

DIED FOR LOVE

The version collected from Mr Broomfield was printed in the FSJ Vol 8 where the fifth verse was added from Mr Punt's version (See RVW Vol 2/91). The last verse is what is known as a floater (ie can be used at the end or included in any song using the same metre) and is found in many folk songs.

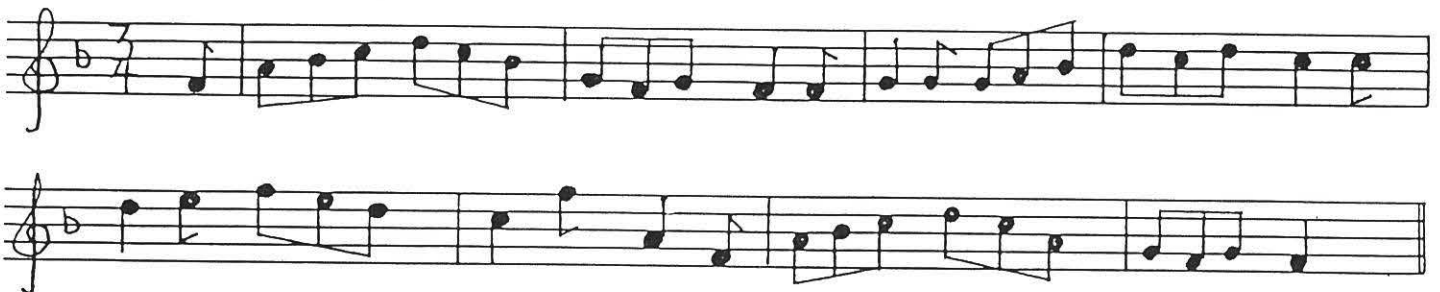
Her father bin a noble knight
Her mother bin a lady bright
I bin an only child of her
False lovier brought me to despair

There is a flower some people say
Will give ease by night and day
But if I could that flower find
'Twould ease my heart and cheer my mind

Then into her father's fields she run
Gathering flowers one by one
Then some she plucked and some she pulled
Until she gathered her apron full

Then unto her father's house she run
Told them over one by one
But of all the flowers she could not find
Would ease her heart and cheer her mind

Then dig my grave both long wide and deep
Put a marble stone at my head and feet
And in the middle a crown here above
To let the world know I died for love

Died for Love

I have so far not been able to find a similar song in any English collection but these interesting variants have been collected in America.

The following two extracts are from Folksongs from the South by Cox. Both Cox and Bronson are in favour of the fact that this song is a version of Famous Flower of serving men Child 106.

West Virginian version, first three verses adapted from The Famous flower of serving men Child 106.

I was by birth a lady fair
My fathers chief and only heir
But when my good old father dy'd
Then was I made a young bright bride

Mrs Walter Parker New Haven Mason County July 29 1916
writes 'I have copied this song from a quaint old manuscript
dated Feb 20 1859 signed Robert B Welch

My father he is a wealthy knight
My mother she is a lady bright
And I their child their only heir
But love has brought me to despair

I was courted by a wealthy knight
Who at my beauty took delight
He courted me both night and day
Until my heart he did betray

But now he has left me all alone
A discontented life to mourn
I'll mourn for him no other one
As long as I have life to mourn

The verses then follow

4. There is a tavern in the town
Where my love goes and sits him down
5. A grief to me I'll tell you why
6. Down in the meadow I've heard say
7. She picked of purple she picked of green
8. Now these green flowers must be your bed
9. Now when they found that she was cold
10. O cruel man, what that you say
11. They dug her grave both wide and deep

THE FAMOUS FLOWER OF SERVING MEN

Sung by Mrs John Williams (nee Violet Selena Hawkins) Iowa
city Iowa learned from Carrie Buker in 1865-70 in Penn Town
Ship Johnson County Iowa recorded by Mrs Flora Brennan
1922-23. Communicated by Prof Charles A Williams.

My father he was a noble lord
My mother she was a lady fair
And I poor child their only heir
False love has brought me to despair