THE GOLDEN GLOVE

The words of this song were written down by Miss Heatley and added to the tune in the Mss. She also made some notes:-

Song sung by Ann Smyth born in 1794 at Blackmore in Essex to her granddaughter at Laindon in Essex now Mrs Humphreys aged 72. Her parents, husband and children's husbands were all Essex villagers.

At the bottom of the text Miss Heatley wrote:-

By nature Mrs Humphreys who sang this song to me accents the syllable 'ed' whenever it comes at the end of a word. But she explained that she has learnt not to do so lately.

This was written down exactly as it was repeated to me by old Mrs Humphreys except that she pronounces Tamworth as if the first syllable was 'Tim' but she would have it spelt with an 'a'. The tune has a curious little turn in the 3rd or 4th line. Ingrave 1903.

In Vaughan Williams' scrapbook there is a note from Miss Heatley giving the first three verses and continuing:— There are six more verses. Also the old woman knows the tune of this and of her grandfather's one song Come buy me a hawk, but I didn't find this out in time to learn them.

I think this was probably sent or given to Vaughan Williams at the time of his lectures. She then returned and noted the rest of the song.

It's of a young squire in Tamworth we hear
He courted a nobleman's daughter so fair
And to be married it was there intent
All friends and relations they gave their consent

The time being appointed for their wedding day A young farmer was chosen to give her away As soon as the lady the farmer she spied It inflamed her heart oh my heart she did cry

She turned from the squire but nothing she said Instead of being married she was taken to her bed The thoughts of the farmer so run in her mind And a way for to have him she quickly did find

Coat waistcoat and breeches this lady put on And a hunting she went with her dog and her gun She hunted all round where the farmer did dwell Because in her heart that she loved him full well

She oft times fired but nothing she killed At length the young farmer came into the field And for to discourse with him it was her intent With her dog and her gun to meet him she went

I thought you had been at the wedding she cried To wait on the squire and give him his bride Oh no said the farmer if the truth I must tell I won't give her away for I love her too well This lady was pleased for to hear him so bold She gave him a glove that was lined with gold She told him she found it coming along As she was a hunting with her dog and her gun

The lady went home with her heart full of love She gave out a notice that she lost her glove And the man that does find it and bring it to me That the man that does find it my husband shall be

The farmer was pleased when he heard the news And away to the lady he quickly goes Dear honoured lady I have found you your glove And I hope it will please you to grant me your love

It's already granted I will be your bride
For I love the sweet breath of the farmer she cried
It's the mistress of my dairy maid as milking my cow
As the jolly brisk farmer goes whistling to his plough

And when she was married she told of the fun How she hunted the young farmer with her dog and her gun Saying now that I have got you so fast in a snare I'll enjoy you for ever I vow and declare

The Golden Glove

