



Songs & Ballads



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"Gypsy Laddie"

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



Robert Shifflett (photo by George Foss)

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.

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