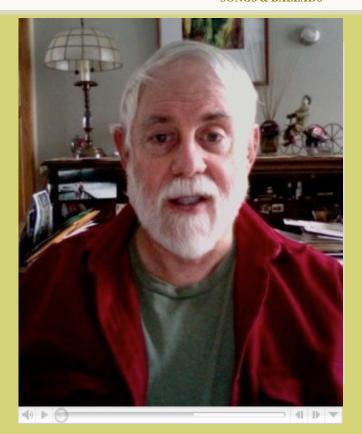


Songs & Ballads



SONGS & BALLADS



This is Robert
Shifflett's
version of
"Gypsy Laddie",
which comes
from Brown's
Cove, Virginia.



Robert Shifflett (photo by George Foss)

"Gypsy Laddie"

Thursday, February 28, 2008

"Young Gypsy Davey came merrily by
Whistling loud and gaily,
He whistled and sang till the green wood rang,
Charmed the heart of a lady."

George Foss collected this version of the ballad of "The Gypsy Laddie" from Robert Shifflett of Brown's Cove, Virginia, on July 15, 1961. You can hear Robert Shifflett's version HERE. The soundtrack is under the music notation.

Brown's Cove is just west of the Charlottesville, Virginia, area on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge. George Foss

collected a number of songs from the people in this area. You can read about him and these remarkable folks that the got to know HERE.

This Virginia version can be compared with Frank Proffitt's North Carolina version, "Gyps of David". It is obviously the same ballad, and the two versions share many details, but each is unique in both its tune and its own particular feel.

This is ballad #200 in the Child collection of the **English** and Scottish Popular Ballads, where it is known as "The Gypsy Laddie". This ballad has been collected extensively in North America. HERE is a partial listing. And HERE is some of the discussion at the Mudcat Cafe.







