

Murder at Benton Ridge.

1 come all young men and I'll tell you
Of the wrong that was done to me
By a man named Harvey Trempholm
And a girl who was engaged to me
My parents call me Bennie Swim
I was born on the Mainstream
It was there I spent my childhood days
Where I used to sit and dream

2 To day I am laying in a cell
Up in the woodstock jail.
Thinking of the deed Ive done.
And no one to go my bail.
My agê is Twenty-two boy.
And that you all know well
Brought up by honest parents
The truth to you I will tell

3 I was walking along the road one day.
The storry to you I will tell
I met a man they call John Swim
Who lead my soal to Hell.
We walked along ((?)) Hatharm in arm
When John Swim said to me
Step into my neighers house Benny
And have a talk with me

4 You can have my daughter Olive Benny
To do with what you like.
If you will give your sister
To come and be my wife.
His daughter was handsome
With a dark and rolling eye
I promised for to marry her
And that I'll not deny.

- 5 we lived to gather for fourteen months
 Before our wedding day
 She fell in love with another man
 and then she ran away.
 She ran away to Benton Ridge.
 At her fathers home she did stay
 To live with Harvey Trempolme
 Until thair wedding day.
- 6 When this young man Benny Swim
 Found out what Olive did.
 He said I will go and see her.
 In her home at Benton Ridde
 I loved this girl with all my heart.
 This girl named Olive Swim
 I would lay down my life for her
 Was the words of Benny swim
- 7 In the year of 1922.
 On the 27th day of March
 I left my home and parents.
 Not thinking of returning back
 The gun was in his pocket.
 And my thought was far away
 Of the wrong this girl did to me
 And the man who stole her me away
- 8 When I met this girl Olive
 She was fairer than the rose on the tree
 She was a maiden of eighteen sumers
 when she promised to merry me
 I went up to her cottage
 She being a bride of ten weeks
 and I said to Harvey Trempolm
 To Olive I would to speak
- 9 I asked her for the engagment ring
 I had bought for her one day
 and also my mothers wekking ring
 She had borrowed for her game of play
 Olive dear listen to me for I hav'nt long to stay
 Kingly give me back my ring
 And I will be on my way
- 10 Harvey Trempolne he then got man.
 He rolled up his sleeves & swore
 Benny Swim do you see that road.
 Take it and come no more

I pulled my gun and shot him
 The bullet going through his head.
 He fell then in front of me
 across the door step dead

11 and when he fell in front of me
 my mind seemed all a blank
 I fired a shot at Trenplomes wife
 and down on her knees she sank
 arising on her feet again
 She walked through the front door
 I shot her again through the back
 Then she fell on the floor dead

12 Down upon my knees I went.
 I saw that she was dead
 I ran out to the hen house.
 and shot my self through the head.
 And when I saw I did not fall
 I to my self did say
 It was better to get away from here
 and I started on my way

13 I walked seven long weary miles.
 It was thair I went to bed.
 and all night the girl I shot
 was rambling through my head.
 atwisting amd aturning
 no rest could I find.
 For the gates of Hell wide open
 Before my eyes did shine.

14 come all you young brave country lads
 A warning take from me
 never murder a girl you love
 who ever she me ((sic)) may be
 For if you do your surely ruin.
 And find yourself like me

End quote.