

Marnan Fair

Greig-Duncan 885 (Moss of Balloch Fair)

This is one of the songs Maggie loved to hear Jimmy McBeath sing. It's unusual in that it tells of a man who is so in love with his wife, he has to tell all his friends how great married life is.

My frien's that's gaithered here the nicht
Come listen tae my tale
An I'll tell ye o a lass I like
An she likes me as weel
She has rosy cheeks an ruby lips
An bonny curly hair
An I met her ower in Foggieloa
The nicht o a Marnan fair

*So hurra boys hurra
For the life o a married man
I've been as happy as a king mi lads
Since I mairried Mary Ann
She's a pair o een that ne'er wis seen
An the wye she wore her hair
An I met her ower in Foggieloa
The nicht o a Marnan fair*

The first time that I've taen her hame
My bottle it wis fou
The first time I gaed yon lang road
I'm sure I'll niver rue
Her parents they hiv gaed consent
So we hired a coach and pair
And it happened we've got mairried on
The nicht o a Marnan fair

We've wandered through the heather
Aye the thistle and the sloe
And that very nicht mi lads
I've taen her tae a show
I've bocht her candy by the lumps
She thocht that it wis rare
An I've kissed the candy aff o her lips
The nicht o a Marnan fair

An noo that we are mairried
And tae end oor earthly joys
I'll tell ye on the quiet
We've been blessed wi a pair o boys
They're the very image o their daa
The neighbours a declare
So we're gaan tae open a baby show
The nicht o a Marnan fair

bocht = bought
daa = dad / father
een = eyes
Foggieloa = local name for Aberchirder
fou = full
gaan = going
gaed = went
Marnan Fair = feeing market held at Aberchirder
thocht = thought
wye = way