

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Puddy and Mouse 2

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Chambers PRS (1847), 208-9; (1870), 55, mostly from Sharpe, Ballad Book; see his note, p. 56-7.

Sharpe Ballad Book (1823), repr. of 1880, ed. Laing, p. 86, has differs: No burden; in couplets. 1.2 And a merry mouse in a mill. Variants: 10, Wha sat at the table fit,/ Wha but froggy and his lame fit? 12 Then in cam the gude grey cat,/ Wi' a' the kittlens at her back.

ODNR 177 ff. (no. 175); refs. to Chambers Scottish Songs, 1829, "There was a frogge in a well, Fa, la, linkum, leerie! And a mousie in a mill, Linkum-a-leerie, linkum-a-leerie, cow-dow," &c.; and Scott's notes to Sharpe (see 1880 ed., 139: "Dirk and pistol by his side,/ As being a frog of Celtic race" and "Uncle Rotten he came home,/ Riding on a great snail alone.// His boots were ill, his spurs were waur,/ For he was all over dirt and glaur.") MacLennan SNR (1909), 31, as PRS, with differs: 12 An' wha cam' in but Gib, oor Cat, Wi' a' her kittlins at her back. 13 omitted.

Cf. FSJ no. 9 [II.4], 1906, 226-7, fragment of Chambers version, with tune, from Leith; 1946, 38-40 (Gilchrist). A version coll. by ed., Newbattle 1973, had variants:

Cattie he keeked in tae speir,  
Want ye ony music here?  
Puddy he swam doon the burn,  
The drake he got him an' garr'd him girn;

besides a somewhat unique tune.

Rymour Club Misc. I (1906-11), 2, from Calder Ironworks, c. 1856:

There was a moosie in a mill,  
Kiltie, keerie, ca' ye me,  
And a froggie in a well,  
Rigdum Bummaleerie ca' ye me.  
Ca' ye Deemie, ca' ye Keemie,  
Ca' ye Deemie, ca' ye me;  
Stroom, stram, pummareedle, rally-bally, rantan,  
Rigdum Bummaleerie ca' ye me.

Another, from the Huntly district (I.90):

There was a mousie in a mill,  
Rigdum, pommiriddle, cairey;  
There was a froggie in a well,  
Rigdum, pommiriddle, cairey;  
Came in near, killed her care,

Rigdum, pommiriddle, cairey;  
Sham, sham, shamiriddle, hally, bally, rigdum;  
Rigdum, pommiriddle, cairey.

[orig. has Rigdam in last line.]

The history of this ballad, which Child did not see fit to include (probably because of its animal personnel) is still a desideratum. There are many American versions, for instance, and one descendant is the minstrel song "Kemo, Kimo". MS

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