

## TRANSCRIPTION

### **Duncan Williamson sings a children's song, "The Mousie's Wedding to the Frog"**

ScottishVoicesProj.0475

[This recording was made at a rented house outside Ithaca, New York, in October 1987, when Duncan Williamson was John Niles's house guest there for a week. Also present was John Niles's infant daughter, whom he was looking after while operating the tape recorder.]

DW: I never gie you your favorite yet.

JN: Which one?

DW: This one. You loved this one, a long time ago. I hope you still like it. Is it on? [*Gestures toward the tape recorder.*]

JN: It's running; go right ahead.

DW: OK. [*Sings. When JN recognizes the song, he laughs. DW taps his foot to mark time.*]

- 1      A froggie would a-wooin go,  
              oh-ho, ho.  
          A froggie would a-wooin ride  
          With sword and buckle by his side,  
              oh-ho, ho.
- 2      Oh, first he came to a mouse's den,  
              oh-ho.  
          First he came to a mouse's den —  
          He said, "Oh Missie Mousie, would you let me in?"  
              oh-ho, ho.
- 3      Then he took Miss Mousie on his knee,  
              oh-ho.  
          He took Miss Mousie on his knee,  
          He said, "Miss Mouse, will you marry me?"  
              oh-ho, ho.
- 4      She said, "Where will the marriage service be?"  
              oh-ho.  
          Where will the marriage service be?  
          Down in the hollow by the old oak tree,  
              oh-ho, ho.
- 5      What will the marriage supper be?

oh-ho.  
What will the marriage supper be?  
A slice of cake and a cup o tea,  
oh-ho, ho.

6 Oh, the first came in was Mrs. Moth,  
oh-ho.  
The first came in was Mrs. Moth,  
She came to lay the tablecloth,  
oh-ho, ho.

7 Oh, the next came in was Major Dick,  
oh-ho, ho.

[*Spoken aside:*] Major Dick was a grasshopper.

Next came in was Major Dick,  
He et so much that he fell sick,  
oh-ho, ho.

8 Then they had to send for Doctor Fly,  
oh-ho, ho.  
They had to send for Doctor Fly,  
For fear that Major Dick would die,  
oh-ho.

9 The next came in was a big brown snake,  
oh-ho.  
The next came in was a big brown snake,  
He coiled hisself round the wedding cake,  
oh-ho, ho.

10 Then came a squirrel with a great big curly tail, tail  
Then came a squirrel with a curly tail,  
He tore his head on a rusty nail,  
oh-ho, ho.

11 So they all went sailin down the lake,  
oh-ho, ho.  
They all went sailin on the lake,  
They were gobbled up by a big fat drake—  
oh-ho, ho.  
They all went sailing on the lake,  
They were gobbled up by a big fat drake,  
oh-ho, ho!

DW: [*Laughs along with JN.*] The Travellers used to sing that round the campfire all the time, you know?

[This excerpt ends here, though the full recording includes the following additional exchange:]

JN: [*Hums song.*] That's the best "Froggie" song I've ever heard.

DW: [*Laughs.*] Froggie song!

JN: Fantastic!

DW: That old "Froggie" song, yeah.