

# WORLD MUSIC

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Introduction

There are only three known pieces of recorded music for England, *Leatherwing Bat*, *Rob Roy's Cave*, and *Wedderburn's Cave*.

All the cave inspired music for Scotland has been listed in a separate section since the Celtic music of Scotland is in a class by itself.

Given the long British tradition of composing songs and singing them in pubs, the British caving community, especially in the Mendips, was perhaps the first group of cavers in the world to start composing caving ballads often based on existing folk songs. Some of the better known ones were recorded on cassette in 1982 in a collection called, *Mendip Melodies* (for more information see under World Music – Caving Ballads – United Kingdom).

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**WD-GB1** United Kingdom 1972

### **ROB ROY'S CAVE \***

WD – Folk – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** Billy MILLER

**Rts:** M.C.P.S.

**Perf:** **THE CHEVIOT RANTERS' COUNTRY  
DANCE BAND**

Bryce Anderson (accordion)

Jack Thompson (fiddle)

George Mitchell (piano)

Phil Sutherland (bass)

Denis Smailes (drums)

**Prod. Co:** Topic Records Ltd.; London

**Rec. Co:** Dick Swettenham; Alnwick, 1971

**Liner Notes:** Nibs Matthews

**Time:** (Medley – 4:31)



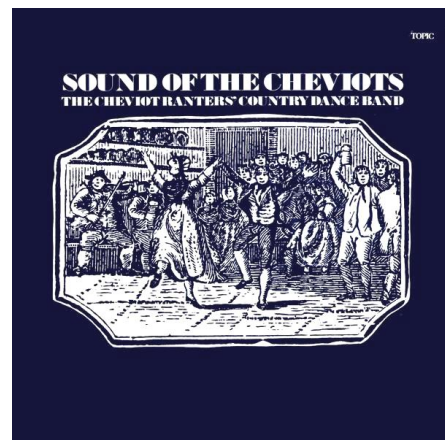
**LP:** SOUND OF THE CHEVIOTS

Topic 12T214 (mono)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 5 – Part 2)

**Notes:** The Cheviot Hills form the boundary line between England and Scotland. The Cheviot Ranters, which come from the area, are considered one of "the most distinguished and 'authentic' of English folk dance bands." This particular tune comes second in a medley of three Morpeth rant tunes from Netherpton in Northumberland and regarding that we are told that "one rhythm characteristic of the region is the rant, used for figure dances such as *The Morpeth Rant* with a characteristic step; musically it is similar to a reel, though somewhat slower, and with more of a lilt." (Anon. n.d.)

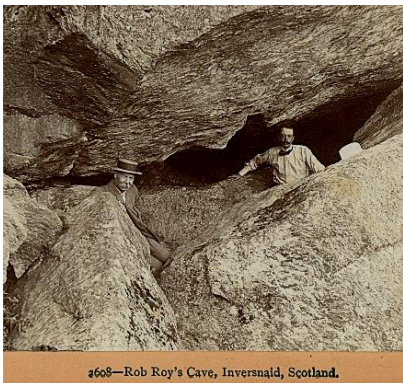
Rob Roy MacGregor of Inversnaid (1671-1734), the character so celebrated in the novel by Sir Walter Scott, was considered a hero by some and a villain by others. It



is said that once, while being held as a prisoner and taken across the loch in a boat, he managed to escape, swim to shore, and hide out in this cave near his prison. (Oldham 1975)

Not far southwest of Netherton at the eastern edge of the Northumberland National Park is Holystone and here we have a cave called Rob Roy's Cave, which "is nothing more than a recess in the sandstone beside a waterfall." (Miller 1887) "In the deep ravine close to the house, where the Dove Crag burn tumbles and tosses in a series of waterfalls, there is a cave-like recess, known as 'Rob Roy's Cave.' The cavern is only accessible by a very narrow path along the face of the rock, other means of ingress being entirely closed by the lofty cliffs overhead." (Dixon 1903)

Furthermore, regarding the "Rob Roy's Cave at Holystone. No one locally seems to be quite sure how it got its name. Perhaps it was from the veritable Rob Roy who must have traversed the district as a cattle dealer following one of the several drove roads, which traverse the county. However, it is unlikely that the real Rob



2608—Rob Roy's Cave, Inversnaid, Scotland.

