

Act 2: The Adolescent Years

From Sayers Creek to St Andrews Dock;

An alternative history of folk music & England

To catch up.

By the 15th century, England was largely agricultural and I guess you might be able to detect a faint aroma of farmyard wafting around the room!

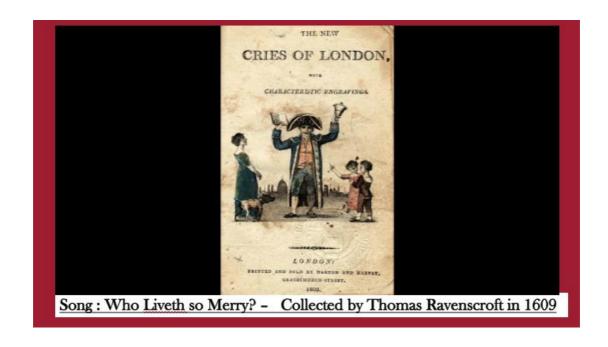
The printing press had greatly sped up both the transmission of songs and gradually the business of selling new songs as broadsheet ballads started to spring up.

Our first real description of folk music, or certainly English country music comes in the book The Complaynt of Scotland which was written in 1547 by that prolific and well known author Anon!

Extract from the Complaynt of Scotland written in 1547 by that prolific author Anon. It describes Morris dancing and folk song in England.

Thomas Ravenscroft was one of the earliest collectors of folk songs and the next song comes from his book Deuteromelia published in 1609.

Song: Who Liveth so Merry - Psaltery and HFC



Who Liveth So Merry

Intro: psaltery

Who liveth so merry in all this land
As doth the poor widow who selleth the sand
And ever she sings as I can guess
Will you buy any sand, any sand mistress
Will you buy any sand, any sand mistress

The broomsman he maketh his living most sweet
With selling his brooms from street to street
Who could imagine a pleasanter thing
Than all the day long doing nothing but sing

psaltery

And the chimney sweeper all the long day
He singeth and sweepeth the soot away
And when he gets home although he be weary
With his sweet wife he maketh full merry
With his sweet wife he maketh full merry

But the cobbler he sits and he cobbles till noon

He works at his shoes till they be done

And doth he not fear and doth he not say

For he knows that his work very soon will decay

Psaltery

The merchantman sails across the sea

He lies at his shipboard with little ease

He's always in fear that the rock it be near

How can he be merry and be of good cheer

How can he be merry and be of good cheer

And the servingman waiteth from street to street

With blowing his nails and beating his feet

He serveth for forty shillings a year

How can he be merry and be of good cheer

psaltery

Who liveth so merry and be of such sport

As those that be of the poorest sort

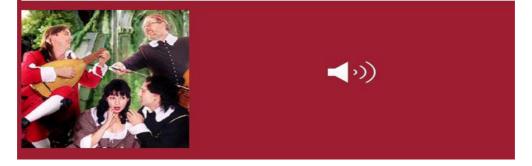
The poorest sort whosoever they be

They gather together by one two and three

And every man shall spend his penny
Why make such a show 'mongst a great a many.
And every man shall spend his penny
Why make such a show 'mongst a great a many.
Why make such a show 'mongst a great a many.

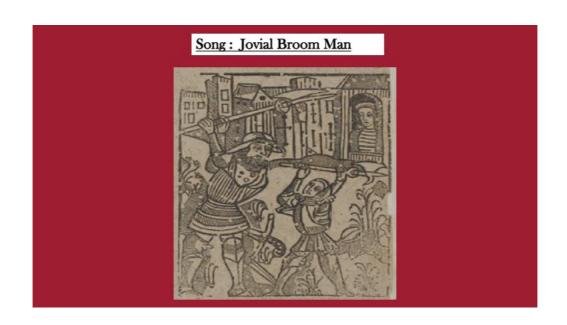


Extract from the Singing Simpkin and Other Bawdy Jigs read by BBC Radio 3's Early Music Show presenter, author, academic & singer with the City Waites, Lucie Skeaping;



The song Jovial Broom Man combined all of these elements and it is worth noting that for many years tunes and songs were interchangeable. This means that for many songs no tune was given and you fitted the words as best you could to a tune that you knew. The tune in this case is called Jamaica and the words are from a ballad play. It was extremely popular in 17th century England.

