

Johnny Bathin Jimmy Houten and Denis McDaid

So early in the morning Billy Heaney arose
And down to his comrade Johnny Bathin he goes
Rise up loving comrade and let nobody know
And down to the lough and till to bathe we will go.

As we went out a walking down Johnny Bathin's long lane
We met Sergeant Johnston likewise Pat O'Neill
They tried to advice us but all was in vain
For our lot was to die on a deep watery main.

John Bathin stripped off him he swam the lough around
He swam to the island then back to dry ground
Saying comrade loving comrade do not venture in
For there's death in the deep water in the lough of Shaulin.

Then Billy stripped off and he swam the lough around
He swam to the island but not to dry ground
There was an old woman as old as could be
She rang her two hands and she tore all her grey hair.

Saying it is Mary it is Mary is it there you do stay
And your son Billy drowned by the bathing this day
It's when his elder father he heard of the news
He rang his two hands and he tore his grey hair.

Saying it's murder it is murder is there no help at all
To venture their lives and to save my dear son
It is Mary it is mary that we reared a son
You reared a large family all handsome and young.

We reared a large family all of handsome young men
We now realise that the flower of them's gone
It's for Bessie Smith she will mourn night and day
For the loss of her Billy who is laid in the clay.

So early in the morning to the garden she'll go
She will pluck at the lilies far whiter than snow
She will pluck at the lilies and leave the red rose behind
For the loss of her Billy still runs in her mind.