

Songs

The Ramble-er

Collected by AB Paterson c 1905. This tune by David Johnson (2005).
Incidentally, the Ramblers was a bush band that formed about 1957 after The Bushwhackers disbanded.
It included Harry Kay, Alex Hood and Chris Kempster performing similar Australian material.

Verses 1 & 2

1. The earth rolls on through empty space, its journey's never done,
It's entered for a starry race through-out to Kingdom Come.
And, as I am a bit of earth, I follow it because - -
And prove I am a rolling stone that never gathers moss.

Chorus

For I'm a ramble-er, a roll-ick-ing ramble-er.
I'm a roving rake of poverty and a son of a gun for beer.

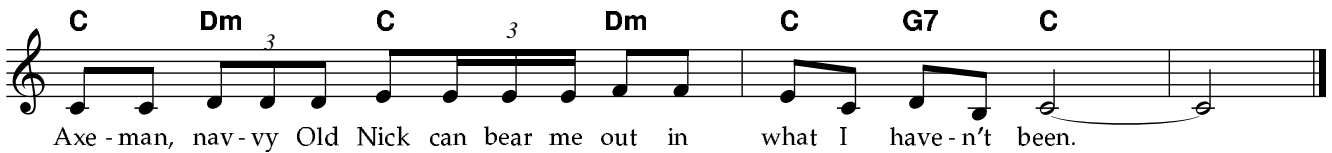
The musical notation is in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: C, Dm, Am, G7, F, and G. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Verses 3 & 4

3. I've done a bit of droving of cattle and of sheep,
I've done a bit of moving with Matilda for a mate
Of fencing I have done my share wool scouring on the green;

The musical notation continues on a single treble clef staff. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: C, Dm, Am, G7, and F. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Songs



C Dm C Dm C G7 C

Axe - man, nav - vy Old Nick can bear me out in what I have - n't been.

2. I've done a bit of fossicking for tucker and for gold;
I've been a menial rouseabout and a rollocking shearer bold.
I've shanked across the Old Man Plain after busting up a cheque,
And whipped the cat once more again, though I haven't met it yet.
4. I've worked the treadmill thresher, the scythe and reaping hook,
Been wood and water fetcher for Mary Jane the cook:
I've done a few cronk things too, when I have struck a town,
There's few things I wouldn't do – but I never did lambing-down.