

SWEET BETSY FROM PIKE pre-1858, John Stone

10/17/2023

Intro: 1,2,3 1,2,3

G D7 G
 Don't you remember Sweet Betsy from Pike?
 G Em D7
 She crossed the wide mountains with her lover Ike;
 G D7 C G
 With two yoke of cattle, a large yeller dog,
 G D7 G
 A tall shanghai rooster and one spotted hog.
 G D7 G/// ///
 Singin' toorali oorali oorali ay!

G D7 G
 One evening quite early they camped on the Platte.
 G Em D7
 'Twas nearby the road on a green shady flat.
 G D7 C G
 Where Betsy, sore-footed, lay down to repose—
 G D7 G/// ///
 With wonder Ike gazed on that Pike County rose.

G D7 G
 'Twas out on the prairie one bright starry night,
 G Em D7
 They broke out the whiskey and Betsy got tight.
 G D7 C G
 She sang and she howled and danced o'er the plain
 G D7 G
 And showed her bare legs to the whole wagon train.
 G D7 G/// ///
 Singing, toorali oorali oorali ay!

G D7 G
 They soon reached the desert, where Betsy gave out.
 G Em D7
 And down in the sand she lay rolling about.
 G D7 C G
 Ike in great wonder looked on in surprise,
 G D7 G/// ///
 Saying, Betsy, get up, you'll get sand in your eyes.

G D7 G
 The alkali desert was burning and bare.
 G Em D7
 And Ike's poor soul shrank from the death that lurked there.

G D7 C G
 Said Ike, dear Pike County, I will go back to you.
 G D7 G/// ///
 Says Betsy, You will go by yourself if you do!
 G D7 G
 The Shanghai ran off and the cattle all died.
 G Em D7
 That morning, the last piece of bacon was fried.
 G D7 C G
 Ike got discouraged, and Betsy got mad;
 G D7 G/// ///
 The dog drooped his tail and looked wondrously sad.
 G D7 G
 They suddenly stopped on a very high hill,
 G Em D7
 With wonder looked down upon old Placerville;
 G D7 C G
 Ike said to Betsy as he cast his eyes down,
 G D7 G
 Sweet Betsy, my darling, we have got to Hangtown!!
 G D7 G/// ///
 Singin' toorali oorali oorali ay!
 G D7 G
 And there Ike and Betsy attended a dance.
 G Em D7
 Ike wore a pair of his Pike County pants.
 G D7 C G
 A miner said, Betsy, will you dance with me?
 G D7 G/// ///
 I will you ol' hoss but do not make too free.
 G D7 G
 Ol' Ike and Sweet Betsy got married, of course.
 G Em D7
 But Ike became jealous, and obtained a divorce.
 G D7 C G
 Betsy, well-satisfied, said with a shout:
 G D7 G
 Goodbye you big lummoX, I am glad you backed out!
 G D7 G/
 Singing, toorali oorali oorali **ay!**

