

Bill Grogan's Goat

(a.k.a. "Old Hogan's Goat" or "Bill Groggin's Goat")

Words & Music:
Traditional English

I thought this tune was a traditional American one, but then I came across two versions I had acquired over the years (see attached easy arrangements) - one entitled "Old Hogan's Goat" and the other entitled "Bill Groggin's Goat". These make me think that this was an English tune. The first version given is the one I learned as a kid down South. The additional verses come from the other arrangements.

CALL:

C
Bill Grogan's goat
F
Was feeling fine.
G7
Ate three red shirts
C
From off the line.

RESPONSE:

Bill Grogan's goat
Was feeling fine.
Ate three red shirts
From off the line.

CONTINUE CALL & RESPONSE FOR EACH HALF-LINE:

Bill Grogan came and beat his back.
And tied him to the railroad track.
The whistle blew, the train drew nigh.
Bill Grogan's goat was doomed to die. [*alt: "...was bound to die"*]
Bill's goat, he was in mortal pain,
Coughed up the shirts and flagged the train!

OTHER VERSES:

There was a man, now please take note:
There was a man who had a goat.
He loved that goat, indeed he did.
He loved that goat just like a kid.

One day that goat felt frisk & fine; [*alt: "One day that goat was feeling fine"*]
Ate three red shirts right off the line.
The man, he grabbed him by the back [*alt: "His master came & beat his back."*]
And tied him to the railroad track.

Now, when that train hove into sight,
That goat grew pale & green with fright.
He heaved a sigh, as if in pain,
Coughed up the shirts & flagged the train!

OR:

The whistle blew, the train drew nigh.
The poor goat knew that he must die.
He gave three shrieks of mortal pain,
Coughed up the shirts & flagged the train!