

## TRANSCRIPTION

### Elizabeth Stewart sings a bawdy song, “The Little Ball of Yarn”

ScottishVoicesProj.0496

[This recording was made in August 1988 at a house in St. Andrews, Fife, that John Niles and his research team were renting at that time. Present were Elizabeth Stewart, John Niles, and members of his group.]

[*Elizabeth Stewart sings:*]

- 1      One fine day in May I took a walk one day  
         It's doon [*laughs*] by my grandfather's farm.  
         I met a pretty maid an this is what I said,  
         “May I wind up your little ball of yarn?”
- 2      Now I took this pretty maid underneath the shade  
         Not intendin for to do her any harm.  
         [*Spoken aside:* “That's half!”]  
         I took her by surprise and I laid between her thighs  
         And I winded up her little ball of yarn.
- 3      This pretty maid she raise and she pulled up her claes  
         And it's straight tae her grandma she did rin,  
         But for me, I was never seen as I skipped across the green  
         After windin up her little ball of yarn.
- 4      Come aa you young men, never stop out after ten  
         Not intendin for to do any harm,  
         For as soon as they lie doon you've got tae pay yer sweet half-croon  
         For the windin o the little ball of yarn.
- 5      Come aa you young maids, tak a warnin to what I've said,  
         Never rise up too early in the morn,  
         For like the blackbird and the thrush, there'll be someone behind the bush  
         That will wind up your little ball of yarn.

All:    [*Laughter and words of appreciation.*]