

Pretty Polly

As sung by
Lily Richmond
08-23-1946 Lancaster, WI



Oh pretty Pol - ly, don't you cry, for your sweet - heart will ___ come by and by.

3

Oh pretty Pol - ly, don't you cry, for your sweet - heart will come by and by.

Lyrics

Oh pretty Polly, don't you cry,
For your sweetheart will come by and by.
Oh pretty Polly, don't you cry,
For your sweetheart will come by and by.

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by MB and HST.

HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Sung by Aunt Lily Richmond, age 84, Beetown Township, Lancaster, 1946.

Aunt Lily Richmond. Sung by a colored lady, the last of the slaves of Wisconsin of the Lancaster vicinity came to Wisconsin from Missouri near the end of civil war pursued by the confederates.

Editor's notes:

In contrast to Eryl Levers' "Pretty Polly Oliver," this song is a short ditty with just one repeated line. Newell calls this melody a "17th Century Tune," but does not explain its origins.

Alternate titles: "O Pretty Polly," "Polly Oliver."

Sources:

Joyce, Patrick Weston. *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs*. New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1909. "Pretty Polly," only the tune is similar.

Newell, George. *Girl Scout Song Book*: 1929. Boston: Stanhope Press, 1929.

K.G.