

PETER AND I (traditional Michigan)

In this unusual version of "The Two Sisters" (Child #10), the cheerful schoolyard tune does not mask the chilling evil of the story.

Peter and I went down the lane, down the lane, down the lane.
Peter and I went down the lane, and sister came behind.

Both of us sisters loved him well, loved him well, loved him well.
Both of us sisters loved him well, as only I can tell.

Peter could love but one of us then, one of us then, one of us then.
Peter could love but one of us then, so sister must go away.

Sister was bending over the well, over the well, over the well.
Sister was bending over the well when splash, splash, in she fell.

Sister did scream with all her might, all her might, all her might.
Sister did scream with all her might, but I did not heed her plight.

Out of the well they dragged her then, dragged her then, dragged her then
Out of the well they dragged her then, and laid her on the lawn.

In the black hearse they carried her then, carried her then, carried her then.
In the black hearse they carried her then and buried her on the hill.

Peter and I were wed one day, wed one day, wed one day.
Peter and I were wed one day, and oh what people did say.

Sorrow and pain were in my heart, in my heart, in my heart.
Sorrow and pain were in my heart, sharp as an arrow could be.

Peter must sail for foreign parts, foreign parts, foreign parts.
Peter must sail for foreign parts, and I'll die of a broken heart.

*From **Ballads and Songs of Southern Michigan**, collected and edited by Emelyn Elizabeth Gardner and Geraldine Jencks Chickering. Recorded in 1931 by Mrs. Lillian Ammerman, Detroit, from the singing of her mother who had learned the song about 30 years earlier when she was teaching in Nebraska.*

From Judy Cook's CD "Far From The Lowlands"

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