

THE GAL I LEFT BEHIND ME

Old-Time, American, Irish, Scottish, English March and Song; **DATE:** As "Brighton Camp" 1600's; As "Maggie Walker" early 1900's. **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **OTHER NAMES:** "Maggie Walker's Blues" "Brighton Camp," "The Girl I Left Behind Me," "Peggy Walker's Blues;" "My Parents Reared Me Tenderly;" **RECORDING INFO:** Grayson and Whitter-1928; Dock Boggs, as "Peggy Walker;" New Lost City Ramblers; Red Clay Ramblers; Hobart Smith; Bob Wills; Norman Blake and Red Rector; Doc Watson. **NOTES:** "The Girl I Left behind Me" has a history in both the British Isles and America as a song and a march, but it has become an item of general repertory for many fiddlers. In addition to this ballad form, there is a song with this title (indexed as "The Girl I Left Behind Me (lyric)"). The two have cross-fertilized (often sharing the latter's tune "Brighton Camp"). In the US, "Peggy Walker Blues" has become a significant branch with early recordings by Dock Boggs and others.

Verse

I struck the trail in sev - en - ty - nine, The herd strung out be -

hind me. As I jogged a - long, my mind ran back, To the gal I left be -

hind me. That sweet lit - tle gal, that true lit - tle gal, The gal I left be -

hind me. That sweet lit - tle gal, that true lit - tle gal, The gal I left be - hind me.

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C F C G
I struck the trail in seventy nine, The herd strung out behind me.

C F G7 C
As I jogged along, my mind ran back, To the gal I left behind me.

C D7 G
Chorus: That sweet little gal, that true little gal, The gal I left behind me.

C F G7 C
That sweet little gal, that true little gal, The gal I left behind me.

The wind did blow, the rain did fall, The hail did fall and blind me.

I thought of the gal, that sweet little gal, The gal I left behind me. *Chorus*

If I ever get off the trail, and the Indians they don't find me.

I'll make my way back again, to the gal I left behind me. *Chorus*

When we sold out I took the train, I knew that I would find her.

When I got back we had a smack, and I'm no golderned liar. *Chorus*