

***\*DE SWANEE MY HOME [2-01]***

**Dear Mr. Foster:  
Would you could have seen,  
How Nature kept her, blessed her  
With beauty, pure, serene.**

**That grand ol' ribber Swanee,  
Dere's where de old folks stay.  
And with dem folks I'll tarry,  
When come de judgment day.**

**De world am sad and dreary,  
Eberywhere I roam.  
But ever in my mem'ry,  
De old folks at home.**

**Yes, down de whole creation,  
'cross rivers and loam.  
I searched to blamed tarnation...  
No Swanee, my home.**

\*Variants and spelling are pure Foster demotic, taken from his original work, "Old Folks at Home." Stephen Collins Foster never saw the Suwannee River, nor did he ever visit Florida. "Old Folks at Home" is Florida's state song. The inspiration for this ditty came while hiking the Florida National Scenic Trail, which follows along the meandering banks of the beautiful Suwannee River for many a mile.  
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