

Down in Yon Forest
(Cherokee County, North Carolina
collected by John Jacob Niles)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The lyrics are: Down in yon forest be a hall, Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary! 'Tis coveredlidded over with purple and pall. Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!

1. Down in yon forest be a hall,
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
'Tis coverlidded over with purple and pall.
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!
2. Oh in that hall is a pallet bed:
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
'Tis stained with blood like cardinal red.
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!
3. And at that pallet is a stone,
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
On which the Virgin did atone.
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!

4. Under that hall is a gushing flood:
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
From Christ's own side, 'tis water and blood,
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!

5. Beside that bed a shrub tree grows,
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
Since he was born hit blooms and blows.
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!

6. Oh, on that bed a young Squire (Lord) sleeps,
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
His wounds are sick, and see, he weeps.
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!

7. Oh hail yon hall where none can sin,
Sing May, Queen May, sing Mary!
Cause hit's gold outside and silver within,
Sing all good men for the new-born Baby!