

The Thresher Man

W Newport

Collected by Francis Collinson, Boughton Aluph, 15th June 1952

Francis Collinson Manuscript Collection COL/3/7D

Roud 19

1. A Nobleman met

With a Thresher man one day

Said the Nobleman to the Thresherman

And unto him did say

You have a large family

I know it to be true

And how do you maintain them

So well as you do

[repeat last four lines]

2. Sometimes I reap sometimes I mow

A hedging or a ditching

Or a ploughing

I do go

Nothing comes amiss to me

The 'arrow or the plough

So I get my living

By the sweat of my brow

3. [3rd verse incomplete]

Times are very hard sir

And we are very poor

We scarcely keep the ravens and the wolves from our door

Here is fifty acres of good land

I'll freely give to thee

To maintain you and your wife

And your sweet family

4. I thank the gracious Nobleman

To think of us poor souls

I hope your soul in heaven

At rest on the right hand

While us poor souls are left behind

We have a chance to mend

And we will follow after

As well as we can.

Words written out by Mr Newport and sent to Collinson, 15th June 1952.