

Irish-American History Through Song and Popular Culture

Academy of Lifelong Learning

Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan

Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy
USC Aiken



Course Organization

March 2: The Scotch-Irish Migration and the Impact on American Musical Styles (Appalachia, Bluegrass, Country)

March 9: Songs of Trouble, Strife, and Success: From the Famine Ship to City Hall

March 23: St. Patrick's Day in Irish America

March 30: From Harrigan & Hart to the Dropkick Murphys: The Popularization and Modernization of Irish-American Music

Week 1: The Scotch Irish



Most of the Scots-Irish settled in the Appalachian region highlighted above after leaving Ireland and Britain in the 18th century. Many populate that area today, but their intrinsic wanderlust led others to push on.



Ulster



Appalachia

Similarities between Irish/Scottish Music & American Folk/Bluegrass/Country

Vocal harmonies

Lyrical content:

- Sob story

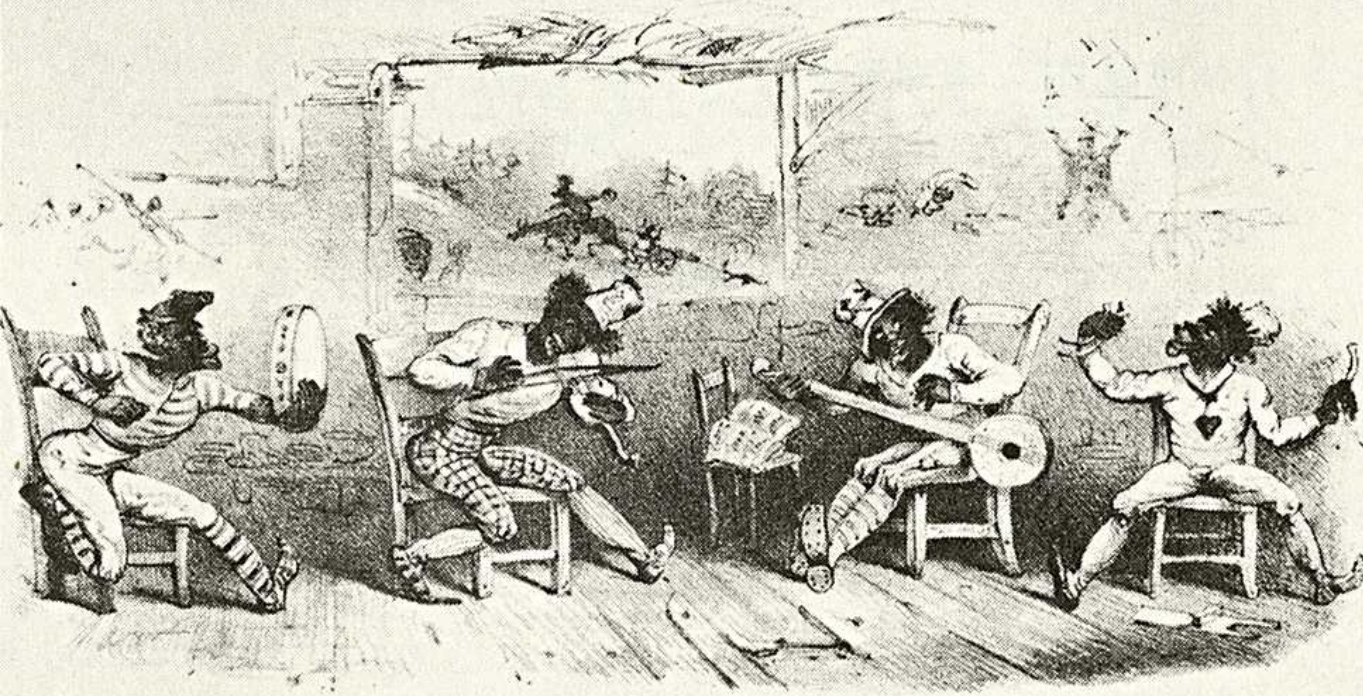
Drinking songs

Instrumentation:

- Fiddle
- Banjo

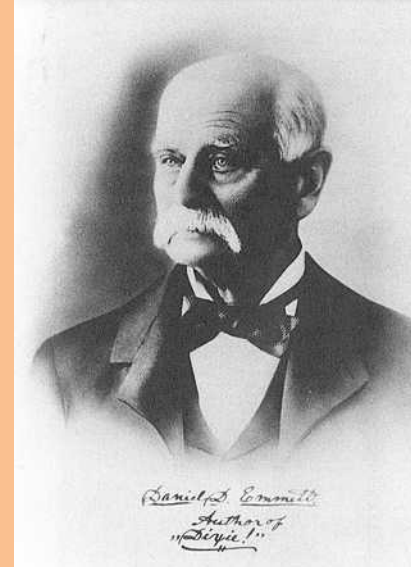
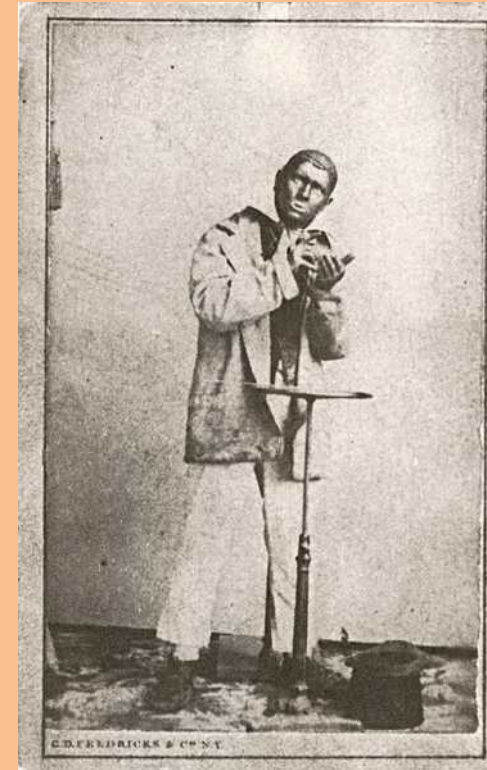


THE CELEBRATED NEGRO MELODIES.



as sung by the

VIRGINIA MINSTRELS,



Dan Emmett and the Virginia Minstrels