

William Taylor

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Will - iam Tay - lor was a brisk young sai - - lor, Once he cour - ted a". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "la - dy gay. Bells were ring - ing, sail - ors sing - ing, as to church they made their way." The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes for emphasis.

Thirty couples at the wedding, all were dressed in their fine [word unclear]
William Taylor, being married, he was dressed and sent to sea.

Thirty years she waited for him, waited for him to return
[line missed]

She dressed herself in man's apparel, boldly bore to a man of war
And with her lily-white hands and fingers, dabbling with the pitch and tar.

Then the captain stepped up to her, asked what (wind?) had brought her here
"I have come for to seek my true love, whom I lately loved so dear."

"If you've come for to seek your true love, tell me what his name might be
Oh his name is William Taylor, from the Irish ranks came he."

"You rise early tomorrow morning, you rise early at break of day
And you'll see your true love William, walking with a lady gay."

She rose early the very next morning, she rose at the break of day,
There she saw her true love William, walking with a lady gay.

Sword and pistol then she ordered to be brought at her command
Then she shot her true love William and his bride at his right hand.

If young folks in Wells or Bristol, will serve you the same as she served you,
Then young girls would all be undone, very scarce young men would be.

Source: Sung by Alf Cobb, Sapperton. Learnt from his Cornish mother.
Collected by John Baldwin 1969