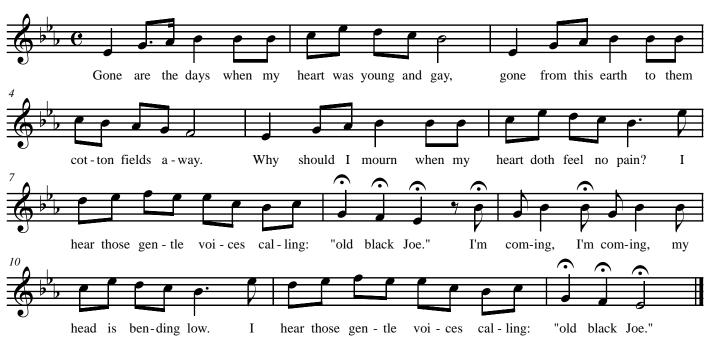
# **Old Black Joe**

As sung by Lily Richmond 08-23-1946 Lancaster, WI



Lyrics

Gone are the days When my heart was young and gay, Gone from this earth To them cotton fields away. Why should I mourn When my heart doth feel no pain? I hear those gentle voices calling: "Old black Joe." I'm coming, I'm coming, My head is bending low. I hear those gentle voices calling: "Old black Joe."

## **Critical Commentary**

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series: Aunt Lily Richmond. Sung by a colored lady, the last of the slaves of Wisconsin of the Lancaster vicinity. Came to Wisconsin from Missouri near the end of civil war pursued by the confederates.

#### **Editor's notes:**

This song was written by Stephen Foster.

## Sources:

Chapple, Joe Mitchell. *Heart Songs Dear to the American People: and By Them Contributed in the Search for Treasured Songs Initiated by the National Magazine*. Boston, Mass.: Chapple Publishing, 1909.

K.G.