

ch. - Amusing & well sung

7  
Ho Ro No Nighan donn, us.

as learned in Cape Breton

& Fhir 'i Bhte, unusual

music for verse. For that reason

transcribed by Major Meckled

& Kitty Alone and f

10 ghost story told by Mrs.

Jes. Bradshaw. St. Martins, N.B.

183

- 1 Bonny Wee Angus, composed  
sung by Finvola Rudden, Middla  
Musquodobit, very nice, piano  
accompaniment.
- 2 Mary Hamilton, Mourner, then  
Lynn, then Finvola Rudden;  
interesting to hear children's  
voices singing This belted
- 3 Hush The Waves Are Rolling In,  
sung by Finvola Rudden
- 4 McGregor's Lament, well sung  
by Dr. Alfred Needler, Nanaimo
- 5 The Boatie Rows, lovely song  
well sung by Dr. Needler
- 6 Massacre of The McPherson, good  
version with bagpipe imitation in

153

R. W. Gregory, Lament  
Ch.

Ochan, Ochan, Ochan uiri  
Thought I cry, & chide with thee  
Ochan, Ochan. Ochan uiri,  
How he fears with thee no me

Is lament on death of  
husband who with father -  
mother & partners were  
betrayed at the instigation  
of Helen Campbell & Kennedy  
(of Den orchy)

FSG30  
23.384.2  
MF 74. 742

Reel 183B

1. Massacre of the MacPherson: learned from Scotch grandfather; words in Scottish Students' Song Book; this is traditional way of singing it, with nose held in final note imitating bagpipes; sung by Dr. Alfred Needler, Nanaimo, B.C.; 8 vs.
2. Ho Ro Mo Nighean donn tune only as learned in northern Cape Breton, and tune of verse learned in Scotland; sung by Dr. Needler.
3. Fhir a Bhata: song popular in Nova Scotia, but sung here as learned from Scottish mother in Ontario; 3 vs. in English with Gaelic chorus; well sung; sung by Dr. Needler.
4. Kitty Alone and I: one verse only of variant of Frog and Mouse as learned from grandmother; nice as far as it goes; sung by Dr. Needler.
5. Ghost Story: There and Not There type in which person is when when elsewhere; well told by Mrs. Jas. Bradshaw, St. Martin's, N.B.

This is an interesting tape, and songs are well sung.

Och the Pherson swore a feud against the clan MacTavish,  
 Marched into their land to murder and to ravish,  
 For he did resolve to extropate the vipers  
 Wi' found and twenty men and five and thirty pipers.

Cho.

Yachen yachen ya! Yachen yachen yachen,  
 Yachen yachen ya! Ee! Ee!(nasal singing in imitation of bagpipes  
 made by holding nose)

2

But when he was gone halfway down Strath Cannan,  
 Of his fighting tail just three were remaining,  
 These were all he had to back him into battle  
 All the rest had gone off to drive the cattle. Cho.

3

"Very good," cried Pherson, "now my clan disgraced is,  
 Lads we'll need to fight before we touch the beasties,  
 Here's Mic-Mac-Methusala a-coming with his vassels,  
 Gillies seventy-three and sixty dunnie wassals." Cho.

4

"Good-day to you sir, are you not the Pherson,  
 Was you coming here to visit any person?  
 You're a blackguard sir, it is now six hundred  
 Good long years and more since my clan was plundered." Cho.

5

"What is that you say? Dare you cock your beaver,  
 I will teach you sir what is good behavoir,  
 I will not allow you to live one day more,  
 I will ~~stab~~ shoot you sir or stab you with my claymore." Cho.

6

"I am very glad to hear what you mention  
 Since I can prevent any such intention,"  
 So Mic-Mac-Mathusala gave some warlike howls,  
 Drew his skien-du and stuck it in his bowels. Cho.

7

In this very way died the valiant Pherson  
 Who was always thought a most superior person,  
 Pherson had a son who married Noah's daughter  
 And almost spoiled the flood by drinking up the water. Cho.

8

Which he would have done, I at least believe it,  
 Had the mixture been only half Glenleafit,  
 This is all my tale, sirs I hope 'tis new to ye,  
 Here's to your very good health, and damn to whisky duty. Cho.

Sung by Dr. Alfred Needler, Nanaimo, B.C. & recorded in St. Andrews, N.B. May 1959; learned from his grandfather, Duncan Chisholm who was brought up in Scotland to the age of 16; he came out to Ontario about 1856 or so; I can't reproduce the chorus as written in the Scottish Students' Song Book; instead of having the ee ee at the end it has, "and that's the Gaelic chorus." When we used to sing this all together, various people would put in a sort of a drone like the bagpipe harmony.

Some would go la la la la la, others would put in the drone; in the last one you hold it as long as you can; you can do it a little better when you're tight.

