Seeing Nellie Home
(a.k.a. "When I Saw Nellie Home", "I Was Seeing Nellie Home" & Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party)

Words & Music:
Frances Kyle & John Fletcher (1856)

This tune was first recorded in 1906(!) by the Edison Male Quartette. I remember it from Warner Bros. cartoons.

G       D7           G                 C                  G
In the sky the bright stars glittered, on the bank the pale moon shone.
G                        C                    D7            G
It was from Aunt Dinah's quilting party I was seeing Nellie home

CHORUS:
G            C      G           C             G
I was seeing Nellie home, I was seeing Nellie home.
G                        C                    D7            G
It was from Aunt Dinah's quilting party I was seeing Nellie home.

On my arm a soft hand rested, rested light as ocean foam.
It was from Aunt Dinah's quilting party I was seeing Nellie home.

CHORUS:

On my lips a whisper trembled, trembled till it dared to come.
It was from Aunt Dinah's quilting party I was seeing Nellie home.

CHORUS:

On my life new hopes were dawning and those hopes have lived and grown.
It was from Aunt Dinah's quilting party I was seeing Nellie home.

CHORUS:

EARLIEST LYRICS VERSION:
In the sky the bright stars glittered; on the grass the moonlight fell.
Hush'd the sound of daylight bustle; closed the pink eyed pimpernel.
As adown the moss grown wood path where the cattle love to roam.
From an august evening party, I was seeing Nellie home.

CHORUS:
In the sky the bright stars glittered; on the grass the moonlight shone.
From an august evening party, I was seeing Nellie home.

When the autumn tinged the greenwood; turning all its leaves to the gold
In the lawn by elders shaded; I my love to Nellie told.
As we stood together gazing on the star bespangled dome.
How I blessed the august evening when I saw sweet Nellie home.

CHORUS:

White hairs mingled with my tresses; furrows steal upon my brow.
But a love smile cheers and blesses life's declining moments now.
Matron in the snowy kerchief, closer to my bosom come.
Tell me do'st thou still remember when I saw sweet Nellie home.

CHORUS: