

THE DEVIL IS A-WORKIN' IN A TEXIAN'S HEAD

This lively song was originally collected and recorded by John A. Lomax, Jr. During the first half of the nineteenth century, people in Texas were variously referred to as Texans, Texians or Texicans – all derived from a Native American word for “friend.” Many of the military units who fought in the Texas Revolution (1835-1836) had “Texian” in their name. You can hear this song performed by Pete Seeger [here](#), or on the [HFMS Audio Archive page](#). To play along with Pete, capo II.

The Texian Boys

Traditional

C
Come all you Missouri girls and listen to my noise

G
Don't you go trust them Texian boys.

C
For if you do your portion will be

F
Johnnycake and venison and sassafras tea

C **G** **C**
Johnnycake and venison and sassafras tea.



They'll take you off to some live oak hill
Leave you starve against your will
Leave you out alone on the plain
For that is the way of the Texian
That is the way of the Texian.



They'll take you to a house with a hewed log wall
But it ain't got no windows at all
With a clapboard roof and a puncheon floor
That's the way all Texas o'er
That's the way all Texas o'er.

When they come a'courtin' I'll tell you what they wear
An old leather coat all patched and bare
An old straw hat more brim than crown
And a pair of dirty socks they've worn year 'round
A pair of dirty socks they've worn year 'round.



Well, brandy's brandy any way you mix it
A Texian's a Texian any way you fix it
When other good folk have all gone to bed
The devil is a-workin' in a Texian's head
The devil is a-workin' in a Texian's head.