

WALTZING MATILDA

BY A.B. “BANJO” PATERSON

This is belived to be the original version of Banjo Paterson's most famous poem. It is from a manuscript given to Mr & Mrs W. B. Bartlam in May, 1895 at the Winton Race Carnival.

Oh there once was a swagman camped in the Billabong,
Under the shade of a Coolibah tree,
And he sang as he as he looked at the old billy
boiling,
Who'll come a'waltzing Matilda with me?

Chorus

Who'll a come a'waltzing Matilda my darling,
Who'll come a'waltzing Matilda with me?
Waltzing Matilda and leading a waterbag,
Who'll come a'waltzing Matilda with me?

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the billabong.
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee.
And he said as he put him away in the tucker bag,
You'll come a'waltzing Matilda with me.

Chorus

Down came the squatter a'riding his thoroughbred
Down came policemen, one, two and three.
'Whose is the jumbuck you've got in the tuckerbag?
You'll come a'waltzing Matilda with me?'

Chorus

But the swagman, he up and he jumped in the waterhole,
Drowning himself by the Coolibah tree,
And his ghost may be heard as it sings by the
Billabong,
Who'll come a'waltzing Matilda with me.