

# I Never Will Marry

As sung by  
Winifred Bundy  
04-29-1941

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged paper. At the top, the title "I Never Will Marry" is written in cursive. Below it, there are three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The handwriting is clear and legible.

## Verse 1.

I never will marry a man who is poor.  
He'd keep me a-beggin' from door to door.

## Verse 2.

I never will marry a farmer's son,  
For a farmer's work is never done.

## Chorus

Shiveroo li-tee,  
diddy dum-dum diddy dum dum  
Diddy dum dum dod-ee  
Shiveroo and a-roo.

## Verse 3.

I never will marry a man who gets drunk  
He sits in a corner and smells like a skunk.

## Verse 4.

I never will marry at all, at all,  
But go to a feast in Old Maid's Hall.

*Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.*

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## Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 173, and HST.

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

*Sung by Winifred Bundy, age 57, Madison, 1941.*

*Miss Bundy learned this song from hearing her grandparents sing it. She recalls that there were endless verses with the singer making up new ones to suit the occasion.*

**Editor's notes:**

Collector Eloise Hubbard Linscott writes, "a companion piece to the present song is supposed to be sung by the man who would not marry a thin woman since her neck would be long and she would never die" (Linscott 211).

Alternate titles/related songs: "I'll Not Marry at All."

**Sources:**

Asch, Moses, editor. *124 Folk Songs, As Recorded on Folkways Records by Famous Folk Song Singers*. New York: Robbins Music Corporation, 1965.

Brunnings, Florence E. *Folk Song Index: A Comprehensive Guide to the Florence E. Brunnings Collection*. New York: Garland Publishers, 1981.

Linscott, Eloise Hubbard, collector and editor. *Folk Songs of Old New England*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1939. "I'll not marry at all" tune only slightly similar.

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

K.G.