

## THE PLOUGHBOY OF THE LOWLANDS

(traditional New Hampshire)

*It should be noted that, in the first verse, "plain and homely" refers to simplicity of lifestyle and a satisfaction with domestic pursuits and is no reflection on the appearance of the main character...or the singer.*

To be the daughter of a lord my fate it seemed to be.  
And Father chose a wealthy lord my husband for to be.  
But I was plain and homely and I did not care for show,  
And I fell in love with Edmund Dale that ploughed the lowland low.

My father said, "My daughter dear, you make my proud heart ache.  
To wed beneath your station is surely a mistake."  
I replied, "What is a title? and I do not care for show,  
And I will wed my Edmund Dale that ploughs the lowland low."

One day as my ploughboy lover was returning home from town,  
A robber laid in wait for him and boldly shot him down.  
My father with much weeping did now bemoan his fate,  
But bitter tears did not avail, his pity came too late.

Now after seven lonely years I still remain unwed.  
Though I've had many lovers my vows remain unsaid.  
One day a letter came to me from a dying man in Perth,  
Who said he must his sin confess before he left this earth.

He said my cruel father with many coins in gold  
Hired him to shoot my lover, to play the robber bold.  
This letter to my father I quickly then did show,  
And my lover was avenged that ploughed the lowland low.

My father was condemned to die and died a public show  
For murdering of my sweetheart that ploughed the lowland low.  
By many I've been asked to wed, but I'll see them come and go,  
My heart is with my Edmund Dale that ploughed the lowland low.

*This ballad may be a version of "Edwin in the Lowlands Low." In 1940 Lena Bourne Fish in NH sang it for Anne & Frank Warner. I found it in their **Traditional American Folk Songs**.*

**From Judy Cook's CD "Far From The Lowlands"**

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