



The song Shady Grove probably began life in eastern Kentucky/Tennessee in the 1800s. There are towns called Shady Grove in Virginia or Kentucky, though the title originally refer to a place, it is now used as the name of a person. It's even possible that Shady Grove might be a mishearing of Maty Grove, though the two songs are different and not related. While certain verses seem to be linked with the tune, other 'floating' verses are often attached by different singers.

The earliest recording was The Kentucky Thorobreds 'Shady Grove' recorded in September 1927 in Chicago and issued as Paramount 3080.

The lyrics in this version stem from a Combination of Doc Watson and Jean Ritchie's recordings.

Shad - y Grove my li - the love. bound for the Shad - y Grove
Shad - y Grove my li - the love. Shad - y Grove I know.
Refrain You are the dar - ling of my heart. stay til the sun goes down.
Cheeks as red as a bloom - ing rose, eyes of deep - est brown.
Ferse Am G Am

Shady Grove

Zines about Kentucky Folk songs



References:
<http://unitedbluegrassmusicians.com/shady-grove-version-2-doc-tudson-aspx>
<https://education.ket.org/resources/mountain-born-jean-ritchie-story>

Lyrics and some history of the song
<https://dcheldeose.com/2010/02/08/shady-grove-and-the-tradition-of-living-songs/>
 More history on the song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDpDUNdRm5Toc>
 Performance of the song by Jean Ritchie
<https://education.ket.org/resources/mountain-born-jean-ritchie-story>

Song Suggestions

 Mattie Groves
 Roll on Clouds in the Morning
 Barbara Ellen (Barbara Allen)
 Will the Cider be Unbreaken

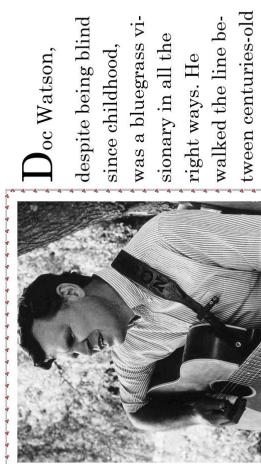
House of the Rising Sun

most of the songs were learned orally and sung without a accompaniment.

Watson was born in Deep Gap, North Carolina, in 1923, and left the world in 2012.



It is impossible to place any one label on Jean Ritchie. She is a traditional musician by virtue of her life and works, but she is also a commercial performer, author, recording artist, composer, and folk music collector. Ritchie was born in 1922 in Viper, Kentucky, into a family that considered music extremely important. In addition to singing as a means of entertainment, they had songs to accompany nearly all of their activities, from sweeping to churning to working in the fields. When they got together in the evening to sing as a family, they chose a repertoire of more than 300 songs. Among them were hymns, traditional love songs and ballads, and popular songs by composers like Stephen Foster. For the most part, these songs were learned orally and sung without a accompaniment.



Doc Watson,
 was a bluegrass violinist, despite being blind
 between centuries-old Appalachian musical traditions—
 walking the fine line between rural
 and urban, and one of the most old-fashioned.
 bringing in rural
 traditions alongside contemporaries like Clarence White and John Hartford. His guitar picking style is one of the most unimitable in all of bluegrass, and one of the most old-fashioned.

North Carolina—and pushing bluegrass forward alongside contemporaries like Clarence White and John Hartford. His guitar picking style is one of the most unimitable in all of bluegrass, and one of the most old-fashioned.

These verses have also been heard at various times:

Cut a banjo from a gourd
 string it up with twine

The only song that I can play
 is "Wish that gal was mine"

Apples in the summer time
 peaches in the fall

If I can't have the girl I love
 I don't want none at all

I've got a big fine horse
 and corn to feed him on

All I need's little Shady Grove
 to feed him when I'm gone

Shady Grove, my little love,
 Shady Grove my darling
 Shady Grove, my little love,
 I'm going back to Harlan