

WILLY OF THE WAGON TRAIN

The words to this song and the following songs collected from Pottipher were noted in longhand that could be Vaughan Williams. If this is so then it is very much neater than his other writing. This may have been because they were the first songs he collected and the experience was still novel.

Attend a while and do not smile  
Young men and maids all round  
While I relate a tale as true  
As ever yet was found

A female did a soldier wed  
And with him she did go  
For to join the Peninsular War  
And to share young William's woe

The trumpets sound it was alarm  
That called young Will away  
And he left young Nancy's arms  
And this to her did say

Adieu adieu my love adieu  
Upon your hills remain  
Till you behold your soldier bold  
Young Willy of the wagon train

Then from the mountain young Nancy went  
Young William for to find  
For to seek her soldier was bent  
No dangers did not mind

But mark that night what met her sight  
The sun had sunk to rest  
When a stranger fired so angrily  
And wounded poor Nancy's breast

She cries oh save my soldier brave  
And I will share his pain  
For honour cries young Nancy  
For Will of the wagon train

She wrote a letter to his friend  
And sealed it with her gore  
Saying since you witnessed my sad end  
I soon shall be no more

She said farewell and down she fell  
Upon the gorey plain  
And she closed her eyes no more to rise  
From Will of the wagon train

The officers standing by  
Which witnessed her sad end  
And a tear beneath each warrior's eye  
And from them as they stand

Be kind and true ne'er change your mind  
Young maidens hearts you'll gain  
Be kind and true like Nancy  
For Willy of the wagon train