

The Maid 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 Garioch
There's many a bonnie Jean in the streets of Aiberdeen
But the flower 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. 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 Old meldrum 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

Also called "Peggy-O", "Fennario", and "The Maid of Fife".

The Clancy Brothers recorded the song as "The Maid of Fife-E-O" on the 1961 album, **The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem**, and later as "Maid of Fife" on their 1965 album, **Recorded Live in Ireland**, with Tommy Makem and on their 1973 album, **Greatest Hits**, with Louis Killen. The Irish Rovers recorded the song on **The Irish Rovers' Gems**. The Journeymen recorded a version with an American Civil War context as "Fennario" on their 1961 album **The Journeymen**.

The song is set in Fyvie, a small town with a historic castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Some sources claim that the original song suggests the region of Fife (as the "Fair Maid of Fife"), but the references to the River Ythan, Aberdeen and other locations near Fyvie like Gight, confirm that the original song was set in Fyvie, Scotland.

Joan Baez and others recorded a slightly different version titled "Fennario". "The Maid of Fyvie" is related to other "trooper and the maid" themed songs like "The Nightengales Sing" and "The Wild Rippling Waters" except that here the maid rejects the trooper instead of the other way around. All of these songs are in this section.

I learned this version from the Clancys.