

Cotton Eyed Joe

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Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club

D G D A D

D A D

D A D

Do you remember Long time ago
There was a man called Cotton eyed Joe (x2)

I could have been married long time ago
If it hadn't 'a been for Cotton Eyed Joe (x2)

Old bull fiddle and a shoe-string bow
Wouldn't play nothin' but Cotton Eyed Joe (x2)

Play it fast or play it slow
Didn't play nothing but Cotton Eyed Joe (x2)

Where do you come from where do you go
Where do you come from Cotton Eyed Joe (x2)

Going back into the late Nineteenth Century in the Deep South, it would appear that Joe was either a slave or bondservant/ hired man. The term 'cotton eyed' would be rendered today as 'bug eyed'. Or rather, having large and prominent whites (conjunctiva) to one's eyes. To those that research this kind of thing such a face would appear to the rest of humanity to be

**face would appear to the rest of humanity to be permanently startled or frightened. Something
Vaudeville and early motion pictures would play into a stereotype and caricature.**