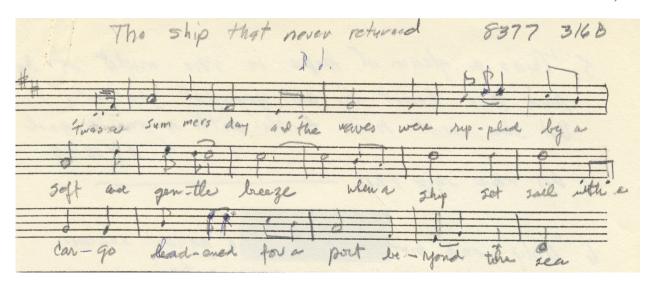
Ship that Never Returned

As sung by Noble Brown 11-17-1946 Millsville, WI



Verse 1.

'Twas a summers day and the waves were rippled

By a soft and gentle breeze, When a ship set sail with a cargo Headed for a port beyond the sea.

Verse 2.

There were fond farewells, loving demonstrations

By the ones who were most concerned. Tho' they little knew 'twas the fatal voyage Of the ship that never returned.

Verse 3.

Did she ever return, no she never returned And her fate is yet unlearned.

Tho' for years and years there were fond hearts watching

For the ship that never returned.

Verse 4.

Said the feeble lad to his anxious mother, "I must cross the deep blue sea
For they say, perchance in some foreign climate

There is help and strength for me."

Verse 5.

'Twas a gleam of hope in the midst of danger And her heart for her youngest yearned. But she sent him forth with a smile and a blessing

On the ship that never returned.

Verse 6.

"Only one more trip," said a gallant seaman As he kissed his weeping wife.

"Only one more bag of the gold and treasure And 'twill last us all through life."

Verse 7.

"Then we'll settle down in our cozy cottage And enjoy the rest we've earned." But alas, poor man, for he sailed commander On the ship that never returned.

Verse 8

Did she ever return? No, she never returned, And her fate is yet unlearned.

Tho' for years and years there were fond hearts watching

For the ship that never returned.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.



Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 106.

HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Noble B. Brown. Learned this from his mother, who was Holland Dutch-Scotch. His father was English. Lived near Millville.

Editor's notes.

This song is by Henry C. Work, published by Root and Cady in 1865, Chicago (Randolph 140).

Sources:

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K.G.

