

The Somerset Poacher

When I was bound a - - ppren - tice in fam - ous Som - er - set - - shire _____

I served my ma - - ster clean - ly for al - - most se - - ven years _____

Till I took up to poach - ing as you shall quick - ly hear _____

It's my de - light on a shi - - ny night in the sea - son of the year _____

2. As me and my companions were setting of a snare
The gamekeeper came up to us; for him we did not care,
For we can wrestle and fight my boys jump over anywhere.
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.
3. As me and my companions were setting four or five
And taking of them up again we caught a hare alive,
We caught a hare alive my boys and through the woods did steer.
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.
4. We put him in a bag my boys, and then we trudged home
We took him to a neighbour's house and sold him for a crown
We sold him for a crown, my boys, but I did not tell you where
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.
5. Success to every gentleman that lives in Somersetshire
Success to every poacher that wants to sell a hare,
Bad luck to every gamekeeper who will not sell his deer,
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.

Source: Mrs Hawker, Broad Campden, 4th April 1908, collected by Percy Grainger