

Folk Song: Yankee Doodle

The song "Yankee Doodle" is a traditional American song that dates back to the 18th century. Its tune is thought to be derived from a much older English folk song/nursery rhyme, "Lucy Locket."

The lyrics are:

Lucy Locket lost her pocket,
Kitty Fisher found it;
Not a penny was there in it,
Only ribbon round it.

The lyrics we know as "Yankee Doodle" were believed to have been written by British composer George Mudge in 1775, and were originally sung by British troops during the Revolutionary War to mock the Americans because of their ragtag appearance.

After the War of 1812, "Yankee Doodle" grew in popularity and eventually became a patriotic song. The words have often been changed or added to depending on the situation. For example, during the Civil War, both Union and Confederate soldiers would sing different versions with various lyrics that mocked their opponents.

It has since been used in many different contexts, including political campaigns, military marches, and children's songs.

36. Yankee Doodle

The oldest of our National songs, whose origin has never been traced. Many sets of words have been associated with it, because during the Revolutionary War, it was used by both the British and Americans as a means of ridiculing the other. The text printed here is suggestive of a boy's point of view regarding the continental army.

1. Fath'r and I went down to camp, A - long with Cap - tain Good - 'in, And
 2. And there we saw a thou - san men, As rich as Squire— Da - vid; And
 3. And there was Cap - tain Wash - ing - ton Up - on a slap - ping stal - lion, A -
 4. And there I saw a swamp - ing gun, Big as a log of ma - ple, Up -

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CHORUS

there we saw the men and boys As thick as has - ty pud - din'.
 what they wast - ed ev - 'ry day, I wish it could be sav - ed. Yan - kee Doo - dle keep it up,
 giv - ing or - ders to his men; I guess there was a mil - lion.
 on a might - y lit - tle cart; A load for fa - ther's cat - tle.

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Yan - kee Doo - dle dan - dy, Mind the mu - sic and the step, And with the girls be hand - y.

5. And every time they fired it off,
 It took a horn of powder;
 it made a noise like father's gun,
 Only a nation louder.

6. And there I saw a little keg,
 Its head all made of leather,
 they knocked upon't with little sticks,
 To call the folks together.

7. The troopers, too, would gallop up
 And fire right in our faces;
 It scared me almost half to death
 To see them run such races.

8. It scared me so I hooked it off,
 Nor stopped, as I remember,
 Nor turned about till I got home,
 Locked up in mother's chamber.



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