

# Shots Echoing Round the Mountain

As sung by  
Luther Royce  
08-01-1941 White Lake, WI

Down in the Ten-nes - see moun-tains, A - way from the sins of the  
world, Dan Kel - ly's son, there he leaned on his gun, A-  
think-ing of Seth Ter - ney's girl. Dan was a hot-blood - ed  
young-ster; His dad raised him stur-dy and right. He had him sworn/  
day he was born, To shoot ey - 'ry Ter - ney on sight.

## Verse 1.

Down in the Tennessee mountains  
Away from the sins of the world,  
Dan Kelly's son, there he leaned on his gun  
A-thinking of Zeb Turney's girl.  
Dan was a hot blooded youngster  
His dad raised him sturdy and right  
He had him sworn from the day he was born  
To shoot every Turney on sight.

## Verse 2.

Vowed he'd been shot from the Turney,  
"Don't save a hair on their head,"  
Old Dan he cried as he layed down and died,  
With young Danny there by his bed.  
Dan took the vow from his Pappy,  
He swore he would kill every one.  
His heart and the world and his love for the  
girl,  
He loaded his double-barrelled gun.

## Verse 3.

Moon shining down on the mountain,  
Moon shining down on the hill  
Dan took a sip, swung his gun to his hip,  
He set out to slaughter and kill.  
Over the mountains he wandered  
The son of a Tennessee man.  
With fire in his eye and his gun at his side  
Looking for Zeb Turney's land.

## Verse 4.

Shots ringing out from the mountain,  
Shots ringing out from the tree,  
Dan Kelly's son with the smoke in his gun  
The Turney's all down on their knees.  
The story of Dan Kelly's victory  
Has spread far and wide o'er the world  
How Dan killed a clan, shot them down to a  
man  
And brought back old Zeb Turney's girl.

*Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.*

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## Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 197.

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

*Sung and played on guitar by Luther Royce, age 28, White Lake, 1941.*

*According to the singer, this song of a Tennessee feud originated in Kentucky. He learned it from his grandmother's "collection on old pieces of paper in handwritin'."*

*The power of parental guidance is expressed most vividly in the lines "Dan was a hot blooded youngster, His dad raised sturdy and right. He had him sworn from the day he was born, To shoot every Terney on sight." Surely Seth Terney's daughter must have had a strange feeling as she road away with the hero and left all her kinfolk lying bleeding and dying.*

### Editor's notes:

Different sources within the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection refer to the character in this song either as "Seth Terney" and "Zeb Turney." I found no other source that used the former name. A citation at end of the web page below reads: "From Traditional American Folk Songs, Anne and Frank Warner Collected from Frank Proffitt, 1941 note: A song by this title was copyrighted in 1925 by Carson Robison, Shapiro, Bernstein."

Alternate titles/related songs: "Zeb Tourney's Girl."

### Sources:

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

"Zeb Tourney's Girl." From the Digital Tradition Mirror. <<http://sniff.numachi.com/~rickheit/dtrad/pages/tiZEBTURNY;ttZEBTURNY.html>> "Zeb Tourney's girl" Text and tune nearly identical.

K.G.

On