There are several lyric versions to this song; and also two chord variations that I've found. I refer readers to the great discussions about the rich history of this song on The Mudcat Café. Also, Wikipedia's entry on this song is a good 'un.

1. Antebellum Lyric Version:
   '
   'Way back yonder a long time ago, Daddy had a man called Cotton-Eyed Joe.
   Blew into town on a travelin' show, nobody danced like the Cotton-Eyed Joe
   
   CHORUS:
   Cotton-Eyed Joe, Cotton-Eyed Joe
   Where did you come from, where did you go?
   Mama's at the window, Mama's at the door,
   She can't see nothin' but the Cotton-Eyed Joe.  
   Daddy held the fiddle, I held the bow,
   An' we beat the hell out of Cotton-Eyed Joe.
   
   CHORUS:
   Made himself a a fiddle, made himself a bow.
   Made a little tune called "Cotton-Eyed Joe".
   Hadn't oughta been for Cotton-Eyed Joe,
   I'd a-been married a long time ago.
   
   CHORUS:
   Verse 4:
   Whenever there's a dance all the women want to go,
   And they all want to dance with the Cotton-Eyed Joe.
   Daddy won't say, but I think he knows,
   Whatever happened to Cotton-Eyed Joe.
2. Major Key/Minor Key Chord Variation:

Per Sounghound Thomas Loomis, this should be sung slowly, all but a capella. This kind of "playing with the keys" is common in folk music; especially that from The Isles.

A..............................
Where do you come from?
A .............................E........
Where do you go?
A.................................E...............A....
Where do you come from, Cotton-eyed Joe?

........ A..............................
Well, I come for t' see you,
...A.................E............
I come for t' sing
...A................................. E........... Aminor........
I come for t' give you, a diamon' ring....

3. The "Wronged Love" Lyric Version:

This version was recorded by folklorist Dorothy Scarborough and published in 1925. The patois is how it was published.

Don't you remember, don't you know, don't you remember, Cotton-eyed Joe?
Cotton-eyed Joe, Cotton-eyed Joe, what did make you treat me so?

CHORUS:
I'd 'a' been married forty year ago
Ef it had n't a-been for Cotton-eyed Joe!

Cotton-eyed Joe, Cotton-eyed Joe, he was de nig dat sarved me so, ?
Tuck my gal away fum me, carried her off to Tennessee.

CHORUS:
Hi's teeth was out an' his nose was flat,
His eyes was crossed, ? but she did n't mind dat.
Kase he was tall, and berry slim an' so my gal she follered him.

CHORUS:
She was de prettiest gal to be found anywhar in de country round;
Her lips was red an' her eyes was bright,
Her skin was black but her teeth was white.

CHORUS:
Dat gal, she sho' had all my love, an swore fum ne she'd never move,
But Joe hoodooed her, don't you see, an' she run off wid him to Tennessee,