

Boring for Oil

As sung by
Lewis Winfield Moody
08-27-1940 Plainfield, WI

One morn-ing in a ram-ble I met this fair maid. Tho'
Hand-some and love-ly, to her I did say, "For all of my for-tune I'm
will-ing to toil, if you show me a place to go bor-ing for oil."

Verse 1.

One morning in a ramble I met this fair maid.
Tho' Handsome and lovely, to her I did say,
"For all of my fortune I'm willing to toil,
If you show me a place to go boring for oil."

Verse 2.

The fair maid she stammered, "Young man I declare
I know where that place is and watch it with care.
And no one has seen it since I was a child.
And if you should go there you shall surely strike oil."

Verse 3.

"Fain," say I to myself, "my fortune is made.
If you show me that place now I'll see you're repaid."
She hoisted her garments for me to see all
And she showed me the place to go boring for oil.

Verse 4.

a hundred times over,
And I bade her be seated on nature's green shore.
She screamed and she hollered, and tried to recoil,
When I pulled out old satan, went boring for oil.

Verse 5.

We had not bored long
When the oil from her oiler then gently did flow.
She screamed and she hollered my character to soil,
"You've broken my bladder a-boring for oil."

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 263, and HST.

Editor's notes:

The Web page below cites Peters' version as well as an informant named R. Greenhaus, and its transcription fills in some lyrics that are difficult to understand and thus left out of Peters'. The first line of verse four reads "I thanked that fair maiden a hundred time o'er," and the first line of verse five is "We had not bored long, when the maid cried 'Go slow!'"

Sources:

"Boring for Oil." From the Digital Tradition Mirror. <<http://sniff.numachi.com/~rickheit/dtrad/pages/tiBOREOIL;ttBOREOIL.html>>

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

K.G.