

## Colored Aristocracy

In 1858, Cyprian Clamorgan wrote a book entitled **The Colored Aristocracy of St. Louis**. The grandson of a white voyageur and a mulatto woman, he was himself a member of the "colored aristocracy". In a setting where the vast majority of African Americans were slaves, and where those who were free generally lived in abject poverty, Clamorgan's "aristocrats" were exceptional people. Wealthy, educated, and articulate, these men and women occupied a "middle ground". Their material advantages removed them from the mass of African Americans, but their race barred them from membership in white society.

In 1899, "Colored Aristocracy" became the title of a cakewalk number by Gus. W. Bernard, published by Baldwin. Sheet music is available online at Univ. South Carolina-  
<http://sheetmusic.library.sc.edu/Music.asp?mid=419>.

This is a genuine ragtime piece that fiddlers and mandolin players adopted in the early 20th century.

Other rags/blues tunes in this collections are:

Cherry River Rag

Dora Dean

L & N Rag

Old Jackson Stomp

Pig Ankle Rag

Ragtime Annie

- all in the Tunes section

Eli Green's Cakewalk

Hawkin's Rag

Horace Hanesworth

Sister Kate

Woody's Rag

Stone's Rag

- in the Legacies section.

East Tennessee Blues

I learned this from the Old Time Banjo Project album. I sometimes play it in medleys with:

"Far from Home" in this section

"The Old Jackson Stomp" in this section and

"Hawkin's Rag" in the Legacies section.