

## Gloucestershire Wassail (Coll. Vaughan Williams)



1. Wassail, wassail, all over the town,  
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown.  
Our bowl it is made of the green maple tree,  
With a wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.
2. Here's to the ox and to his right eye,  
Pray God send our master a good Xmas pie,  
A good Xmas pie, now we may all see  
That the wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.
3. Now here's to the ox and to his long tail  
Pray God send our master a good cask of ale  
A good cask of ale that we may all see  
That the wassailing bowl we'll drink unto thee.
4. Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock,  
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock,  
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin,  
All for to let us jolly wassailers in.
5. Come butler come fill us a bowl of the best  
And pray that your soul in heaven may rest,  
But if you should fill us a bowl of the small,  
To the Devil butler, bowl and all.

Source: Collected by Ralph Vaughan-Williams at the Swan Inn at Pembridge, Herefords (no date).

Notes: This wassail from an unknown singer in Herefordshire is included in this Gloucestershire songs project as it is the Gloucestershire wassail tune which Vaughan Williams published in 1913 as one of "Five English Folk Songs".