

My Name is Edward Kelly

Collected from Cyril Duncan, Nerang Qld, by members of the Moreton Bay Bushwhackers. Stan Arthur and Bill Scott were prominent members of the MB Bushwhackers who recorded for Wattle records 'Folk Songs from Queensland' in 1959.

My name is Ed - ward Kel - ly, I'm hon - oured vast - ly well.
I rule sup - reme, my word is law, wher - ev - er I may dwell.
My friends are all u - - nit - ed, my mates and ar - my near;
We sleep be - neath some shad - y tree, no dang - er do we fear.

Now the first of my adventures was through my sister dear,
Who was grossly insulted and put in bodily fear;
And when I came to hear of this it made my heart to ache;
I took to the hills to have revenge, all for my sister's sake.

Oh I am young and in my prime, I'm twenty-four years old.
I spent some time in vanity among young girls so bold;
But now I am a-robbing upon the Queen's Highway;
I fight the traps and rob the banks, and never run away.

In Mansfield that fair township where I was bred and born,
Oft times have I roamed those hills from dark till early morn,
But now I am a-robbing, and loudly my guns do roar.
'Twas there I shot poor Kennedy, which grieved my heart full sore.

Now the troopers they are all sent out to search the country round,
To bring in this notorious gang, but the Kellys can't be found.
The Kellys are in the ridges, the police in ranks abound;
The price upon my head, my boys, is now one thousand pound.

I never would surrender to any coat of blue,
Or any man that wears a crown belonging to the crew.
They're game, there is no doubt of it, when they are on the beat,
But it took ten traps to take Ben Hall when he was fast asleep.

I'd rather die like Donahue, that bushranger so brave,
Than be taken by the Government to be treated like a slave.
I'd rather fight with all my might as long as I'd eyes to see;
I'd rather die ten thousand deaths than die on the gallows tree.

Now all young men take my advice, that's bent on a roving life;
Pray do not roam but stay at home, settle down and take a wife.
For if you go a-robbing upon the Queen's Highway
You'll have to fight with all your might, or else lay down and die.