

The Bonnie Lass of Fyvie



1. There once was a troop o' Irish dragoons
Cam marching doon through Fyvie-o
And the captain's fa'en in love wi' a very bonnie lass
And her name it was ca'd pretty Peggy-o.
2. There's many a bonnie lass in the Howe o Auchterless.
There's many a bonnie lass in the Gairioch-o.
There's many a bonnie Jean in the streets of Aiberdeen
But the floower o' them aw lies in Fyvie-o.
3. O come doon the stairs, Pretty Peggy, my dear.
Come doon the stairs, Pretty Peggy-o.
Come doon the stairs, comb back your yellow hair
Bid a last farewell to your mammy-o.
4. It's braw, aye it's braw, a captain's lady for to be
And it's braw to be a captain's lady-o.
It's braw to ride around and to follow the camp
And to ride when your captain he is ready-o.
5. O I'll give you ribbons, love, and I'll give you rings.
I'll give you a necklace of amber-o.
I'll give you a silken petticoat with flounces to the knee
If you'll convey me doon to your chamber-o.
6. What would your mother think if she heard the guineas clink
And saw the haut-boys marching all before you o.
O little would she think gin she heard the guineas clink
If I followed a soldier laddie-o.
7. I never did intend a soldier's lady for to be.
A soldier shall never enjoy me-o.
I never did intend to gae tae a foreign land
And I never will marry a soldier-o.

8. I'll drink nae more o your claret wine.
I'll drink nae more o your glasses-o.
Tomorrow is the day when we maun ride away
So farewell tae your Fyvie lasses-o.
9. The colonel he cried, mount, boys, mount, boys, mount!
The captain, he cried, tarry-o!
O tarry yet a while, just another day or twa
Til I see if the bonnie lass will marry-o.
10. Twas in the early morning, when we marched awa
And O but the captain he was sorry-o.
The drums they did beat o'er the bonnie braes o' Gight
And the band played the bonnie lass of Fyvie-o.
11. Long ere we came to Oldmeldrum toon
We had our captain to carry-o
And long ere we won into the streets of Aberdeen
We had our captain to bury-o.
12. Green grow the birks on bonnie Ythanside
And low lie the lowlands of Fyvie-o.
The captain's name was Ned and he died for a maid
He died for the bonnie lass of Fyvie-o.

"The Bonnie Lass o' Fyvie", also known as "Peggy-O", "Fennario", "Eveleen's Bower", "Peggy Darby" and "The Maid of Fife" is a Scottish air in 4/4 time and G major.

There are a number of versions of the tune and the lyrics. The version given here is close to the one recorded by The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem.

It is a 'Bothy' ballad, 'Bothy' being the name of the hut where itinerant workers lived on a farm in the 19th century.

It was printed in Hunter's **The Fiddle Music of Scotland** (1988) and Neil's **The Scots Fiddle** (1991). It is included in the **Roud Folk Song Index** as #545.

It was recorded by Joan Baez ("Fennario") on **Joan Baez in Concert, Part 2** (1963), Simon and Garfunkel ("Peggy-O") on **Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M.** (1964), The Clancy Brothers ("The Maid of Fife-E-O") on **The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem** (1961), Judy Collins ("Fannerio") on **Golden Apples of the Sun** (1962) and The Irish Rovers on **The Irish Rovers' Gems**.