

The Rovin' Ploughboy

101 Scottish Songs

John MacDonald of Pitgaveny, Elgin, and better known as 'The Singing Molecatcher' composed the last verse of this song in the 1920s. It owes its tune and much of its words to the ballad 'The Gypsy Laddies', and is still very popular in Scotland. Emma leads on this one.

Come saddle tae me ma auld grey mare
Come saddle tae me ma pony-o
For I'm gaun awa tae yon high hieland hills
Awa wi ma rovin ploughboy-o

*Ploughboy-o, ploughboy-o
I'll follow the rovin ploughboy-o*

Champion ploughboy ma Geordie lad
Wi cups and medals and prizes-o
In bonnie Deveron-side there is none can compare
Compare wi ma rovin ploughboy-o

Yestreen I lay in a fine feather bed
Wi sheets and blankets sae cosy-o
The nicht I maun lie in a cauld barn-shed
Rowed in the airms o ma ploughboy-o

Sae fare ye weel tae auld Huntly toon
And fare ye weel Drumdelgie-o
For I'm gaun awa tae yon high hieland hills
Awa wi ma rovin ploughboy-o

auld=old
awa=away
cauld=cold
gaun=going
hieland=highland
ma=my
maun=must
nicht=night
Rowed=held, embraced
tae=to
toon=town
weel=well
wi=with
yestreen=yesterday, in the past
yon=those