Roy would have found it necessary to hide in Northumberland, or that he would have been well enough known there to give his name to a cave. It is rather more likely that it was the novel [Walter Scott's *Rob Roy*] that gave rise to the name – just the kind of label that the Victorians would attach to this rather inaccessible cave. There are, indeed, two passages in the novel where Rob Roy hangs about in the vicinity of Rothbury [a few miles east of Holystone]." (Stott 2009)

The more famous legendary Rob Roy's Cave is a fissure cave on the eastern shores of Loch Lomand in Scotland one mile north of Inversnaid (see stereo photo on left by B. Singley, 1897). But there is another Rob Roy's Cave, a boulder cave about 10 miles (15 kms) southeast of there on the banks overlooking Loch Ard, west of Aberfoyle. (McOwan 2006)

See also under Film Music – Rob Roy.

**Ref:** Anon. n.d., Music of Northumbria, [Wikipedia](#)

The Cheviot Ranters, Sound of the Cheviots, Sample without this piece, [Amazon](#)

The Cheviot Ranters, Sound of the Cheviots, [informatik](#)

The Cheviot Ranters, Sound of the Cheviots, [topicrecords](#)

Dixon, D.D. 1903, *Upper Coquetdale, Northumberland: its history, traditions, folk-lore and scenery*, Campville, [themodernantiquarian](#)

Hutchison, Isobel 1957, Poet's Voices Linger in Scottish Shrines, *National Geographic*, v.112, n. 4, Oct. 1957

Kempe, David 1988, *Living Underground*, Herbert Press Ltd., London, p. 237-238

McOwan, Rennie, Rob Roy's Cave, *The Scots Magazine*, v. 165, n. 1, July 2006, p. 38-42

Miller, Hugh 1887, The Fell Sandstones, *Geology of the Country around Otterburn & Elsdon*, [archive](#)

Oldham, Tony 1975, *The Caves of Scotland*, Bristol, England, p. 116-117

Rob Roy's Cave, Loch Lomand (1 mile north of Inversnaid), [Geograph](#)

Rob Roy's MacGregor's Secret Cave near Aberfoyle (4:08), [YouTube](#) (◀VIDEO)

Stott, Louis 2009, Rob Roy in Northumberland, [louisstott](#)

Watt, Francis & Carter, Andrew ca.1890s, *Picturesque Scotland*, Legend & Truth of Rob Roy MacGregor, [incallander](#)

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**WD-GB2** United Kingdom 1979

## **WEDDERBURN'S CAVE \***

WD – Folk – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** (Traditional)

**Perf:** Alistair **ANDERSON** (English concertina)

Toby Stover (piano)

George Wilson (guitar & string bass)

**Prod:** Alistair Anderson & Bill Spence

**Prod. Co:** Topic Records Ltd.; London

**Rec. Co:** Bottom Forty Recording Co.

**Rec. Date:** Feb. 1979

**Liner Notes:** Alistair Anderson

**Time:** (Medley – 3:03) [Part 2 approx. 1:14]

A. British **LP:** DOOKIN' FOR APPLES

Topic 12TS402 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 1 – Part 2)



WILSON STOVER ANDERSON

B. American **LP**: DOOKIN' FOR APPLES

Front Hall FHR-020 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 1 – Part 2)

**Notes:** Anderson writes – "Wedderburn's Cave is reputed to have been the last hideout of a noted outlaw, and lies halfway up Thrunton Crag just south of Whittingham," which is in the Northumberland district of Northern England. Another source adds – "From Thrunton Crag, where the cliffs rise to a height of one hundred and two hundred feet, is a magnificent view. A dense plantation of firs clothes the hill. There is a cave called, "Wedderburn's Hole," the hiding place of a noted moss-trooper on the crag." (Anon. 1920)

This piece is the second in a three-part medley. Like the first part, this is a gay little ditty on concertina backed by the piano and bass.

Alistair Anderson has another recorded cave piece entitled, "Lord Huntly's Cave" (see under World Music – United Kingdom – Scotland – *Lord Huntly's Cave* – [WD-SCOT-LH3](#))

**Ref:** Anon. 1920, Vale of Whittingham, Old and Sold Antiques Digest, [oldandsold](#)

Harris, Craig n.d., Alistair Anderson, Biography, [Allmusic](#)

Alistair Anderson, Dookin' for Apples LP, [Discogs](#)

Alistair Anderson, Dookin' for Apples LP, [informatik](#)

[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)