The Portrayal of the “Negro Banjo Player” in the 19th Century

Seven Images

The Old Plantation, ca. 1800

Eastman Johnson (1824-1906)
Negro Life at the South (Old Kentucky Home or Life in the South), 1859
“Plantation Banjo Player”
Artist unknown. Lithograph, ca. 1875 (cropped)
Courtesy Library of Congress

“Nicodemus and His Banjo”
E. Asher. Sheet music cover, 1899 (detail)
Courtesy Duke University

“Boys with Banjo,” photograph, 1880s
George or Heustis Cook. Virginia Richmond History Center. Reproduced with permission.

“Man with Banjo,” photograph, 1893

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937)

*The Banjo Lesson, 1893*

Oil on canvas, 49 x 35½ in. Hampton University Museum, Hampton, Virginia. Reproduced with permission.