

Tennessee Stud

By Jimmy Driftwood, © 1958 Warden Music Company, Inc. (BMI)

D

Along about eighteen and twenty-five;

C

I left Tennessee very much alive.

D

I never would have got through the Arkansas mud,

C D

If I hadn't been a-ridin on the Tennessee stud.

D

I had some trouble with my sweetheart's pa.

C

One of her brothers was a bad outlaw.

D

I sent her a letter by my Uncle Fudd;

C D

And I rode away on the Tennessee stud

CHORUS

D C D

The Tennessee stud was long and lean;

G F A

The color of the sun and his eyes were green.

D C D

He had the nerve and he had the blood;

C D

And there never was a hoss like the Tennessee stud.

One day I was ridin' in the beautiful land,

And ran smack into an Indian band.

They jerked their knives with a whoop and a yell;

But I rode away like a bat out of hell.

I circled their camp for a time or two,

Showed what a Tennessee hoss could do.

Them redskin boys never got my blood,

'Cause I was a-ridin' on the Tennessee stud.

CHORUS

Drifted on down into no man's land;

Crossed the river called the Rio Grande.

I raced my hoss with the Spaniards foal;

Till I got me a skin full of silver and gold.

Me and a gambler, we couldn't agree;

Got in a fight over Tennessee.

We jerked our guns, he fell with a thud,

And I got away on the Tennessee stud.

CHORUS

Got as lonesome as a man can be,

Dreamin' of my girl in Tennessee.

The Tennessee stud's green eyes turned blue;

'Cause he was a-dreamin' of a sweetheart too.

We loped on back across Arkansas;

I whipped her brother and I whipped her pa.

I found that girl with the golden hair,

She was ridin' on a Tennessee mare.

CHORUS

Stirrup to stirrup and side by side,

We crossed the mountains and the valleys wide.

Came to Big Muddy, we forded the flood;

On the Tennessee mare and the Tennessee stud.

Pretty little baby on the cabin floor,

Little hoss colt playin' 'round the door.

I love the girl with golden hair,

And the Tennessee stud loves the Tennessee mare.

CHORUS

History

James Corbitt Morris (June 20, 1907–July 12, 1998), known professionally as Jimmy Driftwood or Jimmie Driftwood, was a prolific American folk music songwriter and musician, most famous for his songs “The Battle of New Orleans” and "**Tennessee Stud**". Driftwood wrote more than 6,000 folk songs of which more than 300 were recorded by various musicians.

Driftwood was born in Timbo, Arkansas on June 20, 1907. His father was folk singer Neil Morris. Driftwood learned to play at a young age



on his grandfather's homemade instrument. He used that unique guitar throughout his career and noted that its neck was made from a fence rail, its sides from an old ox yoke, and the head and bottom from the headboard of his grandmother's bed. This homemade instrument produced a pleasant distinctive resonant sound.



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Driftwood attended John Brown College in northwest Arkansas and later received a degree in education from Arkansas State Teacher’s College. He started writing songs during his teaching career to teach his students

history in an entertaining manner.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Driftwood left Arkansas, eventually hitchhiking through the southwestern United States. In Arizona he entered, and won, a local song contest.

In 1936 Driftwood married Clede Johnson, who was one of his former students, and returned to Arkansas to raise a family and resume his teaching career. During this period of his life Driftwood wrote hundreds of songs but did not pursue a musical career seriously.

He wrote his later famous "Battle of New Orleans" in 1936 to help a high school class he was teaching become interested in the event.

Wikipedia