

## **Willie Archer**

(also known as The Banks of the Bann. Features on the Sands Family 'Two Generations at Home' album)

As I went a-walking down by the Hilltown  
The lovely green mountains they did me surround  
I spied a pretty fair maid and to me she looked grand and  
She was plucking wild roses on the banks of the Bann

Well I stepped up to this fair maid and to her I did say  
Since nature has formed us to meet in this way  
Since nature has formed us won't you give me your hand and  
We'll both walk together on the banks of the Bann

It was there in a corner where the charge it took place  
And I knew by the look that appeared on her face  
Her feet, they fell from her on the soft bed of sand and  
She fell into my arms on the banks of the Bann

Oh young man you have wronged me, won't you tell me your name  
So that when my baby's born, I can give it the same  
My name is Willie Archer and you must understand and  
My home and habitation lie close to the Bann

But I cannot marry you for I am apprentice bound  
To the spinning and the weaving in Rathfriland town  
But when my term is ended I'll give you my hand and  
We will be married on the banks of the Bann

So come all ye pretty fair maids take a warning by me  
Don't go out a-courting by one two or three  
Don't go out a-courting so late in the night for  
You might meet Willie Archer on the banks of the Bann