

The Blackberry Fold (Betsy the Milkmaid)

The image shows the first four staves of a musical score for the song 'The Blackberry Fold'. The music is written in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with '1. Pret-ty Bet - sy was a milk - maid and a milk - maid was she, With her'. The second staff continues with 'milk - ing cans round her, she was low I ag - - ree. "Do you'. The third staff continues with 'want an - - y milk?" ___ pret - ty Bet - - sy did say, ___ And it's'. The fourth staff concludes with '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."
["To get married to you, sir, my age is too young,
To get married to you, sir, my time is not come."]
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.

Notes: Two lines in verse 2 supplied from singing of Danny's sister Lementina ("Lemmy")

©Gloucestershire Traditions