

The Faded Coat of Blue

J. H. McNaughton



1. My brave boy sleeps in his faded coat of blue,
In a lonely grave unknown lies a heart that beats so true.
He sank faint and hungry among the famished brave
And they laid him sad and lonely within his nameless grave.

Chorus

No more the bugle calls the weary one.
Rest noble spirit in the graves unknown
For we'll find you and know you among the good and true
Where a robe of white is given for a faded coat of blue.

2. He cried "give me water and just a little crumb
And my mother she will bless you through all the years to come
And tell my sweet sister so gentle good and true
That I'll meet her up in heaven in my faded coat of blue".

Chorus

3. No dear one was nigh him to close his mild blue eyes.
No gentle voice was by him to give him sweet replies.
No stone marks the lonely sod on a lad so brave and true.
In a lonely grave he's sleeping in his faded coat of blue.

Chorus

"The Faded Coat of Blue" was composed by J. H. McNaughton in 1865.

It was first recorded in 1928 by Buell Kazee. It was also recorded by the Carter Family and Tennessee Ernie Ford on his album **Tennessee Ernie Ford Sings Civil War Songs of the North** which is where I learned it.

Other Civil War era songs in this collection are:

"The Bonnie Blue Flag"

"Dixie"

"Goober Peas"

"Just Before the Battle, Mother"

"Lorena"

"Marching Through Georgia"

"'Union' Dixie"

"The Vacant Chair"

"The Year of Jubilo"