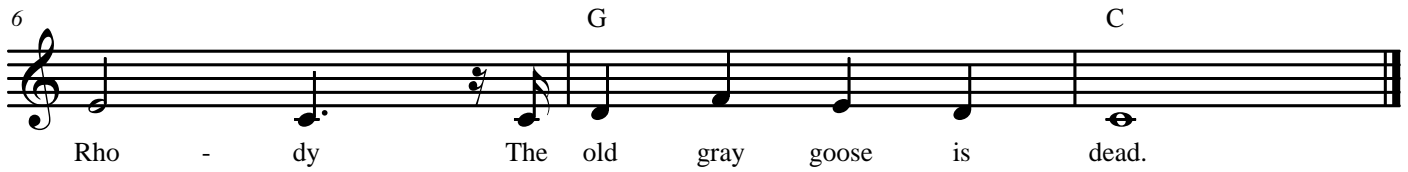


Aunt Nancy/Rhody

Traditional song and breakdown, originally from old France. **DATE:** Part of an opera in 1750; Recorded in US in 1925. **RECORDING INFO:** Carolina Tar Hells; Burl Ives; Almeda Riddle; Jean Ritchie; Weaver; Pickart Family; Pete Seeger. **OTHER NAMES:** The Old Gray Goose is Dad; Gray Goose (Not to be confused with the minstrel song-"Gray Goose" which is part of the "My Wife Died on a Saturday Night" family of songs); Go Tell Aunt Rhody/Rhodie; Go Tell Aunt Nancy; **RELATED TO:** Chiny/Chiney/China Doll; Down Came an Angel. **NOTES:** Randolph quotes Chase to the effect that tis tune was used in an opera by Jean Jacques Rousseau in 1750. The situation is rather more complex than this would imply. The most recent, and most significant, work on this subject is Murl Sickbert, Jr.'s 'Go Tell Aunt Rhody She's Rousseau's Dream' (published 2000). Norm Cohen reports the following: "In 1752, Rousseau composed 'Le Devin de village,' a pastoral opera bouffe...[The Aunt Rhody tune appears] as a gavotte in the pantomime no. 8 (divertissement or ballet). It is danced by 'la villageoise,' a shepherdess or country girl, to music without words." Sickebert observes that the Rousseau composition is more elaborate than the folk tune, with "two additional parts or reprises, not one as Lomax gives it."



C G C
Go tell Aunt Rhody, go tell Aunt Rhody,

G C
Go tell Aunt Rhody the old gray goose is dead.

The one she's been saving, the one she's been saving,
The one she's been saving to make a feather bed.

The old gander's weeping, the old gander's weeping,
The old gander's weeping because his wife is dead.

The goslings are mourning, the goslings are mourning,
The goslings are mourning because their mothers dead.

She died in the mill pond, she died in the mill pond,
She died in the mill pond from standing on her head.

Go tell Aunt Rhody, go tell Aunt Rhody,
Go tell Aunt Rhody the old gray goose is dead.