

Reel 120B

- 1-9. Fiddle Tunes: Old Man and Old Woman; Thanks For the Buggy Ride; Old Tune, name unknown; Down In the Coal Hole, played by no one else; all played by James A. Mingo, Middleton, Colchester Co. Good for man of ~~87~~. 87.
- 9-10Ca' the Ewes Unto the Knowes, sung by Mr. Kasson Swan, Middleton. 2 vs. well sung
- 10-11. The Carri on Crow, called by singer The Old Sow; sung well by Mr. Kasson Swan, but only knows 2 verses
- 11-18 Talk on Annie Swan, by Kasson Swan; story of local giantess
- 18-29 Fiddle Tune. Irishman's Shanty played by Jas. Mingo, and also Jenny Bang the Weaver played by his father and grandfather, years ago
- 20-21. Nova Scotia Song, sung by Mr. Kasson Swan, chorus only
- 21-22. The Birdie's Ball, sung by Kasson and Seldon Swan. This and three succeeding songs learned in school in 1900. Good
- 22-23. Here's A Ball For Baby, as above
- 23-24. Good Morning Merry Sunshine. As above
- 24-27. There Was A Field. Action Song. As above
- 27-end. Diddle Tunes, Pigeon On the Gate and Haste To the Wedding, played by James Mingo. Also old tune, name unknown.

Dances were polkas, and some chance times the lancers a little. When I was a young man it was the swinging eight and the basket. They used to do the Caledonia a chance time and plain sets. It's something like the swinging eight. It's so long since I've seen it danced I've forgot. They just dance the polka now.

When I was a young man we used to step dance. It was called the Fours. Two couples would get on the floor. First they used to dance to the Jew's harp and then the fiddle. Not many played the Jew's harp; there were different ones in the old days played the accordion, but I don't know of one around here now.

Told by fiddler Jas. A Mingo, Middleton, Col.
Co., and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953

Ca' the ewes unto the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rows,
My bonnie dearie.

2

Ye'll have goons and ribbons neat
And leather shoon for thy white feet,
And in my arms you'll lie and sleep
And ye shall be my dearie.

Sung by Mr. Kasson Swan, Middleton, Col. Co.
and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953

Our old sow she's getting very fat,
 Hey mo ho mo kimo,
 Three feet two across the back,
 Hey mo ho mo kimo.

2

Hand me down my watch and chain,
 Hey mo ho mo kimo,
 Go to see my Sarah Jane,
 Ho mo ho mo kimo.

Learned from old man named Stroud; this was all
 he knew; sung by Mr. Kasson Swan, Middleton, Col. Co.
 and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953

Nova Scotia Song

Reel 120B 20-21

Fare ye well to Nova Scotia's tree bound coast,
 May your mountains dark and dreary be,
 And when I am far away o'er the briny ocean tossed
 Will you ever heave a sigh or a wish for me?

Learned from his mother. Sung by Mr. Kasson Swan,
 Middleton, Col. Co. and recorded by Helen Creighton,
 Sept. 1953.

(This may be sea-bound instead of tree bound,
 which is more usual. It is a little difficult to
 tell from the record).

My aunt was the giantess, Annie Swan. She was 8 feet tall. She was born in Millbrook near West New Annan. She was with P.T. Barnum's show for a number of years. She was married to Capt. M.V. Bates. He was the giant. He was one inch shorter than she was. They put it on the heels of his boots to make them the same height. He was a captain in the United States army. She was married in Westminster Abbey, England. Queen Victoria presented her with a large solid gold cased watch and guard. The guard was 7 feet long. I have one-sixth of it. I also have one of her shoes, a slipper. Leonard Swan at present has her watch up at West New Annan, and some of her clothes, and there are some at Green Hill, at the Museum there. My aunt died this spring. She had quite a bunch of her clothing. Her house was burned a few years ago and she lost all of the clothing she had.

She was around 40 when she died. She had two children. They died when they were young. One of them weighed 22 pounds at birth, and the other was near the same weight. They only lived a short time. They didn't seem to be delicate, but they didn't live long. Their home was in Seville, Ohio. My cousin went out there to see if she could find the house. It had been made to order. They had to have the doors so large because they couldn't come in an ordinary house at all without stooping very low. The house is still there. She found it and took pictures of it. She also got pictures of her aunt's headstone in the cemetery there at Seville.

