

Polly Wolly Doodle

(author unknown)

Polly Wolly Doodle was first published in a Harvard student songbook in 1880. The song appears in the existing manuscript for Laura Ingalls Wilder's *These Happy Golden Years* exactly as it is used in the published version.

Although the songwriter is unknown, it is often thought that **Daniel Decatur "Dan" Emmett** was the author. He was an American songwriter and entertainer, founder of the first troupe of the blackface minstrel tradition. Emmet wrote *Dixie* and is also credited with the song *Turkey in the Straw*.

Polly Wolly Doodle has its origins as a slave song in the south. Polly Wolly Doodle is mostly likely a nonsense word without hidden meaning.

LYRICS

Oh, I went down South
For to see my Sal
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
My Sal, she is A spunky gal
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day

(chorus)

Fare thee well, Fare thee well,
Fare thee well my fairy fay
For I'm going to Lou'siana For to see my Susyanna
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day

Oh, my Sal, she is A maiden fair
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
With curly eyes And laughing hair
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
(chorus)

Behind the barn, Down on my knees
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
I thought I heard A chicken sneeze
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
(chorus)

He sneezed so hard With the whooping cough
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
He sneezed his head And the tail right off
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
(chorus)

Oh, a grasshopper sittin' On a railroad track

Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
A-pickin' his teeth
With a carpet tack
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
(chorus)

Oh, I went to bed But it wasn't any use
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
My feet stuck out Like a chicken roost
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
(chorus)

Related Research Topics:

Daniel Decatur Emmett
Laura Ingalls Wilder
Minstrel Shows
Blackface Performers
Slavery