

The Blackberry Fold (Betsy the Milkmaid)

1. Pret-ty Bet - sy was a milk - maid and a milk - maid was she, With her
milk - ing cans round her, she was low I ag - - ree. "Do you
want an - - y milk?" pret - ty Bet - - sy did say, And it's
just as the squire, "Come you in pret - - ty maid."

2. "Step you in pretty milkmaid, set you down by me
Let's you and I get married, love, if we can agree."
(2 lines missed)
3. Through fields and through meadows this young couple walked,
For to hear how the squire to the milkmaid did talk;
"If you don't ale (sic) out in yonders green trees,
For it's first I will force you, and then you I will kill."
4. With kicking and struggling pretty Betsy got free,
And with his own weapon she pierced his body;
She pierc'd his body 'til the blood it did flow,
And she left him laid bleeding near the blackberry fold.
5. Pretty Betsy went home with a tear in her eye,
"I have wounded the squire," to the master she cried
"I have wounded the squire in his body quite deep
And I've let him laid bleeding near the blackberry fold."
6. The carriage was sent for to fetch him home,
And likewise a doctor to heal up his vownds;
They healed up his wound and they put him in bed
And the milkmaid was sent for to bind up his head.
7. Blue ribbons, blue ribbons, orange and green,
She's dressed in blue ribbons, she's now to be seen
He made her his lady in the room of the hall,
For it's best to live honest if you're ever so poor.

Source: Sung by Danny Brazil, Staverton, Gloucester 20th October 1977. Collected by Gwilym Davies.