

Little Nell of Narraganset Bay

As sung by
Hamilton Lobdell
 06-24-1941 Mukwonago, WI

Verse 2



I had a dear com-pan - ion, — but she's not with me now. — The



li - lies of the val - ley — are wav - ing o'er her brow. — And I am sad and lone - ly, — and



Refrain

weep - ing all the day, — for bright - eyed laugh - ing lit - tle Nell — of Nar - ra - gan - set Bay. —

Chorus



Toll, toll the bell — at ear - ly dawn of day, —



for love - ly Nell, — so quick - ly passed a - way. — Toll, toll the bell — the



Refrain

sad and mourn - ful day, — for bright - eyed laugh - ing lit - tle Nell — of Nar - ra - gan - set Bay. —

Verse 1. (incomplete)

[Do I remember my
 Boyhoods] early hours,*
 The cottage and the garden
 Where bloomed the peerless flowers,
 The bright and sparkling water
 Over which we used to sail,
 With hearts so gay
 For miles away
 Before the gentle gale.

Verse 2.

I had a dear companion,
 But she's not with me now.
 The lilies of the valley
 Are waving o'er her brow.
 And I am sad and lonely,
 And weeping all the day,

Refrain

For bright-eyed laughing little Nell
 Of Narraganset Bay.
Chorus
 Toll, toll the bell at early dawn of day,
 For lovely Nell, so quickly passed away.
 Toll, toll the bell, the sad and mournful day,
 (refrain)

* From HST Field notes

(Lyrics continued next page)

Verse 3.

One day from us she parted,
 And soon within the boat
 The cord was quickly loosened,
 And with the tide afloat.
 The treacherous bark flew onward
 And darted through the spray,
 (refrain)

Verse 4.

Next day her form all lifeless,
 Lay washed upon the beach.
 I stood and gazed upon it,
 Bereft of sense and speech.
 'Tis years since thus we parted,
 And there I weep today,
 (refrain)

Chorus

Chorus

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by MB and HST.

HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Mr. Lobdell learned the song from Bettie Andrews. Her father Sewell [?] Andrews came from Vermont. Mr. Andrews was one of the three men who founded Mukwonago.

Editor's notes:

This song was written by George F. Root (New York: Firth, Pond, and Co., 1860) (Flanders et al).

Alternate titles/related songs: "Bright-Eyed Little Nell."

Sources:

Flanders, Helen Hartness, Elizabeth Flanders Ballard, George Brown, and Phillips Barry, colls., trans., and eds. *The New Green Mountain Songster: Traditional Folk Songs of Vermont*. New Haven: Yale University Press; London: H. Milford: Oxford University Press, 1939. Under "Guy Reed," notes that this informant used the tune to "Little Nell" (verse, but not chorus), and then gives first verse and chorus.

Old Time Songs and Poems, Vol. 1, no. 5, 1968. Text only.

Spaeth, Sigmund. *Weep Some More, my Lady*. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1927.

"Bright-eyed little Nell of Narragansett Bay."

K.G.