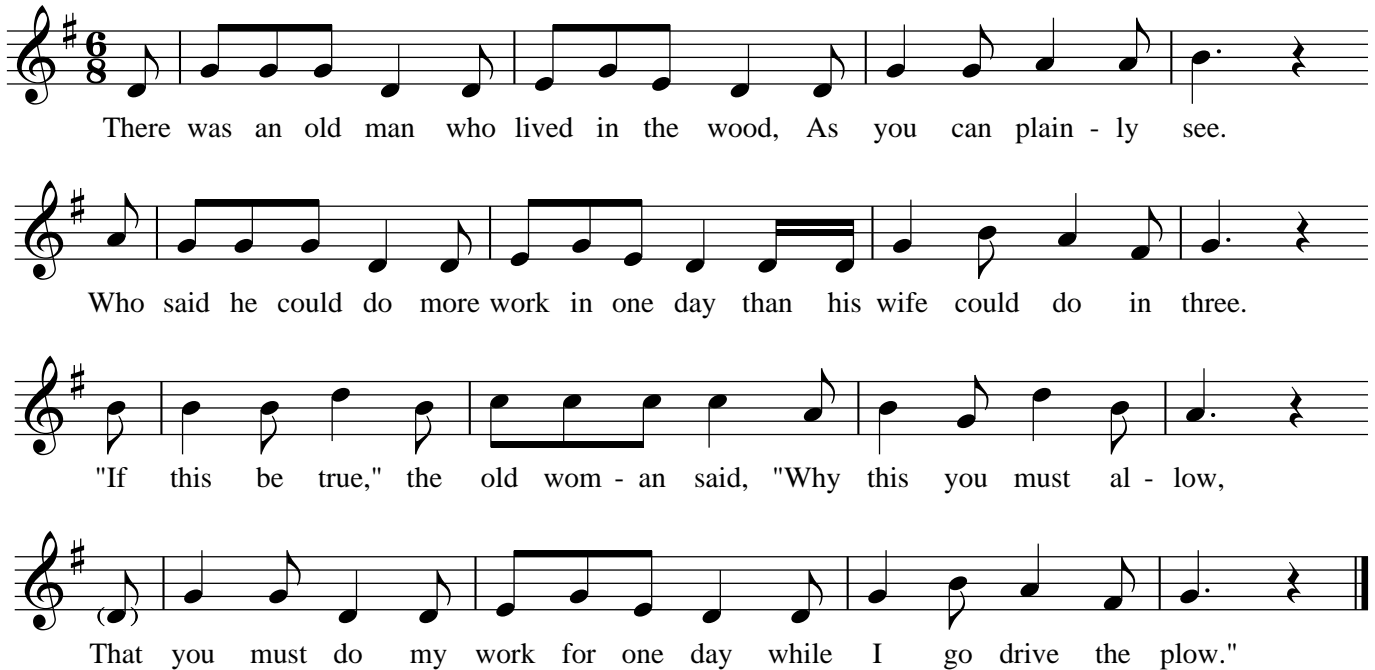


Father Grumble

Informant/Performer:
Jean Ritchie
Renfro Valley, KY, 1946

Source:
Duncan Emrich, ed.
Anglo-American Songs and Ballads
Library of Congress AAFS L14
Collected by Artus M. Moser



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 6/8. The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

There was an old man who lived in the wood, As you can plain - ly see.

Who said he could do more work in one day than his wife could do in three.

"If this be true," the old wom - an said, "Why this you must al - low,

That you must do my work for one day while I go drive the plow."

2. "And you must feed [milk] the Tiny cow for fear she would go dry,
And you must feed the little pigs that are within the sty.
And you must watch the speckled hen lest she should lay astray,
And you must wind the reel of yarn that I spun yesterday."
3. The old woman took the staff in her hand and went to drive the plow,
The old man took the pail in his hand and went to milk the cow.
But Tiny hitched and Tiny flitched and Tiny cocked her nose,
And Tiny gave the old man such a kick that the blood ran down to his hose.
4. It's "Hey, my good cow!" and "Ho, my good cow!" and, "Now, my good cow stand still!
If I ever milk this cow again, 'twill be against my will."
But Tiny hitched and Tiny flitched, and Tiny cocked her nose,
And Tiny gave the old man such a kick that the blood ran down his hose.
5. And when he had milked the Tiny cow for fear she would go dry,
Why then he fed the little pigs that are within the sty.
And then he watched the speckled hen lest she should lay astray,
But he forgot the reel of yarn his wife spun yesterday.
6. He swore by all the stars in the sky and all the leaves on the tree
His wife could do more work in one day than he could do in three.
He swore by all the leaves on the tree and all the stars in heaven
That his wife could do more work in one day than he could do in seven.