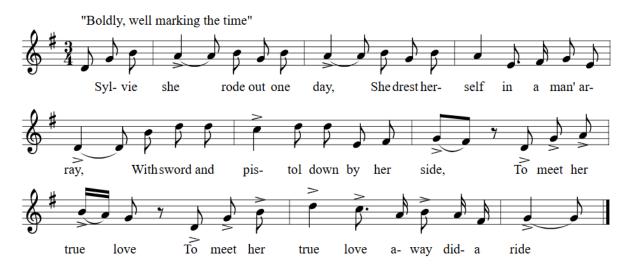
Sylvie

Mr Ford

Collected by Anne Geddes Gilchrist, Blackham, Sussex, June 1906

Anne Geddes Gilchrist Collection AGG/3/6/21, Journal of the Folk-Song Society 8 (1930) p.227 Roud 7



- Sylvie she rode out one day,
 She drest herself in a man's array,
 With sword and pistol down by her side,
 To meet her true love away did-a ride.
- And when she met him along the plain She boldly bid him for to stand;
 "Stand and deliver, kind sir," she says,
 "Or else this moment your life l'll have!"
- After she had robbed him of all his store,
 She says "Kind sir, there is one thing more:
 There's a diamond ring which I saw you wear –
 Deliver it and your life I'll spare".
- "My diamond-a-ring's a token true.
 Before I part from that my life I'll lose."

She being tender hearted, much like a dove She rode away from her own true love.

- 5. As they were walking in the garden green,
 Like two lovers, they were seen:
 He spied her [sic] watch hanging by her clothes
 Which made him blush like the morning's rose.
- 6. "What makes you blush, you silly thing?
 'Twas I that wanted your diamond ring –
 'Twas I that robbed you all on the plain –
 So here's your watch, my love, and gold again."
- 7. I only did it for to see -

To prove whether you was a man or no.

But since I've had a contented mind,

My heart and all my love shall ever be thine!

Anne Gilchrist noted that

"Sylvie" or "Silvery" (i.e. Sylvia) was learnt as a boy from the singer's 'mother-inlaw' (i.e. step-mother).

There is however no evidence that William's father John Ford remarried after the death of his wife Harriet, so it is unclear who is meant by William's "step-mother".