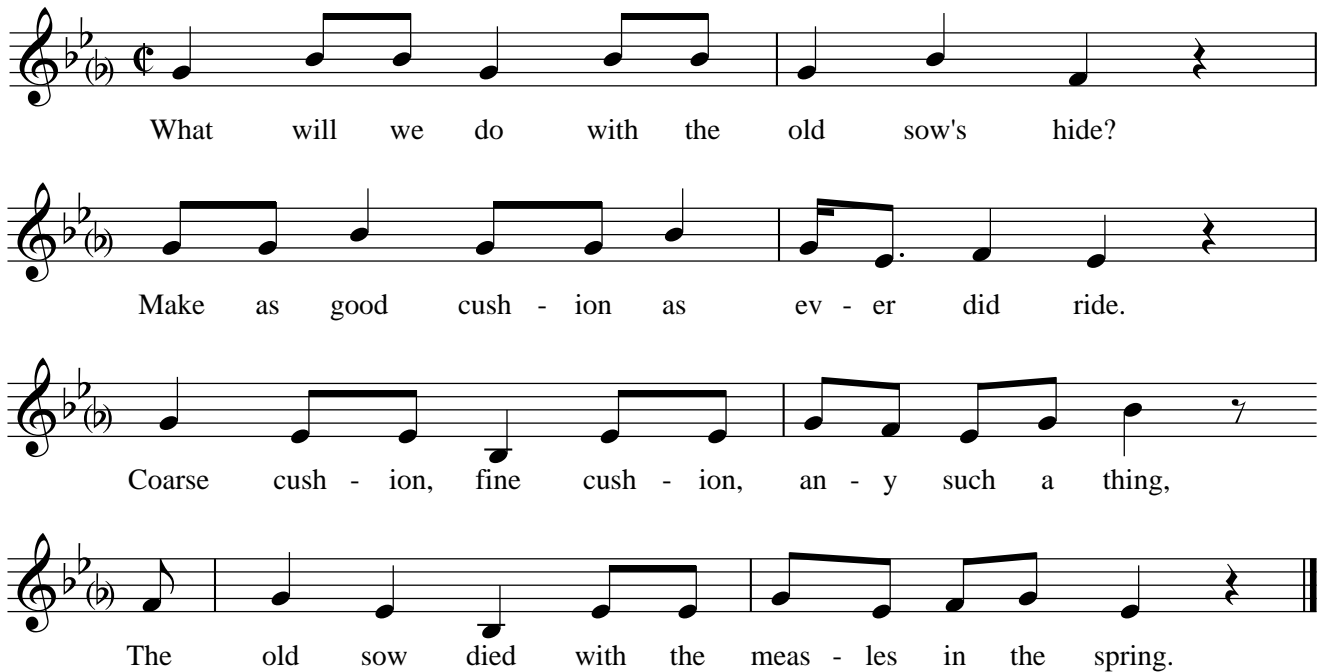


# The Old Sow

Informant/Performer:  
Lewis Kelley  
Cyclone, MO, 1931

Source:  
Vance Randolph  
*Ozark Folksongs*  
Columbia, Mo.: State Historical  
Society of Missouri, 1946 - 48



What will we do with the old sow's hide?

Make as good cushion as ever did ride.

Coarse cushion, fine cushion, any such a thing,

The old sow died with the measles in the spring.

2. What will we do with the old sow's tail?  
Make as good whip as ever did sail.  
Coarse whip, fine whip, any such a thing,  
The old sow died with the measles in the spring.

4. What will we do with the old sow's feet?  
Make as good pickles as ever was eat.  
Coarse pickles, fine pickles, any such a thing.  
The old sow died with the measles in the spring.

3. What will we do with the old sow's meat?  
Make as good bacon as ever was eat.  
Coarse bacon, fine bacon, any such a thing,  
The old sow died with the measles in the spring.

5. What will we do with the old sow's head?  
Make as good oven as ever baked bread.  
Coarse oven, fine oven, any such a thing,  
The old sow died with the measles in the spring.

Order of verses, verse 4 and comment below from Ruth Crawford Seeger, *Animal Folk Songs for Children*.

Disposing of other parts of the sow can make this a long song – her bones, marrow, knuckles, snout ("as fine a shaker as shakes salt out," says an 8-year-old), her knees, legs, ears, hair, side, ("best old bacon that ever was fried") – even her squeal.

## Background Information

Mr. Kelley learned the song from his father in 1876, when he was "just about chicken-high."