

STORMS ARE ON THE OCEAN

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** 1800's; **Journal of American Folklore-** 1926; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Carter Family-1927; Delmore Brothers-1940; Flatt & Scruggs & the Foggy Mountain Boys; New Lost City Ramblers; Jeanie West; Jean Ritchie and Doc Watson; **NOTES:** *The Storms Are on the Ocean* is part of a large family of songs classified under *The True Lover's Farewell* by Cecil Sharp. This tune was popular in both England and in America. Sharp collected nine variants in the Appalachian Mountains from 1916 to 1918 which were published in *English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians*. Variants and alternate titles include *The Turtle Dove* and *Ten Thousand Miles*. *True Lover's Farewell* appeared in *Roxburghe Ballads* dated 1710. It was also in *Five Excellent New Songs* a collection printed in 1792. The song is similar to a song *Queen Mary's Lament*, that was printed in Johnson's *Scots Musical Museum* (1787-1803). The *Who Will Shoe your Pretty Little Foot* songs are closely related and use interchangeable "floating" lyrics. The typical lyrics are: "Oh who will shoe your pretty little foot, And who will glove your hand..." "(Papa) will shoe my pretty little foot, (Mama) will glove my hand..." Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers, "When I'm Far Away" is a good local North Carolina version of the song. *The Storms Are on the Ocean* by the Carter Family is another variant of the *False True Lover, The True Lover's Farewell, Red Rosy Bush, Turtle Dove* family so commonly found in the Appalachians after the early 1900's. *My Dearest Dear* is another branch of songs in this family.

I'm go - ing a - way for to leave you, love, I'm go - ing a -
 way for a - while. But I'll re - turn to you some
 time, If I go ten thou - sand miles. The
 storms are on the o - cean, The heav - ens may cease to
 be. This world may lose its mo - tion, love If
 I prove false to thee.

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D G D A7 D
 Now who will shoe your pretty little feet? And who will glove your hand?

G D A7 D
 Who will kiss your red rosy cheek, till I come back again? *Chorus*

Poppa will shoe my pretty little feet, Momma will glove my hand.
 And you can kiss my red rosy cheeks, when you return again. *Chorus*

See that lonesome turtle dove as he flies from pine to pine.
 He's mourning for his own true love, just the way I mourn for mine. *Chorus*

I'll never go back on the ocean love, I'll never go back on the sea.
 I'll never go back on the blue-eyed girl, till she goes back on me. *Chorus*