Ho Ro Mo Nighean donn bhoidheach

Reel 183BNo.2

This is a northern Cape Breton version is it Dr. Needler?

Well this is just the tune as I heard it in 1927 up at Ingonish Ferry.

Of what song?

Ho Ro Mo Nighean donn bhoidheach. It appealed to me then as being a sad song, as I heard Mrs. McKinnon sing it.

(He sings one verse, or rather hums most of it as he does not know the words)

You say in Scotland there is more than this? That what they sing in Cape Breton is just the chorus?

Yes.

And how does the verse go in Scotland?

The tune of the verse is:(Hums the tune)

Tune hummed by Dr. Alfred Needler, Nanaimo, B.C., and recorded by Helen Creighton, May 1959

Recording made in St. Andrews, N.B.

Question: Your mother sang Fhír a bhata a little differently too, didn't she, from the way it's sung in Cape Breton?  
Answer: Yes, she sang it like this. Perhaps I can sing a verse or two .

How often hunting the highest hilltops  
I scanned the ocean, I sailed the sea,  
Wilt come to-night love, wilt come to-morrow,  
Or ever come love to comfort me?

Cho.

Fhir a bhàtas, na hóro éile,  
Fhir a bhàtas, na hóro éile,  
Fhir a bhàtas, na hóro éile,  
Mo shoraidh slán dhuit's gach ait' an téid thu!

2

My heart is breaking, my soul is weary,  
With frequent teardrops mine eyes o'erflow,  
Wilt come to-night love, may I expect thee,  
Or sighing one more the door put to? Cho.

3

My friendsthey warn me and oft advise me  
To let ~~they~~ false vows forgotten be,  
As vain their counsels as if they ordered  
Yon little streamlet roll back the sea. Cho.

Sung by Dr. Alfred Needler, Nanaimo, B.C., and recorded  
by Helen Creighton, at St. Andrews, N.B., May 1959.

Kitty Alone and I

Reel 183BNo.4

A frog he would a -woeing go,  
Kitty alone, Kitty alone,  
A frog he would a-woeing go,  
Kitty alone and I,  
A frog he would a-woeing go  
Whether his mother would let him or no,  
Cock my keary, duck my deary,  
Kitty alone and I.  
x&xx

(This is all he knows of words as learned from his grandmother)

Sung by Dr. Alfred Needler, Nanaimo, B.C. and recorded  
at St. Andrews, N.B. May 1959



Ghost Story  
(There and Not There)

Reel 183BNo.5

Question: What is this you have to tell Mrs. Bradshaw? Were you very young when it happened?

Answer: Yes, about 19, I would say, and I was rooming/in Montreal attending college. My roommate was an English girl from Ceylon, and this morning I had not been feeling well and I decided to stay in - sleep in perhaps. But I heard her get up in about eight o'clock and get ready for classes and go out, and in a little while I heard the door open and I looked up and she had come back in. She was dressed in street clothes, and I said,

"Why Nona, I thought you'd gone to class? What did you come back for?" and she didn't answer, and she looked sort of strange and I thought, "I must be dreaming." So to prove that I wasn't, I got up and walked across the floor, and when I did, she faded away. So then I lay down on her bed to rest again, and in a little while she came back, and this time she came towards me until her face was quite close to mine and looked at me very closely and rather frightened me, you know. I sat up and I said,

"Why Nona, what's the matter?" and when I spoke she started to fade again, only this time much more slowly until she became transparent and I could just see her features and see the room through them, and then she disappeared. And that was the end of that.

Question: Were you very frightened when this happened?

A: I was a little frightened when she came close to me. Not terribly though; just slightly.

Q: And did you speak to her about it afterwards?

A: Yes.

Q: What did she say?

A: Well it's hard for me to remember. She told me that she had appeared to other people that told her about seeing her.

Q: She herself would not be conscious of having come back, would she?

A: I don't believe she was. No, but I can't remember whether she told me that she might have been thinking of me because I was sick, but I can't remember that.

Q: Did she ever see anybody herself?

A: Oh yes. She had told me at least once that in some city she had seen a friend of hers on a street car ~~get~~ or getting off a street car or something, and she had known that that friend couldn't be there at all, but it was a crowd and she couldn't get near the friend, and then later she found that friend had died just about that time. And she claimed that had happened to her other times, but she didn't give me any other instances of it.

I think she also told me she had seen Lord Darnley or somebody in a school she went to in England. He had the habit of haunting the school. I don't know what school it was, but she said he used to come along in - oh you know, dressed in the period - and he would bow very graciously to the girls and then pass on. I don't know where that was.

Told by Mrs. Frances Bradshaw, St. Martin's, N.B. and recorded by Helen Creighton, May 1959