Gary Owen - Bm
U.S. 7th Cavalry Regimental Marching Song

Tabedited by Burt I. Kahn


Gary Owen is an Irish tune for a quickstep dance. It was selected as a marching tune for British, Canadian, and American military formations, most notably Gen. George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry. The name "Garry Owen" has also been used for U.S. forward military installations during wartime, and for a small town in Montana near the Custer battlefield.

The Regimental Song "Garryowen" came informally into the Army between 1861 and 1866 as a quickstep, but its use was first documented by the 7th U.S. Cavalry Band about the time the song became the regimental air. George Armstrong Custer did not, himself, bring the song to the regiment, but Brevet Lieutenant Colonel (Captain) Myles W. Keogh and several other officers with ties to the Fifth Royal Irish Lancers and the Papal Guard, two Irish regiments in the British Army, were believed to be instrumental in bringing the air to the regiment

