

Tape 206A

Strong John: tale type 650; told by Mr. Edward Collicott, Canaan, Lunenburg Co.; well told but probably has forgotten part in middle of tale where he hesitated. This takes 15 or 20 minutes; he says it takes him half an hour. Mr. Collicott also told Big Claus and Little Claus which is in my Folklore of Lunenburg County. Strong John is a giant story.

Pretty Polly; English murder song, mixture of James MacDonal d and Dreadful Ghost; singer considers it a good song; he probably never had much voice; is very little music in this. He recites it over after singing it through, and recals another verse. Sung by Mr. Edward Collicott

Frogs at midnight; cont'd from 206B where they were recorded earlier in evening; they change as time goes on. This is good singing, but lacks deep voice of bull-frog. Seldom have opportunity to hear frogs in spring, but in 1943 had recorded them on disc in Lunenburg County for Library of Congress. This came from Lower Ship Harbour, Halifax Co.

It was early one morning before it was day
 Young Willie came to me and to me did say,
 "It's rise pretty Polly, you must go with me
 And before we get married our friends for to see."

2

Oh we went over hills and through valleys so deep,
 Until this fair damsel began for to weep,
 Saying, "Willie, dear Willie, you've led me astray
 And you've purchased my infant and life to bestray."

3

"Oh ~~it's~~ pardon, oh pardon, oh it's pardon," cried she,
 "There's no time to pardon, there's no time to plead."
 In a moment he took his long knife in his hand
 Was then he pierced her heart till the blood did aflow,
 Then into this grave her poor body he threw,
 He covered her over all safely and sound
 Then he shipped on a barque for to sail the world all round.

4

Was early next morning before it was day
 Our captain came forward and to us did say,
 "There's murder committed and lately been done
 For our ship lies in mourning and cannot sail on."

5

swears

Then up jumps young Jimmie and ~~says~~, "It's not I,"
 Then up jumps another, the same he did reply,
 Then up jumps young Willie to stamp and to swear
 "For indeed it is not I I'll devow and declate."

6

He turned himself around with great haste and great speed,
 He met with pretty Polly which made his heart bleed,
 She ripped him, she stripped him, she lashed him in three,
 For because he had murdered poor baby and she.

(singer says, It's a murder song, but it ain't a bad song.)

"Oh Polly, pretty Polly, this time you spoke right,
 For I've been this last night been digging your grave,
 Your grave's lying open, the spade standing by
 For to cause this fair damsel to mourn and to cry."

(this verse remembered by reciting whole song over again. There must still be two missing lines) It should go between vs. 2&3.

Sung by Mr. Edward Collicott, Canaan, Lunenburg County, and
 recorded by Helen Creighton, May 1960