Banks of the Ohio

Joe Harris or Traditional



I asked my love to go with me, To take a walk a little way, And as we walked and as we talked, About our golden wedding day.

1

Then only say that you'll be mine, In no other arms entwine, Down beside where the waters flow, Down by the banks of the Ohio.

I asked your mother for you, dear, And she said you were too young. Only say that you'll be mine, Happiness in my home you'll find.

I held a knife against her breast, And gently in my arms she pressed, Crying "Willie, Oh Willie don't murder me, For I'm unprepared for eternity." I took her by her lily white hand, Led her down by where the waters stand.
I picked her up and I pitched her in, Watched her as she floated down.

I started back home twixt 12 and 1, Crying "My God, what have I done? I've murdered the only woman I love, Because she would not be my bride."