

FROGGIE WENT A-COURTIN'

Appalachian and Old English Ballad; **DATE:** First appears in 1549 (Wedderburn's "Complaynt of Scotland"); **CATEGORY:** English Ballad; **OTHER NAMES:** Frog Went A-Courting; A Frog He Would A-Wooing Go; The Frog's Courtship; The Frog and the Mouse; It was a frog in a well; There Was a Puggie in a Well; There Lived a Puddie in the Well; The Frog's Wooing; **RECORDING INFO:** John Jacob Niles; Peggy Seeger; McLain Family; Bluegrass Messengers; Doc Watson; **NOTES:** Horace M. Belden believes this is the most widely known song in the English language. The exchange of lyrics with "Froggie" and many other folk songs and fiddle tunes in the US has caused some confusion. Fiddle tunes often borrow short rhyming lines that make little sense as a narrative. Presumably some of the nonsense rhymes could have traveled from songs like "Froggy" and "Martin Said to His Man," to the related "Kemo Kimo" and "Kitty Alone" songs. Lyrics from Bluegrass Messengers on "Diggin' Up Roots" CD.

Frog-gie went a-court-in' and he did ride uh - huh, _____ Frog-gie went a-court-in' and

he did ride uh - huh, _____ Frog - gie went a - court - in' and he did ride a

sword and a pis - tol by his side uh - huh, uh - huh, uh - huh.

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C
Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride, Uh-huh,
G
Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride, Uh-huh,
C
Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride,
F C G C
A sword and a pistol by his side, Uh-huh, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Well he rode up to Miss Mousey's door, Uh-huh,
Well he rode up to Miss Mousey's door, Uh-huh,
Well he rode up to Miss Mousey's door.
He hit it loud and made it roar, Uh-huh, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

He took Miss Mousey on his knee, Uh-huh,
Took Miss Mousey on his knee, Uh-huh,
Took Miss Mousey on his knee.
Said, "Miss Mousey, will you marry me?" Uh-huh, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

"Without my uncle Rat's consent, Uh-huh
"Without my uncle Rat's consent, Uh-huh
"Without my uncle Rat's consent,
I wouldn't marry the president, Uh-huh, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

FROGGIE WENT A-COURTIN'

(ADDITIONAL VERSES)

Uncle Rat laughed and he shook his fat sides, Uh-huh,
Uncle Rat laughed and he shook his fat sides, Uh-huh,
Uncle Rat laughed and he shook his fat sides,
To think his niece would be a bride, Uh-huh, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Oh where will the wedding party be? Uh-huh,
Where will the wedding party be? Uh-huh,
Where will the wedding party be?
Way down yonder in a holler tree, Uh-huh Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

The first to come were two little ants, Uh-huh,
First to come were two little ants, Uh-huh,
First to come were two little ants,
Fixin' around to have a dance, Uh-huh Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Next to come in was a bumble bee, Uh-huh
Next to come in was a bumble bee, Uh-huh
Next to come in was a bumble bee.
Bouncin' a fiddle on his knee, Uh-huh, Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Next to come was a big bull-frog, Uh-huh,
Next to come was a big bull-frog, Uh-huh,
Next to come was a big bull-frog,
He jumped up high and started to clog, Uh-huh Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Mr. Frog went swimmin' across the lake, Uh-huh,
Mr. Frog went swimmin' across the lake, Uh-huh,
Mr. Frog went swimmin' across the lake, (pause)
And he got swallowed up by a big black snake, Uh-huh Uh-huh, Uh-huh.