

# PRETTY POLLY [LAWS P36B/SH 49]

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; DATE: 1800's; CATEGORY: Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; RECORDING INFO: Dock Boggs-1927; B.F. Shelton-1927; Coon Creek Girls-1938; Dillards; Erik Darling; Country Partners; Red Fox Chasers; Stanley Brothers; Hedy West. RELATED TO: Cruel Ship's Carpenter; The Gosport Tragedy. NOTES: On January 15th, 2000, Ralph was honored by the Grand Ole Opry by becoming its newest member. Patty Loveless then joined Ralph to perform a hair-raising version of "Pretty Polly," which she recorded for the Clinch Mountain Country album. This is one the old popular mountain ballads-Cecil Sharp found 21 Appalachian versions in the early 1900's.

Musical notation for the first two lines of the song. The first line is in G major and 2/4 time, with a G chord indicated above the staff. The second line continues the melody and includes D and G chords above the staff. The lyrics are: Oh Pol - ly pret - ty Pol - ly come go a - long with me Pol - ly pret - ty Pol - ly come go a - long with me Be - fore we get mar - ried some plea - sures to see.

© 2006 by Mel Bay Publications, Inc. BMI  
All Rights Reserved.

**G**  
Oh, Polly, pretty Polly, would you take me unkind

**D G**  
Polly, pretty Polly, would you take me unkind, You to sit beside me, and tell me your mind

Well my mind is to marry and never to part  
My mind is to marry and never to part, First time I saw you, you wounded my heart

Well Polly, pretty Polly, come and go along with me  
Polly, pretty Polly come go along with me, Before we get married, Some pleasure we'll see

Well he led her over mountains and valleys so deep  
He led her over mountains and valleys so deep, Polly mistrusted and then began to weep

Say Willie, little Willie I'm afraid of your ways  
Willie, little Willie I'm afraid of your ways, The way you've been rambling and leadin' me astray

Now Polly, pretty Polly your guess is about right  
Polly, pretty Polly your guess is about right, I dug on your grave the biggest part of last night

Well he led her little farther and what did she spy  
He led her little farther and what did she spy, New dug grave with a spade lyin' by

Then she knelt down before him a pleadin' for her life  
She knelt down before him a pleadin' for her life, Let me be a single girl if I can't be your wife

Now Polly, pretty Polly that never can be  
Polly, pretty Polly that never can be, Your past reputation's been troublin' to me

Well he opened up her bosom as white as any snow  
He opened up her bosom as white as any snow, He stabbed through the heart and the blood did overflow

Then he went down to the jailhouse and what did he say  
He went to the jailhouse and what did he say, Killed pretty Polly and tryin' to get away.