Song: Jovial Broom Man - Dulcimer & HFC



Jovial Broom Man

Room for a lad that's come from seas

Hey! Jolly Broom Man,

That gladly now would take his ease,

And therefore make me room man.

To France, the Netherlands and Spain,
Hey! Jolly Broom Man,
I crossed the seas and back again,
And therefore make me room man.

Yet in these countries there lived I

Hey! Jolly Broom Man

And Valiant soldiers I've seen die

And therefore make me room man.

Ten hundred gallants there I killed,
Hey! Jolly Broom Man,
And besides a world of blood I spilled,
And therefore make me room man.

In Germany I took a town,
Hey! Jolly Broom Man,
Threw the walls there upside down,
And therefore make me room man.

When all the people there had gone

Hey! Jolly Broom Man, I held the town myself alone

And therefore make me room man.

At Tilbury Camp with Captain Drake
Hey! Jolly Broom Man,
I made the Spanish fleet to quake.
And therefore make me room man.

When I had won all of his fame
Hey! Jolly Broom Man,
I was honoured by all men the same
And therefore make me room man.

At Holland's Leaguer there I fought

Hey! Jolly Broom Man,

But there the service proved too hot.

And therefore make me room man.

Then from the League returned I

Hey! Jolly Broom Man,

Naked, hungry, cold and dry

And therefore make me room man.

But here I've now compassed the globe,

Hey! Jolly Broom Man,

And I'm returned us poor as Jobe,

And therefore make me room man.

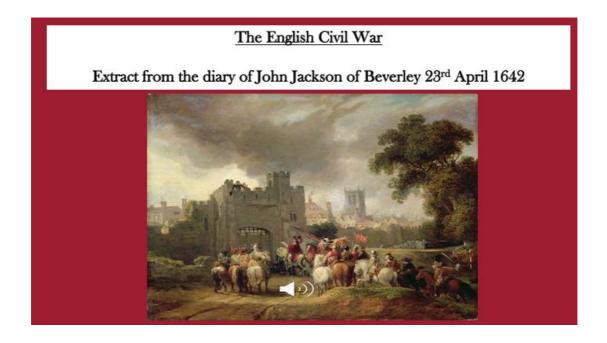
And now I'm safe returned here,

Hey! Jolly Broom Man,

Here's to you in a cup of English beer.

And therefore make me room man

The English Civil War



Song: 1642/Fighting for old Charlie – Dulcimer & HFC



1642 – Fighting for Old Charlie

In sixteen hundred and forty two
I knew what I had got to do
I left my home and my family too
and joined the Royalist Army

Tour-a-lour-a-lour-a-lay
Tour-a-lour-a-lour-a-lay
Tour-a-lour-a-lour-a-lay
I joined the Royalist Army

In sixteen hundred and forty three
those round heads they were after me
but we were on winning spree
Fighting for old Charlie
[chorus]

In sixteen hundred and forty four we fought a battle at Martson Moor many men died to uphold the law Fighting for old Charlie [chorus]

In sixteen hundred and forty five our fortunes they did take a dive.

