

An Old Man He Courted Me

Mrs Powell

Collected by Francis Jekyll, Minster, Sheppey, August 1910

George Butterworth Collection GB/12/4, GB/7c/13

Roud 210

An old man he court-ed me, Hey down der-ry down, An
old man he court-ed me, Hey der-ry down, An
old man he court-ed me, Swore he would mar-ry me,
Girls for your sakes ne-ver wed an old man

1. An old man he courted me, Hey down derry down,
An old man he courted me, Hey derry down,
An old man he courted me,
Swore he would marry me,
Girls for your sakes never wed an old man.
2. When we were going to church, Hey down derry down,
When we were going to church, Hey derry down,
When we were going to church
His money he begrudged,
Girls for your sakes never wed an old man.
3. When we were going to bed, Hey down derry down,
When we were going to bed, Hey derry down,
When we were going to bed

He never turned his head,
Girls for your sakes never wed an old man.

4. When he fell fast asleep, Hey down derry down,
When he fell fast asleep, Hey derry down,
When he fell fast asleep
Out of bed I did creep,
Into the arms of a jolly young man.

5. There we did sport and play, Hey down derry down,
There we did sport and play, Hey derry down,
There we did sport and play
Until the break of day
Then I returned to my jolly old man.

These words are taken from the George Butterworth Collection Volume 4 (GB/4/32). No source singer is given in the MS, but the first verse tallies exactly with that taken down from Mrs Powell, and it seems probable that all five verses were noted from her.