One More River

As sung by
Lily Richmond
08-23-1946 Lancaster, WI

One more river,
And that’s the river of Jordan.
One more river,
And that’s the river to cross.
The animals came in two by two,
There’s one more river to cross.
The elephant and the kangaroo,
There’s one more river to cross.
Said the ant to the elephant, “Quit your pushin’,”
There’s one more river to cross.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

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Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 60, and HST

HST notes:
In the Professional Papers series:
Sung by Aunt Lily Richmond, age 84, Beetown Township, Lancaster, 1946.
This is a fragment of a longer song known also as Old Uncle Noah, [the rest of this paragraph is crossed out:] collected by Eddy in Ohio. Aunt Lily’s song seems to be a combination of Old Uncle Noah and One More River and that’s the River of Jordan.

Aunt Lily Richmond’s songs are a reminder of the coming of negro slaves to southwestern Wisconsin during the Civil War period. As a child she fled with her parents, near the close of the war. She tells that the family was pursued by confederates. Aunt Lily is the last of the slaves who came to the Lancaster area. Her style of singing, characteristic of the southern negro, is reminiscent of the way she had heard songs sung in her own family.

Alternate titles/related songs: “Old Uncle Noah.”

Sources: