

2.5 Uncle Pengerric / The Keenly Lode

Sources

Archival (Manuscript / Sound)

Wren Trust, Okehampton, Baring Gould Personal Copy Ms, Vol.3 Fiche 8, p.228, song 531.

Publications (Book / Album)

William Bentinck Forfar, "The Bal - Tis a Bra' Keenly Lode", (London, J Williams, ?1860).

Sabine Baring Gould, Ed C Sharp, *Songs of the West*, (London, Methuen, 1905), Song no. 46.

Alfred Percival Graves *The Celtic Song Book: Being representative of the 6 Celtic Nations*. (London, Ernest Benn, 1928).

Racca 2 (Calstock, Racca Project, 1997).

Notes

William Bentinck Forfar published a series of dialect stories between 1859 and 1871

e.g

Pentowan: Or, the Adventures of Gregory Goulden, Esq., and Tobias Penhale; a Cornish Story. (Helston, Unknown publisher, 1859)

The Wizard of West Penwith : A Tale of the Land's-End. (Penzance: The Library, 1871).

So it is likely that "Bra Keenly Lode" was published at about this time.

Baring Gould Personal Copy Ms, Vol3 Fiche 8, p228, song 531:

Sent by S Varcoe, innkeeper, The Lugger Polperro 1894 as sung by an old man in his Kitchen – words pasted into notebook .

Baring Gould, Ed C Sharp, Songs of the West: Methuen London 1905: Song no 46 Notes p 14

Mr Bussell and I spent a week in 1894 at the Lugger Inn, Fowey, collecting songs. We met there one day an old miner, who asked us if we knew "The Keenly Lode," and on our saying that we did not, he gave us a long song on mining, that, however, lacked point. I have therefore re-composed the song. The air is that employed for "The Crocodile," an extravagant ballad, which

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has been published by Miss Broadwood in her "County Songs." Her tune is practically the same as ours, but there are some differences. "The Crocodile" is a very popular ballad among old song-men, but no one would care to sing it in a drawing-room or at a concert, because it is vastly silly." A "Keenly Lode" is a lode that promises well. A "Ball" is a mine in Cornish. In Cornwall every old man is termed "Uncle." "We have taken down" "The Meat Pie" to the same air.

Henry Jenner contributed a version to Graves Celtic Song Book , apparently provided by Baring Gould.

Lyrics and Music

As composed by Bentick Forfar circa 1860

THE BAL.

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "THE BAL.". It consists of three systems of music. The first system is a piano introduction marked "Andante." with a treble and bass clef. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system includes a vocal line with lyrics: "If you'll lis-ten to me for a moment you shall Hear all a..bout try...ing and work...ing a Bal; How the". The piano accompaniment for the vocal lines consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

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The image shows a page of a musical score, numbered '2' in the top left corner. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The music is in a simple, folk-like style with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: 'lode is dis-co-ver'd by a small ha-zel twig, Carried o-ver the ground by some know-ing old Prig, Who knows when his dour-ing has an-swer'd its end; For where e-ver the lode is the ha-zel will bend, But when these'.

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The image displays a musical score for the song 'The Keenly Lode'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'mys-ti-cal rites are per-form'd in the night, The lode's some-times dis-co-ver'd by a Phos-pho-ric light. Aw! 'tis a Bra' Keenly lode. Aw! 'tis a Bra' Keenly lode. lode.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. At the bottom of the page, there is a small text block: 'THIS MUSIC TRANSFERRED FROM BENTON'S STORE & PRINTED BY W. WILLIAMS, STROUD STREET, 110 ST. JOHN'S STREET, CHICHESTER'.

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Words collected by Baring Gould 1890

The Keenly Lode Transcription By Martin Graebe: Baring-Gould Ms. Ref. PC 3. 228 (531).

The Ball or Tis a Bra Keenly Load.

If you listen to me a moment you shall
Hear all about trying and working the Ball
How the load is discovered by a small hazel twig
Carried over the ground by some knowing old prig
Who knows when his Dowzing has answered its end
For wherever the Load is the hazel will bend
But when these mystical rites are performed in the night
The Lode's sometimes discovered by a phosphoric light.

Chorus. Ow tis a Bra Keenly load
 Ow tis a Bra Keenly load

When the knowing old Dowzer this discovery made
He marks out the spot and then calls his comrade
Saying, "Hallo Cozen Jan dee come long wi me
Tis the Keenlist gozen thee ever didst see
Wa my pick an my gad. I've ben working valnight
And a g'eat piece of mundic is gest heaved in sight
Aw if that is the caase then says Jan, I'll be bound
With a few hours work en the Load'll be found

Chorus. Ow tis a Bra Keenly Load
 Ow tis a Bra Keenly Load

When they came to the Load then the water came in
And they couldn't tell whether twas copper or tin
Come says Jan lev'es go to the kiddle e-wink
And set down, touch our pipes and ha sumthin to drink
And tomorrow will call upon Capⁿ Polglaze
And ax hes advice when ve laid forth ur caase
He do know some pick chaps up to Lunnon I'm towed
So he can promice our tin in exchange for their gowld

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Chorus. Ow tis a Bra Keenly Load
 Ow tis a Bra Keenly Load.

Now Captain Polglaze was a person well known
Who quickly by mining a rich man had grown
So he sampled the ore which the two men brought him
And advised them by all means to put up a whim
And to fork out the water with a pump and a wheel
While he to his friends would instant appeal
And to London he'd go with a sample of ore
Loar' says Jan, I shud like to go with he plaise sure

Chorus. Ow tis a Bra Keenly Load
 Ow tis a Bra Keenly Load

They went up to Bristol by a steamer from Hayle
And proceeded from Bristol to London by rail
And having finished their business without much delay
They came back to Cornwall again the same way
And when they returned to their comrades again
They were look'd upon more like geat angels then men
They met that same night. Cousin Jack took the chair
And then his adventures he told to the pair.

Chorus. Ow tis a Bra Keenly Lode
 Ow tis a Bra Keenly Lode

P.S. some words are spelt as they are pronounced.

Sent me by S. Varcoe, innkeeper The Lugger, Padstow 1894 as sung by an old man in his kitchen.

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Version 3 Racca 1997

The Keenly Lode

The musical score for 'The Keenly Lode' is presented in four staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a repeat sign after the fourth measure. The second staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes, including a slur over the final two measures. The third staff continues with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line. The fourth staff concludes the piece with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line.

