

Barbara Ellen

Mr Ford

Collected by Anne Geddes Gilchrist, Blackham, Sussex, June 1906

Anne Geddes Gilchrist Collection AGG/3/6/10b

Roud 54

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and consists of six staves of music. The first four staves correspond to the first four lines of the lyrics. The first staff is in 3/4 time, the second in 2/4, and the third in 2/4. The fourth staff is in 3/4 time and ends with a double bar line. The fifth and sixth staves are in 2/4 time and correspond to the fifth and sixth lines of the lyrics. The lyrics are: In Lanc- a- shire_ I was bred and born,_ In Lon- don is_ my dwel- ling; And there I court- ed a fair young girl, Her name was Bar- b'ra El- len Verse 4, lines 3 and 4 And in that purse a gay gold watch, a dia- mond ring_ I left for Bar- b'ra El- len

1. In Lancashire I was bred and born,
In London is my dwelling;
And then I courted a fair young girl
Whose name was Barbara Ellen
[repeat last two lines]
2. I sent one of my servants down
Where this young damsel was living:
"Come up, come up, and see him die,

If your name is Barb'ra Ellen.

3. She slowly put all on her shoes
And slowly she came to him,
And when she came to his bedside
She says "Young man, you're dying"
4. "Look up, look up at the head of my bed,
You'll see a purse a-hanging,
And in that purse a gay gold watch – a diamond ring –
I left for Barb'ra Ellen.
5. Look down, look down at the feet of my bed,
You'll see a basin standing,
And in that basin the gore of blood
My own heart's shed for Ellen"
6. As I was going across the fields
I heard the church-bell tolling
And every toll it seemed to say
Cruel-hearted Barb'ra Ellen.
And every toll it seemed to say
Hardhearted Barb'ra Ellen.
7. As I was going along the streets
I saw a corpse a-coming.
I asked of them to set him down
And let me gaze upon him.
8. The more I looked, the more I laughed,
The further I got away from them;
His parents, ah, they cried "For shame!
Hardhearted Barb'ra Ellen!"