

There are some children's songs referred to in Vaughan Williams' scrap book, Green Gravel, Poor Mary, Shall we dance Luby Luby. These titles and the following texts were noted down by Miss Heatley.

MY SHOES ARE MADE OF SPANISH LEATHER

My shoes are made of Spanish leather
My stockings are made of silk
My pinafore of calico
And that's as white as milk

Here we go round and round
Till our frocks touch the ground

Sally goes round the sun
Sally goes round the moon
Sally goes round the mulberry bush
On a Sunday afternoon

London bridge is broken down
Broken down broken down
London bridge is broken down
My fair lady

Built it up with bricks and stones

Bricks and mortar will not do

Build it up with iron bars
Iron bars iron bars
Build it up with iron bars
Iron bars they will do

my shoes are made of Spanish my stockings are made of silk my
petticoats of calico — and that's as white as milk here we go
round and round and round till our frocks touch the ground

Vaughan Williams noted in his manuscript before the following song and after a very hurriedly written version of Ingatestone Hall (MSS 8VOA20 see Vol 2 304) the following comments.

Mr Broomfield wood cutter of West Horndon well known as a singer and has been known to go on for hours when well primed. I should think he sang these songs in the traditional manner, shutting his eyes tight and speaking the last line at the end of the song.

Both Vaughan Williams and Miss's Heatleys used the name Broomfield but it appears in the light of further research that his name was James Bloomfield. His father came from Bulphan, and he died in 1921. He was a woodman and gamekeeper. He lived at Dower House, then at Keeper's Cottage, both on the Billericay road (NB The name Bloomfield is a very old East Anglian name).

On Sunday March 11 1979 we visited Mr William Wade and obtained the following information.

William Wade remembered his grandfather Mr Bloomfield as being a big man with a grey beard, and a long reach. He had a mild disposition but was able to give as good as he received when necessary. He used to have an old photo of Mr Bloomfield with his gun but this seems to have been lost. Mr Wade lived with his grandfather from about the age of three, when he was sent to recover from diptheria until he was sixteen. Mr Bloomfield also lived in some cottages on the corner of Dunton Road, after he retired as keeper to William Boardman a local landowner and builder.

Editor's note

As this is a transcript of Vaughan Williams' manuscript we have not altered the name Broomfield anywhere it has been used by Vaughan Williams.