

Rose Of Alabama

Words & Music:
Antebellum American [see note]

Jay Buckey has some great arrangements of this song on his site. It was also featured in the film The Outlaw Josie Wales. There are several attributions for the lyrics & music to this song. Per Mudcat discussion: "Turner & Fisher"; "Words by S. S. Steele - Music n/a" "Publication: Boston: Geo. P. Reed, 17 Tremont Row 1846"; "Songsheet H. De Marsan (or Masran), No. 38 Chatham Street, N.Y. [n.d.]"; and a version called "Fantasia & Variations on the Ethiopian Air 'The Rose Of Alabama', op. 2" by "Theod. Von La Hache (Philadelphia: A. Fiot, 1846)". Suffice it to say, this song is antebellum, but more than that cannot be ascertained.

G D G
Away from Mississippi's vale, with my ol' hat there for a sail,
G D G
I crossed upon a cotton bale to Rose of Alabamy.

CHORUS:

C
Oh, brown Rosie, Rose of Alabamy.
G D G
A sweet tobacco posey is the Rose of Alabamy.
G D G
A sweet tobacco posey is the Rose of Alabamy.

I landed on the far sand bank, I sat upon the hollow plank,
And there I made the banjo twank ["twang"] for Rose of Alabamy.

CHORUS:

Oh, arter d'rectly bye and bye, the moon rose white as Rosie's eye,
Den like a young coon out so sly, stole Rose of Alabamy.

CHORUS:

I said, "Sit down just where you please'" & upon my lap she took her ease.
"It's good to go upon the knees," said Rose of Alabamy.

CHORUS:

The river rose, the cricket sang; the lightnin' bug it flashed it's wang.
Then, like a rope, my arms I flang 'round Rose of Alabamy.
["wang" = "wing" & "flang" = "fling"]

CHORUS:

We hugged, how long I cannot tell; my Rosie seemed to like it well.
My banjo in the river fell. Oh, Rose of Alabama.

CHORUS:

Like alligator after prey, I jump in but it float away,
And all the while it seem to say, "Oh Rose of Alabama."

CHORUS:

Now, every night come rain or shower, I hunt that banjo for an hour;
And see my sweet tobacco flower. Oh, Rose of Alabama.

CHORUS:

Oh, fare thee well, you belles of Spain and fare thee well to Liza Jane.
Your charms will all be put to shame By Rose of Alabama.

CHORUS: