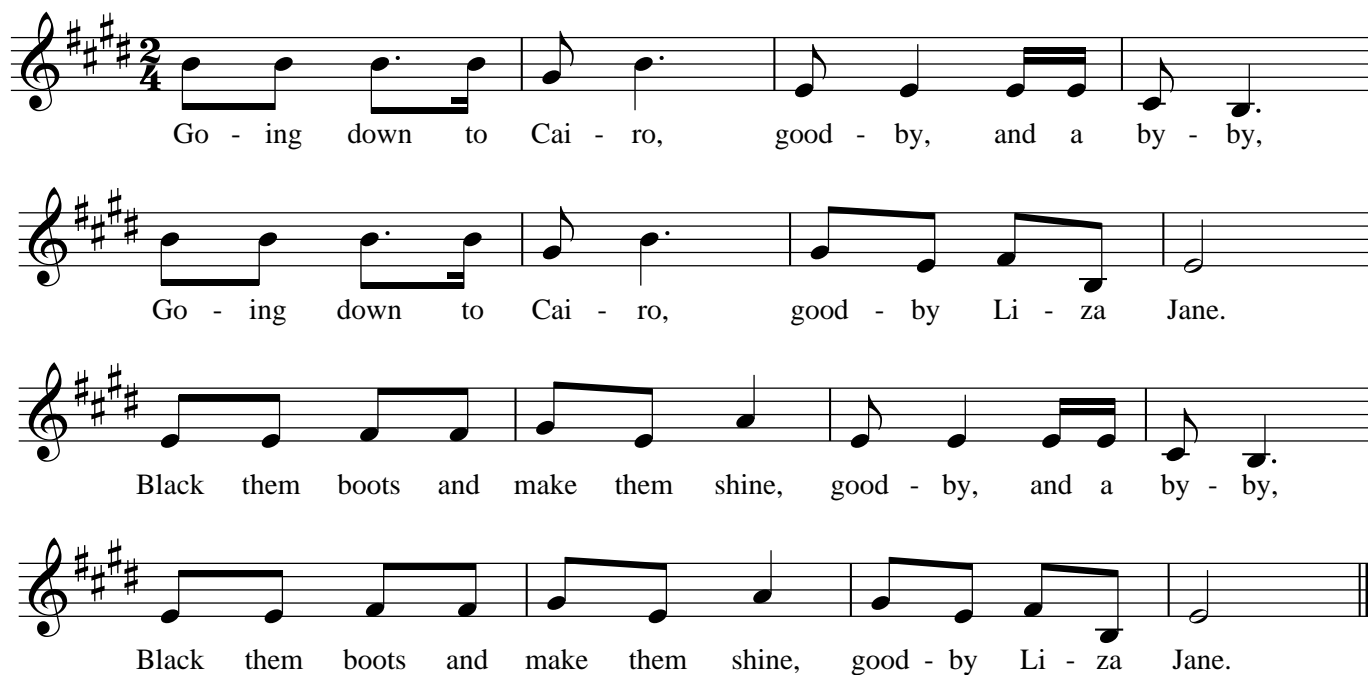


Cairo

Informant/Performer:
Mrs. Thad Boston
Centralia, IL

Source:
David McIntosh
Singing Games and Dances
New York: Association Press, 1957



Go - ing down to Cai - ro, good - by, and a by - by,
Go - ing down to Cai - ro, good - by Li - za Jane.
Black them boots and make them shine, good - by, and a by - by,
Black them boots and make them shine, good - by Li - za Jane.

2. Oh, how I love her, good-by and a by-by,
Oh, how I love her, I love my Liza Jane.
I'll be yours if you'll be mine, in the good-by and the by-by.
I'll be yours if you'll be mine, good-by, Liza Jane.

Game Directions

Formation: Single circle of not more than ten or twelve couples.

Action:

Verse 1. During the singing of the first half of the verse, all dance single file, to the left, using the two-step, clog, or stamp dance. The stamp dance is a vigorous stamping of the rhythm with any additional tap beats the dancer can put in. With the singing of "Black them boots," the gentlemen reverse direction and all do the grand right and left.s

Verse 2. During the remaining figures of the dance, the verses or words of the music have no significance except to provide the rhythm, the verses being repeated as often as necessary.

After the grand right and left as partners meet, each gentleman swings each lady once around and when he meets his partner again, he swings each lady twice around. At the end of the swinging, all couples promenade to the end of the verse being sung at the time.

To make the dance more exciting, the leader may shout "Cairo" at any time. At this signal all dancers reverse the direction of whatever figure is being danced and continue in reverse direction until "Cairo" is shouted again.

Background Information

There are many versions of this game in the area around Cairo, Illinois, where it originated some time before 1860.