

TRANSCRIPTION

Stanley Robertson sings a revenant ballad, "Willie's Ghost"

ScottishVoicesProj.0427

[This recording was made in July 1986 during an informal ceilidh held at a house in Auchtermuchty, Fife, that John Niles and his research team were renting at the time. Present were Stanley Robertson and his daughters Gabrielle and Nicole; Duncan and Linda Williamson; and half a dozen members of Niles's research team.

Words that are hard to make out are set between curly brackets.]

[*Stanley Robertson sings:*]

1 Oh Wully's gaen ower yon high, high hill
And doon yon dowy den.
It's there that he's met wi a grievous ghost
That would fear ten thousand men.

2 For Wully's gaed ower yon high high hill
And doon by Mary's Stile,
And sae {want an sae cleary} oh was the ghost
And tae him he's grimly smiled.

3 "Oft hae ye travelled that road, Wullie,
Aye was ye travellin {sound},
But never a thought for your puir soul
When your life here is daen.

4 Oft hae ye travelled this road, Wullie,
Your bonnie new love tae see,
Oft hae ye travelled this road, Wullie,
But neer a thought for me.

5 Oft hae ye travelled this road, Wullie,
Your bonnie new love tae see,
But you'll never travel on this road again,
For tonight avenged I'll be."

6 For she has taen her perjured love
An she's reived him frae gare tae gare
And on ilka side o Mary's Stile
Of him she's {found a share}. [torn him to shreds]

7 His mother and faither they baith make moan

And his new love muckle mair,
For his mother and his faither, aye they baith make moan
And his new love she rieves her hair.

[All: applause, words of commendation.]