

## TRANSCRIPTION

### Belle Stewart sings “Inverness-shire”

ScottishVoicesProj.0569

[This recording was made at a ceilidh hosted in July 1984 by the singer and educator Sheila Douglas, along with her husband, the poet and educator Andrew Douglas, at their home in Scone, Perthshire. Present were Belle Stewart (the guest of honor); her friend or relation Nellie Higgins; John Niles and his wife Carole Newlands; two other friends of the Douglas’s; and a visiting American couple.

[The initial part of this exchange is not included on the excerpt, but a transcription is included here between square brackets.]

[BS I’ll gie ye another wee shorty, that one. Andrew, your choice. Come on, you ken them all.

AD: A quick one.

All: Inverness!]

BS: [*Sings:*]

- 1 As I came in by Inverness-shire  
It was to view the brave Loch Ness  
It was there I met wi a fair young maiden  
She appeared to me like a queen herself.
- 2 “Well,” says I, “fair maid, would you care to marry  
And to become a sailor’s wife?”  
“Oh no, kind sir, I would rather tarry  
For I do love the sweet single life.
- 3 It is the truth I’m about to tell you  
I could have married five years ago  
Tae a Johnstone laddie from the county Caithness  
It’s often grieves my heart full sore.”
- 4 “You foolish creature, you pride of nature  
How can you differ from the female kind?  
And you sae bonny, sae young and handsome  
It’s to get married you should incline.
- 5 But if I had you on some distant island  
Five hundred miles from your native home  
Or in some valley where none could find us

I would incline you to be my own.”

All: [*Applause, sounds of appreciation.*]

BS = Belle Stewart

AD = Andrew Douglas