

The Swapping Song

Informant/Performer:
Mrs. C.S. MacClellan
High Springs, FL, 1937

Source:
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Collected by Alton C. Morris

When I was a lit - tle boy I lived by my - self
and all the bread and cheese I got, I laid it on the shelf___
Chorus:
to my wing wong wad - dle to my jack straw strad - dle
to my John fair fad - dle to my long ways home. Well, the

Transcribed by Gail Needleman

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| 2. Well the rats and the mice they lived such a life,
I had to go to London to buy me a wife. | 8. I swapped my mule and got me a cow,
In that trade I just learnt how. |
| 3. The creek was so wide and the lane was so narrow,
I had to bring her home in a old wheelbarrow. | 9. I swapped me a cow and got me a calf,
In that trade I just lost a half. |
| 4. My wheelbarrow broke and I got a fall,
And down come wheelbarrow, wife and all. | 10. I swapped my calf and got me a sheep,
And then I rode till I went to sleep. |
| 5. I swapped my wheelbarrow and got me a horse,
And then I rode from cross to cross. | 11. I swapped my sheep and got me a hen,
And what a pretty thing I had then. |
| 6. I swapped my horse and got me a mare,
And then I rode from fair to fair. | 12. I swapped my hen and got me a rat,
And set it on the haystack with two little cats. |
| 7. I swapped my mare and I got me a mule,
And then I rode like a dog-gone fool. | 13. I swapped my rat and I got me a mole,
And the dog-gone thing went straight to its hole! |