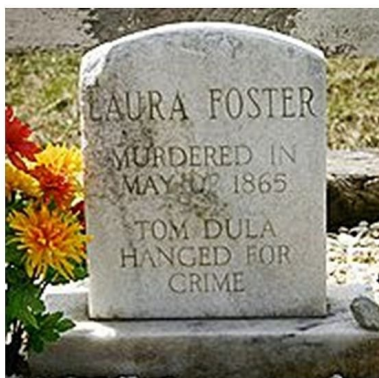
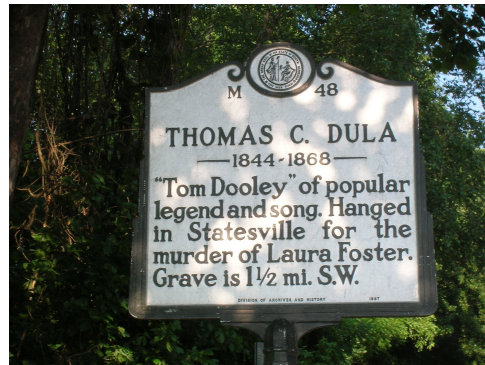
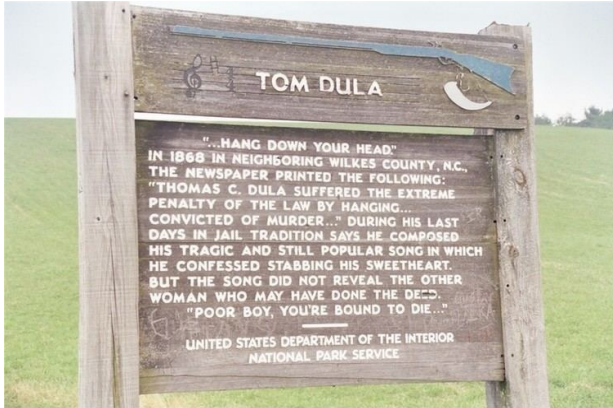


# Tom Dooley



## *Laura Foster*

Murdered on 25 May 1865

In the pre-dawn hours, the pregnant 22-year-old sneaked out of her father's home in Wilkes County, North Carolina and rode away on his horse. Next day, the horse came home without her. In early September, her decomposing body was found in a shallow grave; she had been stabbed through the heart. Her fiancé, Confederate Army veteran Thomas C. Dula, was convicted of her murder, lost on appeal, and was hanged on 1 May 1868.

**Traditional Appalachian Folk Song  
Vocal Arrangement  
by Thomas L. DeBusk**

# Tom Dooley (258)

Traditional  
Appalachian Folk Song  
Vocal Arrangement by  
Thomas L. DeBusk

G  $\text{♩} = 64$



Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The music features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line is primarily quarter notes. The tempo is marked as G  $\text{♩} = 64$ . The dynamics are marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano).

**Performance Notes—Chorus:** Sing the chorus before v. 1, then after vv. 2, 4, and 5. The first three times through the chorus, a soloist does the melody while all others "oo" softly on all three lines (H, M, and L). The last time through the chorus (after v. 5), T/B sing melody m. 5, 6; S/A sing melody m. 7, 8; all voices sing melody m. 9, 10; lone soloist sings melody m. 11, 12. Mark your music below to reinforce these directions.

5 **Chorus**



Vocal and piano accompaniment for the chorus of Tom Dooley. The vocal parts are for Soprano (H), Alto (M), and Tenor (L). The piano accompaniment is for the right and left hands. The lyrics are: "Hang down your head, Tom Doo - ley, hang down your head and cry. Killed Lau - rie Fos - ter, you know you're bound to die." The music is in G major, 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as G  $\text{♩} = 64$ . The dynamics are marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piano accompaniment includes chords: G, G<sup>6</sup>, G, G<sup>6</sup>, G, G<sup>6</sup>, D<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, D<sup>7</sup>, C/D, and G.

**Performance Notes—5 Verses:** All sections have the same words. Red words & notes on the "M" line are melody. Notes on the "H" line are *mostly* (but not always) a higher harmony; notes on the "L" line are *mostly* a lower harmony. When the "H" line has 2 notes, pick one. The rhythm of the melody varies between verses. This printing prioritizes brevity over precision, so mark your score to enhance clarity. Sections trade the (lead) as marked. (Key: U=all in unison; S=soprano; A=alto; T=tenor; B=bass.) Sections not on the melody harmonize with words using the "H" or "L" notes. Choose the "H" or "L" line that best fits your voice. Listen and adjust appropriately to ensure that the melody is always prominent. Mark your music.

3

13 **Verses**

U 1. Took her\_ on the moun-tain, moon so full and bright, took her\_ on the  
 B 2. Dug a grave four feet long, dug it three feet deep took her\_ by the  
 A 3. This\_ time to - mor - row, reck-on where you'll be? Had-n't\_ been for  
 T 4. Take down your old vio - lin\_ play it all you please, at this time to-  
 S 5. This\_ time to - mor - row, reck-on where you'll be? In some lone - ly

G G<sup>6</sup> G G<sup>6</sup> G G<sup>6</sup> D<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>7</sup>

18

moun-tain and stabbed her with\_ a knife.  
 road-side and tramped it\_ with\_ your feet.\*  
 Gray-son you'd - a been in Ten - nes - see.  
 mor-row it - 'll be no use\_ to thee.\*  
 val - ley a - hang - in' on a white oak tree.\*

\*Repeat chorus after vv. 2, 4, & 5.

D<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G

2'26.2"

1/13/26