The house is privately owned, and she had quite a time to get in I guess. She had to explain to them pretty well who she was before they would let her in. But there are some of the rooms with the old original wallpaper on that was there when my aunt was living there. She died about the time that I was born.

All the other members of our family have been on the average size. Some of them on the small side. At the time that she was going round she was the only giantess they say on record. I think she was about 18 when she left Nova Scotia, as near as I can remember. Somebody let Barnum know about her, so he came and got her. He had her in some college and gave her some schooling, and then took her on display.

Told by Mr. Kasson Swan, Middleton, Col. Co. and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953

The springbird said to the nightingale
 I mean to give the birds a ball,
 Pray mama ask the birdies all,
 The birds and the birdies great and small.

Cho.

Tra la la la la, tra la la la la,
 Tra la la la la, tra la la la la,
 Tra la la la la, tra la la la la,
 Tra la la la la la, ~~xxx~~ la la la la.

2

Soon they came from bush and tree
 Singing sweet the r songs of glee,
 Each one fresh from his cosy nest,
 Each one dressed in his Sunday best. Cho.

4

The yellow bird and the blackbird danced for life,
 The raven danced with the yellow bird's wife,
 The awkward owl and the bashful jay
 Wished each other a very good day. Cho.

3

The woodpecker came from his nest in the tree
 And brought his bill to the company,
 The cherries ripe and the berries red,
 A very fine bill so the birdies said. Cho.

5

They danced all day till the sun ~~went down~~ was low
 And then they all prepared to go,
 One and all both great and small
 Flew home to the nest from the birdie's ball. Cho.

Sung by Kasson and Seldon Swan, Middleton, Col.
 Co. who learned it at school in 1900 from their teacher
 of revered memory, Miss Lois A. Graham. Recorded by
 Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953

In the recording the 3rd verse was added at the
 end, and is sung in a different key.

Here's A Ball For Baby

Reel 120B22-23

Here's a ball for baby
Big and soft and round,
Here's a baby's hammer,
Oh how he can pound,
Here's the way the baby
Plays the peek-a-boo,
Here's the baby's trumpet,
Too too too too too.

2

Here's the baby's soldiers
Standing in a row,
Here's the baby's music
Clapping clapping so,
Here's the big umbrella
Keeps the baby dry,
Here's the baby's ~~xxxxix~~ cradle,
Rock a bye low bye.

Sung by Kasson and Seldon Swan, Middleton, Col. Co.,
and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953. Learned
at school in 1900.

Actions should accompany the singing of this song

Isabel used to sing the 1st 4 lines as a
child. She used actions too.

Good Morning Merry Sunshine

Reel 120B23-24

Good morning merry sunshine,
How did you wake so soon?
You scared away the pretty stars,
You shine away the moon.
I saw you go to sleep last night
Before I said my prayers,
Out in the west you sank to rest,
How did you get up there?

2

I never go to sleep at night,
I just go round to see
The little children in the west
Who wait and watch for me.
I waken all the birds and beasts
And flowers on my way,
And best of all the girls and boys
To greet the opening day.

Sung by Kasson and Seldon Swan, Middleton, Col. Co.,
and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953. Learned in
school in 1900.

There was a field that waiting lay
All hard and brown and bare,
And soon a thrifty farmer came
And fenced it in with care,
And soon a thrifty farmer came
And fenced it in with care.

2

Then came the plowman with his plow
From early morn till late,
Across the field and back again) bis
He plowed the furrows straight.)

3

The harrows soon were brought to make
The ground to soft and loose,
And soon the farmer said with joy,) bis
My fields are fit for use.)

4

Sung by Kasson and Seldon Swan, Middleton, Col. Co.,
and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1953. Action
accompanies the singing of this song. Use the plow
by putting two hands in plowing position, and harrow
by hooking two thumbs together; the furrow was
shown by hands as going straight across the fields.
Little Johnny dropping the corn was done by the
hands as if dropping corn. This verse must have been
forgotten as it is not included here.