

The Gypsy Rover

The Gyp - sy Ro - ver came over the hill Down
through the val - ley so sha dy, He whistl
ed and he sang till the green woods rang And
he won the heart of a la dy.
Ah De Do Ah De Do Da - Day,
Ah De - Do Ah De Day De. He
whist - ed and he sang till the green woods rang and
he won the heart of a la dy.

Chords: G, D, D7, Em

1. Gypsy Rover came over the hill
Down through the valley so shady,
He whistled and he sang till the green woods rang
And he won the heart of a lady.
Chorus
Ah De Do Ah De Do Da Day,
Ah De Do Ah De Day De.
He whistled and he sang till the green woods rang
And he won the heart of a lady.

2. She left her home, her castle great,
She left her fair young lover,
She left her servants and her estate
To follow the Gypsy Rover
Chorus

3. Her father saddled up his fastest steed,
Roamed the valleys all over,
Sought his daughter at great speed
And the whistlin' Gypsy Rover.
Chorus

4. He came unto a mansion fine
Down by the river so shady
And there was music and there was wine
For the Gypsy and his lady.
Chorus

5. "He is no gypsy, my father" she said,
"But Lord of these lands all over
And I will stay till my dying day
With my whistlin' Gypsy Rover"
Chorus

"The Gypsy Rover", also known as "The Whistling Gypsy", is a well-known ballad composed by Dublin songwriter Leo Maguire in the 1950s. This is a modern rewrite of the traditional ballad theme that appears in "The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies" or "The Raggle Taggle Gypsies", "The Gypsy Laddie", "Nine Yellow Gypsies", "Gypsy Davie" and "Black Jack Davie" (Roud #1, Child 200). The story-line is usually about a woman leaving her home and her "wedded lord" to run off with one or more gypsies, to be pursued by her husband. Dorothy Scarborough's 1937 book **A Song Catcher In Southern Mountains: American Folk Songs of British Ancestry** includes a lullaby called "Gypsy Davy", which Scarborough collected from two Virginia women who had learned the song from their respective grandmothers who in turn had learned it in Ireland. Scarborough's "Gypsy Davy" has a similar construction to Maguire's song, both in some of the lyrics in the verses and in the "ah dee do" chorus that does not appear in the other gypsy-themed songs. However, in Maguire's song the lady is pursued by her father instead of her husband and when he catches the pair the "Gypsy" reveals himself to be the "lord of these lands all over" (another widespread ballad theme).

It has been widely recorded by The Clancy Brothers, The Kingston Trio, The Highwaymen (who had a Top 40 hit with the song), Glenn Yarbrough and many others. I probably learned it by listening to all of these recordings.