

# BANKS OF THE OHIO

Traditional Folk Song; **DATE:** First appears around 1913; **CATEGORY:** Early Country; **RECORDED BY:** Monroe Brothers; Blue Sky Boys; Country Gentlemen; Tony Rice; Joan Baez; Doc Watson; **NOTES:** Was a hit for Blue Sky Boys in 1933.

I asked my love \_\_\_\_\_ to take a walk Just a  
 walk \_\_\_\_\_ a lit - tle way as we walked \_\_\_\_\_ a long we  
 talked all a - bout \_\_\_\_\_ our wed - ding day.

© 2006 by Mel Bay Publications, Inc. BMI  
 All Rights Reserved.

**G D**  
 I asked my love to take a walk

**D7 G**  
 Just a walk a little way

**C**  
 As we walked along we talked

**G D G**  
 All about our wedding day.

And only say that you'll be mine  
 And our home will happy be  
 Down beside, where the waters flow  
 Down on the banks of the Ohio.

I held a knife close to her breast  
 As into my arms she pressed  
 She cried, "Oh, Willie, don't murder me,  
 I'm not prepared for eternity."

I took her by her lily white hand  
 Led her down where the waters stand  
 There I pushed her in to drown  
 And watched her as she floated down.

I started home tween twelve and one  
 I cried, "My God, what have I done."  
 I murdered the only woman I loved  
 Because she would not be my bride.

The very next morning about half-past four  
 The sheriff came knocking at my door  
 He said, "Young man, come with me and go  
 Down to the banks of the Ohio."