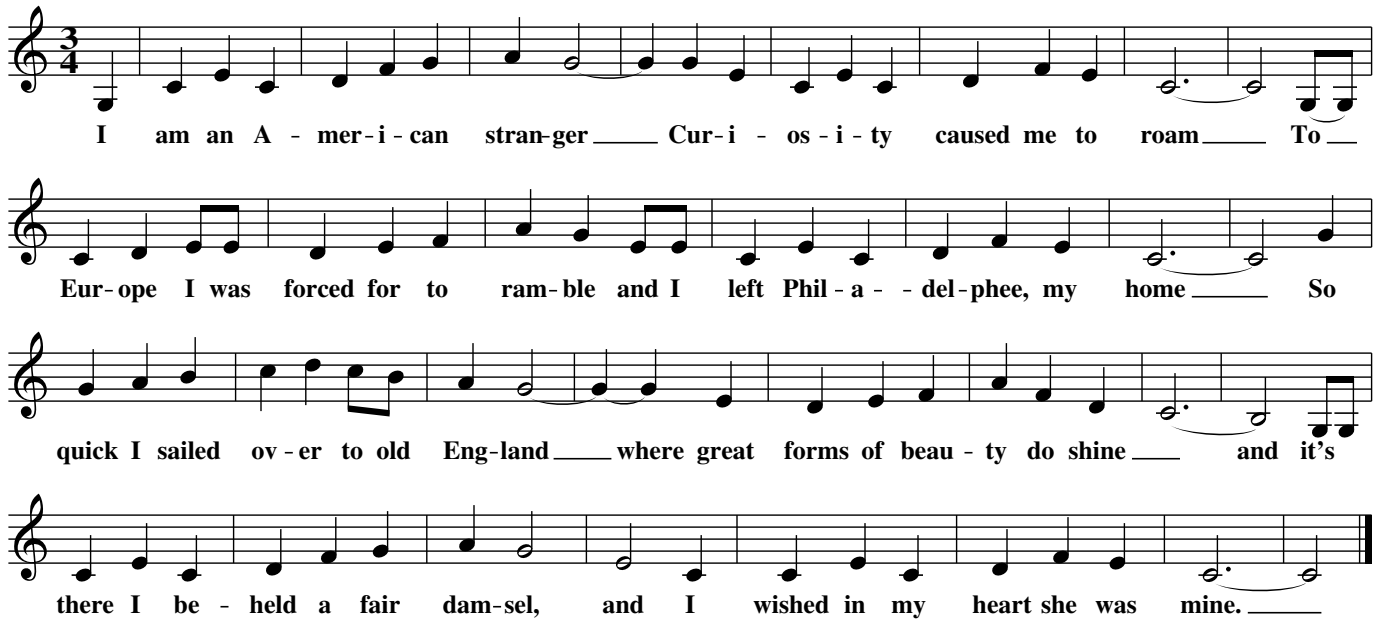


Green Mossy Banks of the Lea



The image shows the musical notation for the song 'Green Mossy Banks of the Lea'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, written in treble clef. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The lyrics are: 'I am an A - mer-i - can stran-ger ____ Cur-i - os - i - ty caused me to roam ____ To ____ Eur-ope I was forced for to ram-ble and I left Phil - a - - del-pee, my home ____ So quick I sailed ov - er to old Eng-land ____ where great forms of beau - ty do shine ____ and it's there I be - held a fair dam-sel, and I wished in my heart she was mine. ____'

2 I stepped up and wished her good morning
Her cheeks they did blush like a rose,
Says I "Your meadows are charming
Your guardian I'll be if you choose."
"Kind sir, I do not want no guardian,
And it's you are a stranger to me.
And yonder my father is coming
O'er the green mossy banks of the Lea.

3. I waited till up came her father,
I plucked up my spirits once more.
Saying "Kind sir, if this be your daughter,
She is the beautiful girl I adore.
Five thousand a year is my portion
And your daughter a lady shall be,
She shall ride in her chariot and horses
On the green mossy banks of the Lea."

4. Then they welcomed me home to their cottage,
Soon after in wedlock we joined.
And there I espied a fine castle,
With grandeur and splendour did shine.
So now the American stranger
All pleasure and pastime doth see,
To see how gently he courted Matilda
On the green mossy banks of the Lea.

Source: Mrs Elizabeth Smithers (61) at Tewkesbury. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp on 10 January 1908.

Notes: No words were collected with this tune, so they have been supplied from other local versions.