

## TRANSCRIPTION

### Duncan Williamson sings a Scotch song, “Loch Maree”

ScottishVoicesProj.0432

[This recording was made in August 1986 during at a rented house in Auchtermuchty, Fife. Present on this occasion were Duncan Williamson, John Niles, and a half dozen North Americans in Niles's research team. Williamson directed the song particularly to one team member, Fern Moore, as he wished her to feel included on this occasion.

To introduce “Loch Maree,” Williamson characterizes it as not a traditional song, but rather “a Scotch song,” one that he loves. He states that he learned it from the grandson of “My Wee Maggie”: that is, from a grandson of the Traveller woman of a former generation whose elopement to Tangy Glen, Kintyre, is the subject of “My Wee Maggie,” a story-song in Williamson’s repertory that he had sung to the group somewhat earlier in this same session.

Loch Maree is an inland loch, famed for its beauty, located in Wester Ross, in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland not far from the village of Gairloch.]

- 1 When my heart is full of sadness  
And I’m lonely as can be  
For my thoughts, they often wander  
To the shores of Loch Maree.
  
- 2 There I met her one fine, fine mornin  
Such a beauty that she did dee, [she did dee: she appeared?]  
We went walking and went talking  
By the shores of Loch Maree.
  
- 3 How we planned for future meetings!  
Oh how happy that we did be  
For the dear one I discovered  
By the shores of Loch Maree.
  
- 4 Then one day she went an left me  
For to go far across the sea.  
Now I’m lonely an broken-hearted  
By the shores of Loch Maree.
  
- 5 Then one day I received a letter.  
It had come from across the sea  
And a picture showed a weddin  
But the bridegroom won’t be me.
  
- 6 So now I’m lonely an broken-hearted

I am sad now as I can be  
For the dear one I discovered  
By the shores of Loch Maree.

JN: Thank you, Duncan. [*Now starting to wind up this long session.*] I think that's enough for one afternoon.

DW: It's just a Scotch song. It really happened, ye know? It tells the story of a young man meetin a beautiful young American lady, and she left him to go back tae the States, and she sent him a picture of her weddin and he was very sad. He was a shepherd. It's a true story! He was a shepherd at Loch Maree. It's a true story!

FM: What is the title of the song?

DW: "Loch Maree," darlin, is the song. "Loch Maree."

HT: M-A-R-E-E.

FM: Oh.

DW: Yeah, "Loch Maree."

DW = Duncan Williamson

JN = John Niles

FM = Fern Moore

HT = Holly Tannen