

# Ballad of Berkeley Muse

by Janie Meneely

Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh  
Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh

Oysters were good money  
And the watermen were tough  
It was hard to make a living  
But just living was enough  
Potomac was as good a place  
As any man could choose  
Till the Oyster Navy came  
And shot down Berkeley Muse

## CHORUS:

They didn't mean to do it,  
So they said when it was done  
But they fired real bullets  
They were shooting real guns  
And Berkeley Muse was just as dead  
And justice just as due  
The day the Oyster Navy  
Drew a bead on Berkeley Muse.

Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh  
Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh

Berkeley was a good old boy  
Had a wife and three young kids  
He didn't work the water, but  
He had a friend that did  
They went out in the darkness  
Just to nip the oyster bed  
The Oyster Navy took a shot  
Now Berkeley Muse is dead

## CHORUS

Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh  
Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh

Cops said they were sorry  
It was just a warning shot  
When they started chasing after him  
He shoulda oughta stopped  
He shoulda oughta paid the fine  
That's what the judge would say  
If he hadn't gone and broke the law  
He'd be alive today

## BRIDGE (chorus tune)

Now poaching is illegal  
There's no disputing that  
And Maryland owns the river  
It says so on the map,  
But Maryland and Virginia—  
Folks staggered at the news  
To think the Oyster Navy  
Up and shot down Berkeley Muse

Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh  
Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh

It all came to a showdown  
The papers made a fuss  
The lawyers all jumped to it  
To defend the public trust  
By the time the smoke had cleared away  
The oyster wars were through  
It's been quiet on the river  
Since they buried Berkeley Muse

Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh  
Ahhh ahhh ahhh ahhhh

## CHORUS