

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.