The Lovers' Tasks (traditional Kentucky)

A version of Child ballad #2 collected in Kentucky by Cecil Sharp. In 80 Appalachian Folk-Songs.

Go tell him to clear me one acre of ground,
Setherwood, sale, rosemary, and thyme,
Betwixt the sea and the sea-land side
Then he'll be a true lover of mine.

Go tell him to plough it with a plough of old leather And hoe it all over with a pea-fowl's feather.

Go tell him to plant it with one grain of corn And reap it all down with an old ram's horn

Go tell her to make me a cambric shirt,
Setherwood, sale, rosemary, and thyme,
Without any needle or needle's work,
Then she'll be a true lover of mine.

Go tell her to wash it in yonders well Where never was water nor rain never fell

Go tell her to hang it on yonders thorn, Which never bore flower since Adam was born