

## Martin Simpson

### "Lakes Of Champlain"

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Airly one morning young William arose.  
It's off to his comrade's bedchamber he goes,  
Saying, "Comrade, royal comrade, rise and let no one  
Know  
For this is a fine morning and bathing we'll go."

They both walked along till they came to a long lane.  
The first one they met was the keeper of game,  
And he wished them in his heart to return back again,  
But the fate of Young William was to die in a watery  
Main.

Young William stripped off and he swum the lake  
round,  
He swum to an island but not in dry ground,  
Saying, "Comrade, royal comrade, do not venture in  
For there's deep and false waters in the lakes of  
Champlain."

Airly next morning his sister arose  
And off to her mother's bedchamber she goes,  
Saying, "Mother, dearest Mother, I dream'd a true  
dream  
That Young William was floating in a watery stream."

It was airly next morning his mother came there  
Wringing her fingers and tearing her hair  
Saying, "Was there nobody by  
That would venture their life for my fine darling boy?"

Airly next morning his uncle came there.  
He rowed round the strand like a man in despair.  
His uncle stripped himself and swum the lake round  
And he swum to the island where William was found.

Saying, "Comrade, royal comrade, do not venture in  
For there's deep and false waters in the lakes of  
Champlain."\*

The day of his funeral, it was a great sight.  
Four and twenty young men all dressed in white.

They took him up to Mary's church and laid him in the  
Clay  
Saying, "Farewell, lovely William, forever and a day."

God help his poor mother, she's got reason to mourn  
And likewise his sweetheart for I'm sure she has more,  
For every other morning he did her salute  
With pinks and red roses and fine garden fruit.

\*For these two lines, repeat tune for lines 3 and 4  
From The New Green Mountain Songster, Flanders et  
al.

Collected from Mrs. E.M. Sullivan, VT

Note: Flanders thinks this is a degenerate form of  
Ballad

In which young man is taken by a water witch who  
Desires him.

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