

Bernard & Louise Knapp

Family History

“Betty and the Bear”
a Poem Often Recited by
Justin Willis Knapp

FROM THE FILES OF BERNARD ELDEN KNAPP

Betty and the Bear

I found another little gem from the old book "Heart Throbs." I have shared stuff from this book with you before. For those of you not familiar with the book, it was published by the NATIONAL MAGAZINE IN 1904-1905. It contains stuff that was supposedly contributed by more than 50,000 people. This little poem is about a "brave" man and his wife. I hope you get a chuckle out of it.

BETTY AND THE BEAR.

In a pioneer's cabin out West, so they say,
A great big black grizzly trotted one day,
And seated himself on the hearth, and began
To lap the contents of a two gallon pan
Of milk and potatoes,—an excellent meal—
And then looked about to see what he could steal.
The lord of the mansion awoke from his sleep,
And, hearing a racket, he ventured to peep
Just out in the kitchen, to see what was there,
And was scared to behold a great grizzly bear.

So he screamed in alarm to his slumbering frau,
"Thar's a bar in the kitchen as big's a cow!"
"A what?" "Why, a bar!" "Well, murder him, then!"
"Yes, Betty, I will, if you'll first venture in."
So Betty leaped up, and the poker she seized,
While her man shut the door, and against it he squeezed.,
As Betty then laid on the grizzly her blows,
Now on his forehead, and now on his nose,
Her man through the keyhole kept shouting within,
"Well done, my brave Betty, now hit him again,
Now poke with the poker, and poke his eyes out."
So, with rapping and poking, poor Betty alone,
At last laid Sir Bruin as dead as a stone.

Now when the old man saw the bear was no more,
He ventured to poke his nose out of the door,
And there was the grizzly stretched on the floor.
Then off to the neighbors he hastened to tell
All the wonderful things that that morning befell;
And he published the marvelous story afar,
How "me and my Betty jist slaughtered a bar!
O yes, come and see, all the neighbors hev seed it,
Come and see what we did, me and Betty, we did it."
Anonymous



Justin Willis Knapp
often recited this poem