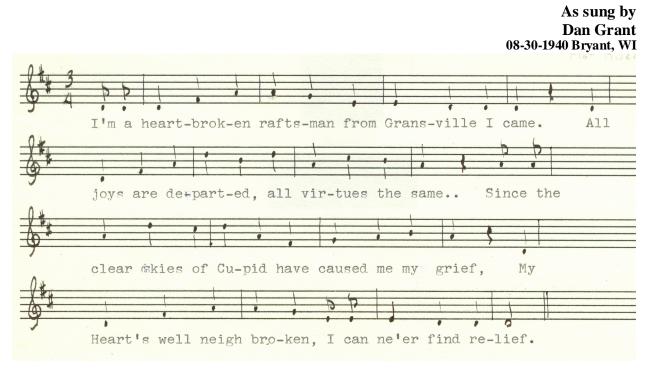
Flat River Girl



Verse 1.

- I'm a heart-broken raftsman from Gransville I came.
- All joys are departed, all virtues the same.
- Since the clear skies of Cupid have caused me my grief,
- My heart's well-neigh broken, I can ne'er find relief.

Verse 2.

- My occupation, I'm a raftsman where the Flat River flows.
- I've printed my name on both rocks and the shore.
- In shops, farms and households I'm very well known,
- They call me Jack Haggarty, the pride of my town.

Verse 3.

My story I'll tell you without much delay. A neat little lassie my heart stole away. She was a miller's daughter, close by riverside, And I always intended to make her my bride.

Verse 4.

Her form, like a lily, was slender and neat. Her hair hung in ringlets to her tiny white feet. Her voice was as sweet as the wind on a leaf. Her skin like the breast of the white smiling sea.

Verse 5.

I took her to supper, to parties and balls.

- Sunday morning went riding from the first time I call.
- I called her my "darling," what a gem for a wife. When I think of her treachery, I could forfeit my life.

Verse 6.

I dressed her in the finest of muslins and lace And the finest of jewels that I could encase. I gave her my wages, the same to keep safe. I begrudged her of nothing I had on the place.

Verse 7.	Verse 10.
I worked on the river and saved a lot of stake.	But it were on her mother I lay the blame,
I was steadfast and steady and ne'er played the rake.	She'd wrecked both our lives and blackened my name.
I was buoyant and smiling on the stiff boiling stream	She'd thrown off the rigging that God would soon tie
Her face was before me, it haunted my dream.	And made me a loner 'til the day that I die.
Verse 8.	Verse 11.
One day on the river a note I received,	On the banks of Flat River I no more can rest
She said from her promise herself she released.	So I told them my feeling and pulled for the
She'd wedded a lover she long since delayed	west.
And the next time I'd see her she'd not be a	I will go to Muskegon, a new job to find.
maid.	I'm leaving Flat River and a false love behind.
Verse 9.	Verse 12.
Now getting this note sure caused some surprise.	Come all jolly raftsmen, so brave and so true,
When I think of her now it brings tears to my	Don't love a young girl, you'll be beat if you do.
eyes.	When you see a sweet lassie with bright golden
For it filled me with anger and made me half	hair
mad,	Then remember Jack Haggarty and his Flat River
I'm weary with heartsick and wish myself dead.	Girl.
Transcription and bries from the Helene Stratman Thomas Collection	
Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.	

Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 140.

Editor's notes:

Linscott writes of her informant: "True to the traditions of the song, the singer himself did not know Haggerty but insisted that he knew some one who did. ... The singer knew that Haggerty's name is chiseled on a rock along the Flat River;" which "is near Greenville, Maine, at the foot of Moosehead Lake" (Linscott 214). Linscott suggests that the line "I'll go back to West Hegan/Some pleasures to find" in her version "may be a corruption of Miss Hegan's, which was a famous rendezvous in Bangor for the blow-in of the lumberjack" (Linscott 214). In Mr. Grant's version, those lines are "I will go to Muskegon, a new job to find;" Muskegon is a town in Michigan.

Alternate titles/related songs: "Jack Haggerty."

Sources:

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K.G.