

# John Riley

From *The Folk Songs of North America*, pgs. 161 - 162

1

1. As I walked out one morn-ing early, To breathe the sweet and plea-sant air, Who should I

6

spy but a fair young mai - den, Whose cheeks were like the li - ly fair?

2. I stepped up to her and kindly asked her  
If she would be a sailor's wife.  
O no, kind sir, I'd rather tarry  
And remain single for all my life.

3. What makes you so far from human nature?  
What makes you so far from all human kind?  
You are young, you are youthful, you are fair  
and handsome,  
You can marry me if you're so inclined.

4. The truth, kind sir, I'll plainly tell you,  
I could have married three years ago,  
To one John Riley who left this country,  
Who has been the cause of my grief and woe.

5. Come along with me, don't think of Riley,  
Come go with me to a distant shore.  
We will set sail for Pennsylvania,  
Adieu to England for evermore.



6. I'll not go with you to Pennsylvania,  
I'll not go with you to a distant shore;  
For my heart is with Riley and I can't forget  
him,  
Although I may never see him no more.

7. Now when he saw that she loved him truly,  
He gave her kisses, one, two, three,  
Saying, I am Riley, your long-lost lover,  
Who has been the cause of your misery.

8. If you be he and your name be Riley,  
I will go with you to that distant shore,  
We will set sail for Pennsylvania,  
Adieu to England for evermore.

9. They locked their hands and hearts  
together  
And to the church house they did go,  
And they got married to one another,  
They're living together, doing well.

## SONG INFORMATION:

This is the version sung by Peggy Seeger on the album *Folksongs of Courting and Complaint*, Folkways FA 2049.  
The song is a variant of *Willie and Mary*, lyrics listed below.

## WILLIE AND MARY

Willie and Mary strolled by the seaside, A fond farewell there to take,  
"Should you never return, dear Willie," said she, "I'm sure that my poor heart would break."  
"Oh, do not despair, little Mary, " he said, As he pressed his fair maid to his heart,  
"In my absence don't mourn, for when I return, We'll marry and never more part."

Three years passed away, when the news came at last, As she stood by her own cottage door;  
An old beggar came by with a patch on his eye, Sad, ragged, forlorn, and poor.  
"If your kind charity upon me you'll bestow, It's your fortune I'll tell you beside;  
The lad you mourn for, he will never return, To make little Mary his bride. "

"Oh!" she started, surprised and excited exclaimed, "All the money I have I'll give you,  
If you'll tell me the truth, that is all I ask you, If my Willie still is alive? "  
"He is living, " said he, "but in dire poverty, Shipwrecked, but still has his pride.  
And he'll never return because he's too poor To make little Mary his bride."

"Oh, the high heavens known the great joy that I feel; And as for his misfortune I mourn.  
If in riches I'm rolled or was covered with gold, He should make little Mary his bride,  
For I love him so dearly, so sincere and true, That no other will I have in his place,  
He'd be welcome to me in deep poverty, For poverty is no disgrace."

Then the old beggar threw by the patch from his eye, His old coat and crutches beside,  
And with cheeks of roses, and his jacket of blue It was Willie stood by Mary's side.  
"Oh, do not despair, precious Mary, " he said, As he clasped the fair maid in his arms.  
To the church they repaired, it was not far away, Was enriched by the loyal maid's charms.



# John Riley

For Catherine Margaret Raach

Time: 2'  $\text{♩} = 52$

## Sing and Dance!

(duet introduction, 1 measure) *p*

(bass sempre 8va bassa)

*ped.* \* *ped.* \* *ped.* \* *ped.* \*

5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 5 3 1

*mf*

As I walked out one morn - ing

*ped.* \* *ped.* \* *ped.* \* *ped.* \*

4 2 2 1 3 2 1 4 2 4 2 1 4

ear - ly, to breathe the sweet and plea - sant air, Who should I spy, but a fair young

*ped.* *ped.* *ped.* \* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

5 4 3 5 2 1 1 5 2 1

maiden, whose cheeks were like the li - ly fair.

*ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* \*

18 *Sva*  
*poco moto*  
*f*  
*rh detached, percussive*

*8va*  
*8*  
*ped.* \* *lh sempre legato, no pedal*

21 *(Sva)*

*8*  
*ped.*

24 *(Sva)* *loco*

*8*  
*gradual rit. to tempo I*  
*ped.*

28 *mf*

*8*  
*tempo I*  
 They locked their hands and hearts to -  
 3  
2  
1  
*ped.* \* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

31

geth - er, and to the church house they did go, and they got

*ped.* *ped. ped. ped.* *ped. ped. ped.* *ped. ped.*

34

mar - ried to one a - noth - er, now they're to ge - ther, and do - ing

*ped.* *ped. ped. ped.* *ped. ped.* *ped. ped. ped. ped.*

38

well.

*ped.* \* *ped. ped.* \* *ped. \** *ped. \** *ped. \** \*