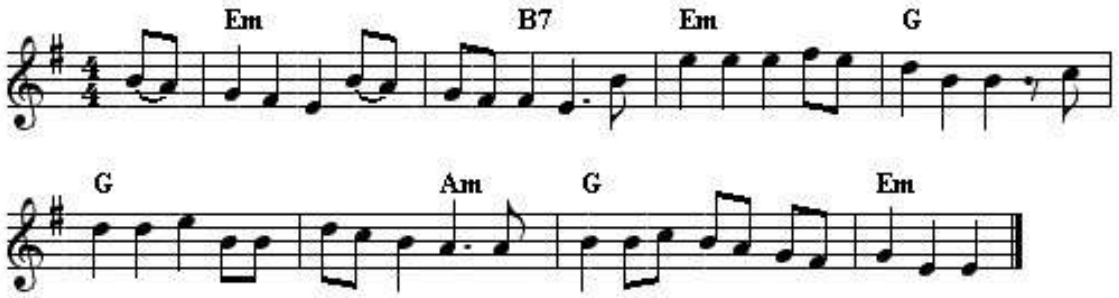
# The Wraggle-taggle Gypsies




1. There were three gypsies a come to my door,
   And down stairs ran this a-lady, O.
   One sang high and another sang low
   And the other sang bonny bonny Biscay O.

2. Then she pulled off her silk finished gown,
   And put on hose of leather, O
   The ragged ragged rags about our door
   And she's gone with the wraggle-taggle
   gypsies O.

3. It was late last night when my lord came
   home,
   Inquiring for his a-lady O
   The servants said on every hand
   She's gone with the wraggle-taggle
   gypsies, O

4. O saddle to me my milk-white steed
   And go and fetch me my pony, O
   That I may ride and seek my bride,
   Who's gone with the wraggle-taggle
   gypsies O.

5. O he rode high, and he rode low.
   He rode through wood and copses too,
   Until he came to a wide open field,
   And there he espied his a-lady O.

6. What makes you leave you house and land?
   What makes you leave you money, O?
   What makes you leave you new-wedded lord,
   To follow the wraggle-taggle gypsies, O?

7. What care I for my house and land?
   What care I for my money,O?
   What care I for my new-wedded lord,
   I'm off with the wraggle-taggle gypsies, O!

8. "Last night you slept on a goosefeather bed,
   With the sheet turned down so bravely, O.
   Tonight you'll sleep in a cold open field,
   Along with the wraggle-taggle gypsies, O."

9. "What care I for a goose-feather bed,
   With the sheet turned down so bravely, O.
   For tonight I'll sleet in a cold open field,
   Along with the wraggle-taggle gypsies, O.

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"The Raggle Taggle Gypsy" (Child 200), is a traditional folk song, in origin a Scottish border ballad, and subsequently popular throughout Britain, Ireland and North America. The earliest text may be "The Gypsy Loddy", published in the **Roxburghe Ballads** of 1720, and Allan Ramsay's **Tea-Table Miscellany** of 1740, which included the ballad as of "The Gypsy Johnny Faa". An American version is known as "Gypsy Davey". The tunes are different but the story is the same.
There have been numerous recordings of "The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies", "Gypsy Davey" and "Blackjack Davey" by Woody Guthrie, The Carter Family, Pete Seeger, Peggy Seeger, The New Lost City Ramblers, Jean Ritchie, The Chieftans and many others.
I learned "The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies" from Michael Cooney.