

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN MUSIC

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The Green Fields of America.

Farewell to the land of shillalah and shamrock.
Where many a long day in pleasure I spent,
Likewise to the friends that I leave here behind me
To live in old Ireland if they are content.
How sorry I am for to leave this green island,
Whose cause I supported, both in peace, and in war,
Far, to live here in bondage I ne'er could be happy,
The green fields of America are sweeter by far.

There once was a time when our country flourished
When tradesmen of all kinds had plenty to do,
But our manufactories have crossed the Atlantic,
And we boys must go to America too.
No longer I'll stay in the land of oppression,
No cruel task-master shall rule over me,
To the country of liberty I'll bid good morrow
In the green fields of America we will be free.

Oh! who would stay here amid want and starvation,
To hear their poor children crying for bread;
With many poor creatures without habitation,
Or shelter whatever to cover their heads,
Come pack up your stores and consider no longer,
Six dollars a week is not very bad pay
With no tithes or taxes to devour your wages
When you are in the green fields of America.

Farewell to the groves in the country of Wicklow,
Likewise to the girls of green Erin all round,
May their hearts be as merry as ever I saw them;
Although far away on the ocean I'm bound.
If ever it happens in a foreign country,
A poor friendless Irishman comes in my way,
To the best I will make him right welcome, my hearties
At my home in the green fields of America.

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Journal of the Society for American Music

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Special Issue on Irish Music in the United States

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Paul F. Wells and Sally K. Sommers Smith

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Paul F. Wells is director emeritus of the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University and a past president of the Society for American Music. He has published widely on North American and Irish traditional music and is an accomplished performer of this music on fiddle and flute. He composed the reel "The Bower" that was recorded by Galway émigré Mike Rafferty on his CD *Speed* 78.

Michael Winter is a composer, curator, music theorist, and software designer. He co-founded and co-directs the wulf., a nonprofit arts organization that presents experimental music free to the public in Los Angeles (<http://www.thewulf.org>). His work can be found at <http://www.unboundedpress.org>.