Thanks to the Lord I'm still alive Fighting for old Charlie [chorus]

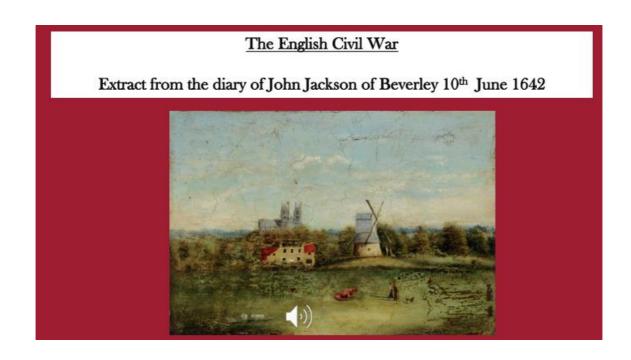
In sixteen hundred and forty six
those Roundheads, they were up to tricks
they'd got our army in fix
Fighting for old Charlie
[chorus]

In sixteen hundred and forty seven
most of us were up in heaven
the rest of us were down in Devon
Fighting for old Charlie
[chorus]

In sixteen hundred and forty eight
Cromwell's knocking on the gate
for most of us he's come too late
we're Fighting for old Charlie
[chorus]

In sixteen hundred and forty nine
now we've come to the end of the line
the king is dead, he's lost is head
Fighting for old Charlie

[chorus]



Song: The Diggers Song - Kath & Chris START NOTE B



The Diggers Song

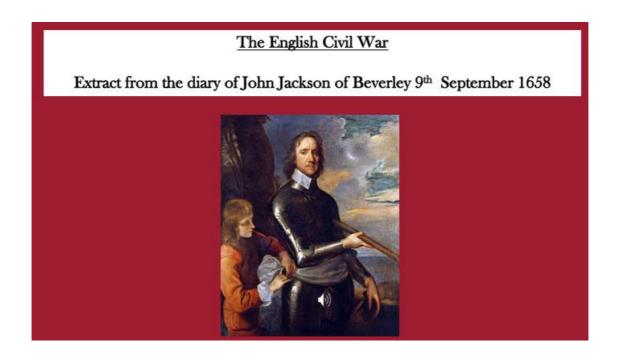
You noble Diggers all, stand up now, stand up now,
You noble Diggers all, stand up now,
The waste land to maintain, seeing Cavaliers by name
Your digging do disdain and your persons all defame
Stand up now, Diggers all.

Your houses they pull down, stand up now, stand up now,
Your houses they pull down, stand up now.
Your houses they pull down to fright poor men in town,
But the gentry must come down and the poor shall wear the crown.
Stand up now, Diggers all.

With spades and hoes and ploughs, stand up now, stand up now,
With spades and hoes and ploughs, stand up now.
Your freedom to uphold, seeing Cavaliers are bold
To kill you if they could and rights from you withhold.
Stand up now, Diggers all.

The gentry are all round, stand up now, stand up now,
The gentry are all round, stand up now.
The gentry are all round, on each side they are found,
Their wisdom's so profound to cheat us of the ground.
Stand up now, Diggers all.

The club is all their law, stand up now, stand up now,
The club is all their law, stand up now.
The club is all their law to keep poor folk in awe,
That they no vision saw to maintain such a law.
Glory now, Diggers all.



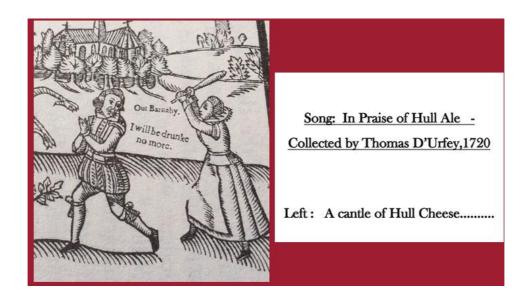
It was enough to drive a man to drink!

After a visit to a local inn, it was noted by a John Taylor about beer in Hull.

"There at mine inne, each night I took mine ease: and there I gat a cantle of Hull Cheese"

Meaning he has drunk strong ale, Hull having a reputation for making the strongest and best ales in England.

