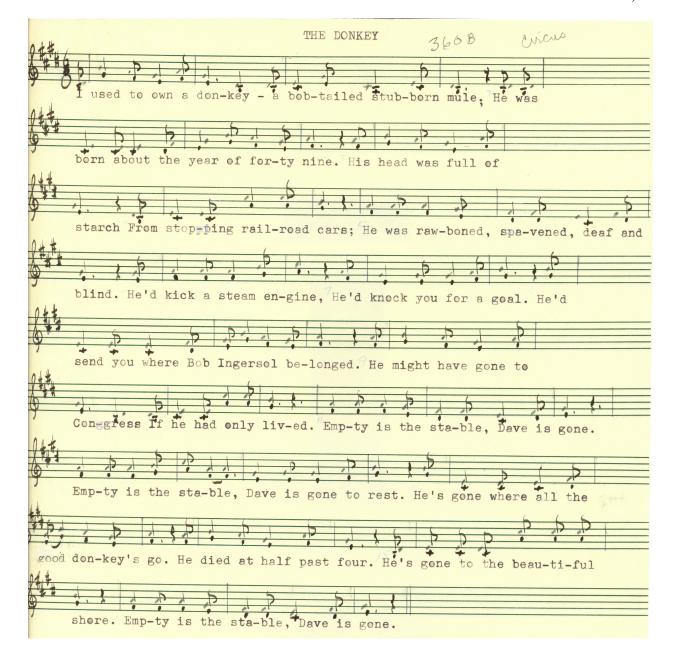
Donkey

As sung by Lester Coffee 08-20-1946 Harvard, IL





Verse 1.

I used to own a donkey A bob-tailed stubborn mule;

He was born about the year of forty-nine.

His head was full of starch From stopping railroad cars;

He was raw-boned, spavined, deaf and blind.

He'd kick a steam engine, He'd knock you for a goal.

He'd send you where Bob Ingersol belonged.

He might have gone to Congress

If he had only lived.

Empty is the stable, Dave is gone.

Empty is the stable, Dave is gone to rest.

He's gone where all the good donkeys go.

He died at half past four.

He's gone to the beautiful shore.

Empty is the stable, Dave is gone.

Verse 2.

His hoof was like a slingshot, He'd raise you through the roof.

He'd come in the house and kick you out of bed.

His feet were full of bunions, He could eat a barrel of onions,

And go to sleep a'standing on his head.

He'd go in a saloon,

Shove his hoof through a spittoon,

Kick the bar into the gutter for a joke.

When he laid down and died, Every mule in Jersey cried.

Empty is the stable, Dave is gone.

Dave has left the stable for the promised

His overshoes and saddle are in pawn.

No more hay he'll ever chew, For they've turned him into glue.

Empty is the stable, Dave is gone.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 55.

HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Lester A. Coffee. Learned as a boy. Sisters would run him out of house for singing it. First heard it at a circus, when small boy. Very old.

Sources:

Peters, Harry B., ed. Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

K.G.

