

“Down With The Rent!” The Anti-Rent Rebellion of New York

ACT ONE

Ginny’s Waltz.....Toby Stover, Bill Spence, George Wilson
Composed by Paul Buckley.

Native’s Enquiry.....George Ward & John Roberts
Published in *The Anti-Renter*, Albany, NY, Sat. April 4, 1846. Sung to the tune “Larry O’Gaff”.

For The Beauty of the Earth.....Bill Spence and company
Conrad Kocher, 1838. Abridged by William Henry Monk, 1861.
The Worship Book, Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Housewife’s Lament.....Terri Leonino & Toby Stover
Authorship unclear, mid nineteenth century.

The Farmer Is The Man.....Greg Artzner & Terri Leonino
Knowles Shaw 1834-1878.
1st Chorus: The farmer is the man, The farmer is the man, Lives on credit till the fall,
Then they take him by the hand,
And they lead him from the land,
And the landlord is the man who gets it all.
(The last three lines change in the next two choruses.)

A Great Revolution*.....George Ward
“Composed by a stranger, traveling among the Helderbergs; who being struck with their generosity and politeness, espoused at once, the cause of equal rights; and presented to them these lines.”
Published in the *Albany Freeholder* July 23, 1845. Sung to the tune “Sweet Betsy From Pike”.

The Landlord’s Lament*.....Greg Clarke
Written by E. P. from the *Albany Freeholder*. Sung to tune “Oh Dear What Can the Matter Be”.

O Good Ale.....John Roberts & Greg Clarke
18th century traditional drinking song.
Chorus: Good ale, thou art my darling, Thou art my joy both night and morning.

On Reidsville Hill*.....Bill Spence, Greg Artzner, George Ward, Greg Clarke, George Wilson
From the *New York Herald*. Versified account of the Sheriff’s raid on the Helderberg Anti-Renters on December 2, 1839. Sung to the tune “The Girl I Left Behind”.
In the song, “Marcy” is ex-governor William L. Marcy, & “Prince John” is John Van Buren, son of president Martin Van Buren.

The End of Bill Snyder*.....George Wilson
By S. H. Foster, and sung by the Euterpean Band of Rensselaerville, at the Anti-Land Monopoly Celebration at Reidsville, Albany County July 4, 1844. Sung to the tune “Old Dan Tucker”.
Chorus: Keep out the way big Bill Snyder, Keep out the way big Bill Snyder,
Keep out the way big Bill Snyder, We’ll tar your coat and feather your hide, Sir!

*“*Tin Horns and Calico*”, *Christman, Henry*, pages 321 – 328.

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ACT TWO

Instrumental Introduction

The End Of Bill Snyder (reprise).....Company

Lay Down the Murderous Musket*.....Greg Artzner
Text from the *Albany Freeholder*. Music ©1997 George Ward.

Come All True Anti-Renters*.....George Ward & John Roberts
Text from the *Albany Freeholder*. Music ©1997 George Ward.

The Rose Tree (Instrumental).....Toby Stover, Bill Spence, George Wilson
Traditional.

The Prisoners In Jail*.....Bill Spence & George Wilson
Lines composed in the Columbia County Jail, July 9, 1845 by Mortimer C. Belden (“Little Thunder”).
From the *Albany Freeholder*. Tune: “Hard Times”, a broadside known at the time in the Hudson Valley.

The Brave Indian*.....Toby Stover, Terri Leonino, Greg Artzner
Text from an original manuscript found among the papers of the editor of the *Albany Freeholder*.
Music ©1997 George Ward.

We Will Be Free*.....Greg Artzner & Terri Leonino
Text by S. H. Foster from a handbill originally published in the *Albany Freeholder*.
Sung by the Euterpean Band, at the Anti-Land-Monopoly Celebration at New Salem, Albany County,
July 4, 1845. Tune: “The Boatman’s Dance”

Hard Times Come Again No More.....Bill Spence
Text and music by Stephen Collins Foster, 1826-1864

Haste to Delhi.....John Roberts
Text by Forest Minstrel. Published in *Young America* on November 22, 1845. Tune: “Bruce’s Address”.

Will You Go Out West?.....Greg Clarke
Source: *The Folk Songs of the Catskills*, Cazden, Haufrecht, & Studer. Page 331, #88.

Oh What A Time.....Bill Spence
Words and music composed for this performance by George Robinson, ©2014.

Old Horns, Proud Horns.....George Ward
Words and music by George Ward, ©1991.

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