Song: In Praise of Hull Ale - Cittern & HFC



The Praise of Hull Ale

Let's wet the whistle of the Muse
That sings the praise of every juice
This house affords for mortal use
Which nobody can deny
Which nobody can deny

Here's Ale of Hull, which 'tis well known
Kept King and Keyser out of town
Now in, will never hurt the Crown
Which nobody can deny
Which nobody can deny

Here's Cyder too, ye little wot
How oft 'twill make ye go to pot
'tis Red-streak all or it is not
Which nobody can deny
Which nobody can deny

Here's scholar that has doft his Gown
And donn'd his cloak and come to town
'till alls up drink his College down
Which nobody can deny
Which nobody can deny

For bottle Ale though it be windy
Whereof I cannot chuse but mind ye
I would not have it left behind ye
Which nobody can deny
Which nobody can deny

For ease of Heart here's that will do it

A liquor you may have to boot
Invites you or the Devil to do it

Which nobody can deny

Which nobody can deny

Let's wet the whistle of the Muse
That sings the praise of every juice
This house affords for mortal use
Which nobody can deny
Which nobody can deny

In 1728 Henry Fielding published his popular ballad play the Grub Street Opera. Fielding came to symbolize the anti-establishment element that made ballad plays so popular which lead to them being banned and licensed in 1737.

Along with Ballad Plays the vendors who sold the Broadsheet Ballads were similarly frowned upon as discovered by Elizabeth Raynor in 1733.

Ipswich Journal 6th November 1733

Yesterday one Elizabeth Rayner was committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster by Sir John Gonson, Chairman of the Sessions of the Peace for Westminster, and Thomas Lane, Esq; for publishing and selling to the Hawkers a very scandalous, seditious and obscene ballad, entitled, The Disappointed Marriage; or a Hue and Cry after an Outlandish Monster; And we hear that several Hawkers are committed to Bridewell for selling the said Ballad.

Song: The Loving Chambermaid - Maggie Graham.



The Loving Chambermaid

Shut the door after me pull off the boule
I'll blow out the candle for the best of you all
And all the world shall ne'er me persuade
For that I'm a maid and a very good maid

'tis a known maxime from ages long track'd

A chamber-maids simple unless she be crack'd

Then all the world shall ne'er me persuade

For that I'm a maid and a very good maid

Although my maidenhead sporting took flight
With heaving and thrusting I bid it goodnight
For all the world shall ne'er me persuade
For that I'm a maid and a very good maid

For I can pass currant and sell it again

To some fop in the city who ne'er yet was in

And all the world shall ne'er me persuade

For that I'm a maid and a very good maid

The famous matroens of Whetstone will tell
That they can a maidenhead sixty times sell
Then all the world shall ne'er me persuade
For that I'm a maid and a very good maid

Once having a smatch to trading they fall
Set up with a maidenhead common to all
And keep open warehouse and none shall persuade
But that they are maidens pass currant for maids

For she's a mean strumpet that knows not the tricks

To try with one maidenhead dozens of......

Then all the world shall ne'er me persuade

But as maidens go I'm a very good maid!

"The Northern Lasses Lamentation

or

The Unhappy Maid's Misfortune

Since she did from her friends depart

No earthly thing can cheer her heart,

But still she doth her case lament,

Being always fill'd with discontent,

Resolving to do nought but mourn,

Till to the north she doth return"

Song: North Country Lass – Rosie Butler



Song: North Country Lass
Or
The Northern Lasses
Lamentation

North Country Lass (The Northern Lasses Lamentation)

A North Country maid

Up to London has strayed

Although with her nature it did not agree

And she's wept and she's sighed

And she's wrung her hands and cried

Oh I wish once again in the North I could be

Chorus (after each verse):

Where the oak and the ash and the bonny ivy tree
All flourish and bloom in my North Country

And lament my dear home

Where lads and lasses are making the hay

Where the bells they do ring

And the little birds they sing

And the maidens and meadows are pleasant and gay

No doubt if I please
I could marry with ease
For where bonnie lasses are lovers will come
But the lad that I wed
Must be North Country bred
And must carry me back to my North Country home

End of Act 2

10 minute drinks break!

