

What is Jennie Weeping for

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1.

Oh, what is Jennie weeping for,
A-weeping for, a-weeping for?
Oh, what is Jennie weeping for,
All on this summer's day?
I'm weeping for my own true love,
My own true love, my own true love;
I'm weeping for my own true love,
All on this summer's day.

Rise up and choose another love,
Another love, another love;
Rise up and choose another love,
All on this summer's day.

2.

Poor Mary is a weeping, a-weeping, a-weeping,
Poor Mary is a-weeping, on a fine summer's day.
Pray tell me what you're weeping for? &c.

Because my father's dead and gone, is dead and gone, is
dead and gone;
Because my father's dead and gone, on a fine summer's
day.

She is kneeling by her father's grave, her father's
grave, her father's grave;
She is kneeling by her father's grave, on a fine
summer's day.

Stand up and choose your love, choose your love, choose
your love;
Stand up and choose your love, on a bright summer's day.

(1) from Berwickshire: A.M. Bell in Antiquary XXX.16;
Gomme II (1898), 55; SC (1948), 82 (no. 116); (2) Rev. W.
Gregor, in Gomme, loc cit. Cf. MacColl, Streets of
Song, no. 13, learned in Salford in childhood:

A-weeping, a-weeping,

Poor Mary sat a-weeping,

On a bright summer's day.

O, Mary, what you weeping for,

What you weeping for, what you weeping for?

O, Mary, what you weeping for

On a bright summer's day.

I'm weeping for my lover,

For my lover, for my lover.

I'm weeping for my lover

On a bright summer's day.

[St. 2-3 (at least) sung by girls on Leslie Green, 1938.]

Gomme & Sharp III (1912), 18 ("Poor Mary Sits A-Weeping",
from Kent). See another version in Fraser (1975), 110.

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