



BLADYS OF THE STEWPONY

Sabine Baring-Gould

Bladys of the Stewponney

by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

The setting, geography and history of this story by Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, author of *Onward Christian Soldiers* and other well-known hymns, are all accurate, or at least as accurate as local lore will allow. Kinver has long been a midlands beauty spot, and the UK National Trust own and open one of the rock-dwellings mentioned. The 'Stewponney' too was an inn until a year or two into the twenty-first century:

<http://www.blackcountrybugle.co.uk/News/Reminder-of-the-heyday-of-the-old-Stewponney-2.htm> - the present reader having stopped there for a drink and a meal many times.

The story, whether you call it a romance, a historical novel or a horror story - comprising as it does a young woman being offered as a prize in a bowling match, a wife-burning, highwaymen and buried treasure - is of course wholly fiction.

Total running time: 6:45:48

Read by Andy Minter

Cover design: Kathryn Delaney
Cover art: Elizabeth Jane Gardner, *The Farmer's Daughter* (detail), before 1922



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