

George Ridler's Oven

A Gloucestershire Song

"LAMENT. Introduction to first verse only"

The Stwons, the Stwons, the _____ St - - wons the
Stwons, the Stwons, the Stwons, the _____ Stwons, the Stwons.

Verse 1

The Stwons that built George Rid - - ler's Ov'n, And thauy keum
vrom the Black - - nest Quaar; And George he wur a

Chorus

Jol - ly Old Mon And his Yead _____ it grav'd a - - bove his Yare. And
George he wur a Jol - ly Old Mon, And his Yead _____ it grav'd a - - bove his Yare.

Verse 2

One trai't of George Rid-ler I must _com - mend, And that wur vor a not-a-ble Theng; He
He mend his Braags a-vore he died, wi' a - ny dree Bro-thers his Zons zhiou'd Zeng. He

Chorus

mend his Braags a - vore _____ he died, wi' a - ny dree Bro-thers his Zons zhou'd Zeng.

3. There's Dick the Treble and John the Mean
(Let every Mon zeng in his auwn Pleace)
And George he wur the Elder Brother,
And there voore he shou'd zeng the Reass

4. Mine Hostess's Maid (and her Neaum t'wur Nell,)
A pretty Wench, and I lovd her well;
I lovd her well, good Reuzon why,
Because zshe lov'd my Dog and I

5. My dog is good to catch a Hen,
A Duck or Goose is vood vor Men;
And where good Company I spy
O thether gwoes my Dog and I.
6. My Mwother told I when I wur young,
If I did vollow the Strong Beer Pwoot,
That Drenk would pruv my auverdrow,
And meauk me wear a thzread-bare Cwoat.
7. My Dog has gotten zitch a Trick,
To visit Moids when thauy be zick;
When thauy be zick and like to die,
O thether gwoes my Dog and I.
8. When I have dree zixpences under my Thumb,
O then I be welcome wherever I come;
But when I have none, O then I pass by,
-Tis Poverty pearts good Company.
9. If I should die, as it may hap,
My Greauve shall be under the good Yeal tap;
In voulded Yarmes there wool us lie
Cheek by Jowl my Dog and I.

Source: From a manuscript copy, with piano arrangement. Allegedly the words were found "several centuries ago, in a place called Speach House in the Forest of Dean."
For an explanation of history of this song and the dialect, see Song Notes.