan Tucker clumb a tree,  
His Lord and Master for to see,  
The limb it broke and Dan got a fall,  
Never got to see his Lord at all.
8. Ol' Dan Tucker went to the mill,  
To git some meal to put in the swill;  
The miller swore by the p'int of his knife  
He never seed such a man in his life.
9. Dan Tucker begun in early life  
To play the banjo and the fife;  
He'd play the boys and gals to sleep  
And then into some bunk he'd creep.

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"Old Dan Tucker", also known as "Ole Dan Tucker", "Dan Tucker" and other variants, is a popular American song. Its origins remain obscure; the tune may have come from oral tradition, and the words may have been written by songwriter and performer Dan Emmett. The blackface troupe the Virginia Minstrels popularized "Old Dan Tucker" in 1843 and it quickly became a minstrel hit. "Old Dan Tucker" as originally published exemplifies the masculine boasting songs that predominated in early minstrelsy. Musicologist Dale Cockrell argues that the song represents a transition between early minstrel music and the more European-style songs of minstrelsy's later years. "Old Dan Tucker" passed from the minstrel stage to folk usage where it was used for many variations where verses were added or deleted according to the whim of the singer. It was also used for bawdy lyrics along the lines of "Old Dan Tucker was a mean motherfucker ...". I remember singing "Old Dan Tucker" in grade school with the first verse and chorus shown here.