

Old Yellow Dog

Part A

Part B

The image shows the musical notation for the song 'Old Yellow Dog'. It is divided into two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A consists of two staves of music in the key of G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a G chord and ends with a G chord. The second staff starts with a D7 chord and ends with a G chord. Part B also consists of two staves. The first staff starts with a G chord, followed by a C chord, then a G chord, then an Em chord, and ends with a G chord and a C chord. The second staff starts with a G chord, followed by a D7 chord, and ends with a G chord. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. Chords are indicated by letters above the notes. There are also first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' above the notes.

1. Old yellar dog come trottin' through the meetin' house,
Trottin' through the meetin' house,
Trottin' through the meetin' house,
Old yellar dog come trottin' through the meetin' house,
Down in Alabam'.

Chorus:

Brave boys here, brave boys there
Brave boys here, down in Alabam'

2. Old Joe Hooker won't ya come on out the wilderness,
Come on out the wilderness,
Come on out the wilderness,
Old Joe Hooker won't you come on out the wilderness,
And fight these boys in gray.

Chorus

3. Great big house that nobody lives in,
Nobody lives in,
Nobody lives in,
Great big house that nobody lives in
Down in Alabam'.

Chorus

"Old Yeller Dog" probably refers to voters in the South who voted solely for candidates who represented the Democratic Party. The term originated in the late 19th century as a reaction against the Republican party of Lincoln (and abolition). These voters would allegedly "vote for a yellow dog before they would vote for any Republican".

The tune/song is a variant of an old blackface minstrel song called "Down in Alabam" or "Aint I Glad I Got Out De Wilderness", more familiar nowadays as "The Old Grey Mare" (She Ain't what She Used to Be). One version of the song was used as a campaign song for Abraham Lincoln ("Old Abe Lincoln came tearing out the wildnerness").

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

The presence of dogs in a house of worship may seem incongruous to many, but the practice was not rare at one time, particularly in the South. South Carolina minister Charles Woodmason found it necessary to bar his congregation from bringing their animals with them to church in the late 18th century. Not only were they troublesome, he explained, they were also "an affront to the Divine Presence...to mix unclean things with our service." The congregation was only imitating longstanding practice in Britain. In James Hall's **Travels in Scotland, by an Unusual Route: With a Trip to the Orkneys and Hebrides** (1807) he states:

"I was amazed to see how much the ministers in the interior of the Highlands are plagued with dogs in their churches. As almost every family has a dog, and some two, and as these dogs generally go with the people to church; so many dogs being collected often fight, and make such a noise during public worship, as not only disturbs the congregation, but endangers the limbs of many."