

Barbara Allen

Sent by Mrs Grahame to Lucy Broadwood, April 1904

Lucy Broadwood MSS Collection LEB/5/180/1, LEB/5/180/2, *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* 1 (1904) p.265

Roud 54

In Scar-let Town where I was born There was a fair maid dwell-in' Made
ev'- ry heart cry "Well-a- day"! Her name was Barb- ara All- en All
in the mer- ry month of May, When green buds they were swell-in' Young
Jim- my Grove on his death-bed lay For love of Barb- ara All- en.

1. In Scarlet Town where I was born
There was a fair maid dwell-in'
Made ev'ry heart cry "Well-a-day!"
Her name was Barb'ra Allen.
2. All in the merry month of May,
When green buds they were swell-in'
Young Jim-my Grove on his death-bed lay
For love of Barb'ra Allen.
3. He sent his man in to her there
To the house where she was dwellin'
"Oh! Come I pray my master see,
If your name be Barb'ra Allen."
4. "For death is printed on his brow

And o'er his heart is stealing
Oh! Haste I pray to comfort him
If your name be Barb'ra Allen"

5. "If death be printed on his brow
And o'er his heart is stealin'
Little better shall he be
For bonnie Barb'ra Allen

6. So slowly slowly she came up,
And slowly she came nigh him
And all she said when there she came
Was "Young man, I think you're dying!"

7. He turned his face unto the wall
And bitter frief he fell in
"Adieu Adieu" he said to all
"Adieu to you Barb'ra Allen:"

8. As she was walking in the fields
She heard his knell a tollin'
And ev'ry stroke, it seemed to say
"Hard hearted Barb'ra Allen:"

9. Her way she wended to her house
Quite overwhelmed with sorrow
"Oh! Mother Mother make my bed
For I shall die tomorrow:"

10. "Hard hearted maiden him to slight
Who loved me so dearly
I would that I had kinder been
When he was alive and near me:"

11. "Farewell" she said "ye maidens all

And shun this fault I've fell in
And take a warning by the fall
Of cruel Barb'ra Allen."

"Learnt from Kentish squire's daughters (last died vy old in 1865)"