Music and Games of Southern Appalachia
by Susan W. Mills
page 1 of 1

Wheat, Corn, Barley, Rye

Wheat, corn, barley, rye,
If you’re ready, holler I.
Bushel corn, bushel clover,
All not hid, better hide over.
Moon, stars, earth, sun.
Better be hid, cause here I come.

Green Gravels

1. Green gravels, green gravels, the grass is so green,
All over creation you’re ashamed to be seen.

2. Oh (Marie), oh (Marie) your true love is dead,
He wrote you a letter to turn back your head.

3. He’ll wash you in milk, he’ll dress you in silk,
He’ll write your name down in gold pen and ink.

All children form circle and walk around singing verse 1. During verse 2 (Marie) turns to face the outside of the circle, continuing to walk around with all. Verse 3 is optional, often omitted. Game continues till all names have been called and all children are facing outward.

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs and games are from the Berea College Hutchins Library Special Collections and Archives in the Leonard Roberts Papers.
King William was King George’s Son

1. King William was King George’s Son,
   Round the royal race he run.
   He wore a star upon his breast,
   First to the east, then to the west.

2. Go choose your East, go choose your West,
   Choose the one that you love best.
   If she’s not here to take her part,
   Choose another with all your heart.

3. Down on this carpet you must kneel.
   Sure as the grass grows up in the field.
   When you rise up on your feet,
   Salute your bride and kiss her sweet.

Players join hands in circle, with King William in center.
1. Circle skips to the right, then back to the left.
2. King William selects his partner and she joins him in the center.
3. King William kneels before his partner, and suits his actions to the words of the stanza. The kiss can be changed to a salute or bow.

The person chosen, then becomes the new King William and the old King William joins the circle. Game begins again.

Jolly is the Miller

Alternate tune: “Turkey in the Straw” (Do Your Ears Hang Low)

Jolly is the miller who lives by the hill,
The wheel goes round with a right good will;
One hand in the hopper and the other in the sack,
The ladies step forward and the gents step back.

Partners are chosen with and couples join hands, standing in circle as “spokes in a wheel”. An extra “Miller” (a gent) stands in the center of the circle. Ladies should be on the outside and gents on the inside. (“Boys” or “Girls” or other designation can be used and sung.) Couples march around the circle clockwise, singing until the last line. On the last line, ladies take one step forward and gents take one step back to greet new partner. Game begins again. The fun in this game is that the gent in the center tries to get a partner during the change, leaving the gent who failed to get a partner to become the next miller.
Pleased or Displeased (A Parlor Game)

All players sit in a circle and one person is “it.” That person asks the player to the right, “Are you pleased, or displeased?” The person on the right may answer, “pleased” and “it” asks the next player to the right the same question. If the answer “displeased” is given, then “it” asks the player to state what would please him or her. The player names something such as “It would please me to see Mrs. Kopelke lead us all in singing the ABC song.” or, “it would please me to see Will Wilson dance a jig.” The game continues as long as everyone wishes to play. Usually the act that pleases or displeases is something funny that makes the person doing so look silly. Sometimes, the act could be something simply enjoyable, such as singing the ABC song together.