

George Gardiner (c.1852-1910) collected songs from New Forest singers in the early 1900s. Some 38 are carols, on which we focus. We identified some from earlier sources. This is a subset of a larger project to identify all Hampshire carols collected by Gardiner and his contemporaries. In most cases just a melody and some words were collected. Our aim is to find the 3- or 4-part versions of which these often corrupt memories are echoes. Some of this work was written down by Linda Champ. Sarah Lewin & Mike Bailey are continuing it. Search "Hampshire Songs" for the Gardiner pages developed by other researchers.

Gardiner NF	First line or title	Notes	HTI / TMC	Tune name
H56	JC Hark! Shepherds How the Angels Sing	1	/ 248	
H57	God Bless the Master of this House			
H66	Come All You Worthy Christians			
H271	MB Rejoice Mankind and Sing	4973		Lonsdale
H311	gb On Christmas Times All Christians Sing			
H328	GB Hark! Hark! Let us Behold	4280		Lenox
H332	GB A Virgin Most Pure	1681a		Christmas Carol
H477	All Glory to God	7		
H478	Oh Jesus My Saviour	8		
H479	Awake Our Souls			
H480	This was the Day			
H481	Betimes Upon this Glorious Morn	12		
H482	Awake, Awake, Rejoice and Sing			
H483	With Raptures Abounding			
H484	While Shepherds were Feeding their Flocks	9		
H485	JL Hark Shepherds How the Angels Sing	1	/ 248	
H486	Rejoice, Rejoice, ye Earthly Tribes			
H664	While Shepherds Watch their Fleecy Care	6	4551a / 38	Carol 2
H700	Here's Christmas Day a-Drawing Nigh			
H750	God Bless the Master of this House		/ 278a	
H810	Come All You Worthy Christians			
H832	Behold, the Day has Come	10	/ 509	
H1060	The Cherry Tree Carol			
H1090	Rejoice Mankind and Sing			
H1165	Come All You Worthy Christians			
H1198	HB God Rest You Merry Gentlemen	2		
H1199	hb God Rest You Merry Gentlemen			
H1201	HB The moon shines bright	3		
H1252	FH While Shepherds Watched	4	/ 72	
H1253	FH Shepherds on their Flocks Abiding	5	17389	Hymn 4
H1278	God Sent for us the Sunday			
H1308	hp Behold! Behold!			
H1309	hp Christians All Awake			
H1362	In Bethlehem City in Jewry			
H1363	The Sinner's Redemption			
H1364	Brave Joseph and Mary			
Sx1388	Come All You Worthy People			
Sx1389	Hark, Hark What News	11	/ 84	

HTI = Hymn Tune Index. TMC = The Madding Crowd Index.

1. Bundell MS 4-parts, and Bass line in Hannington (William Witts) MS twice.
2. A relative of the Somerset Wassail.
3. The melody and words of *The Moon Shine[s] Bright* sung by Jasper Smith, recorded by Mike

Yates near Epsom, Surrey on 26 April 1975, were transcribed from Voice of the People Volume 11 “My Father's the King of Gypsies: music of English and Welsh travellers and gypsies” issued by Topic (784b). This is the closest relative yet found to Henry Blake's tune, and may be what Blake was trying to remember.

4. 4-parts, transcribed by RGW from Burton Bradstock MS, 1981, for Awake and join the cheerful choir. Also in Bundell & Hannington MSS.
5. Words an alteration of Joseph Hart, 1759, Hymn XIV. Tune identified by Ros Clements by Samuel Wakely ca. 1820.
6. Fleecy Care by Joseph Key, found in many MSS. Collected in Hannington. Hannington MS pp. 21 (bass of verse), 27f (pencilled air), 43 (air & bass, facing page missing), 43 (bass in Bb).
7. Words by C Wesley, Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord, 1745. The only attribution of this text in HTI is 3292a = TMC 623 Sussex. This tune is widespread, and vaguely similar to that collected.
8. Tune is a close fit with Pickard-Cambridge No.2 tune 2.
9. The same words are in Pickard-Cambridge, No.2, tune 1, which is John Moreton's King Street HTI 17103 adjusted for the metre. See TMC 796. Lake's rendition could be a corruption of King Street.
10. Similar to Pickard-Cambridge, No.21, both words and tune. The tune is obviously a variant.
11. RGW notes this was collected by Cecil Sharp, and refers to Davies Gilbert 1822. See http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/hark_hark_what_news.htm
12. Words from *An abridgement of the new version of the psalms, for the use of Charlotte-Street Chapel*, 1785, p.48. Also found in *Hymns and spiritual songs*. In three books, by Simon Browne, third edition, 1760.

Singers

Linda Champ transcribed all the music from the Gardiner notebooks into ABC notation, and automatically into MIDI. Mike Bailey converted the MIDI to Sibelius and hence to PDF. Some of the notations need final correction of grace notes and bar line positions, since these formats do not preserve the music precisely as collected.

Singers' initials are in capitals if this piece was included in the workshop at Emery Down, Nov 2011, and in lower case if it was collected in the New Forest (NF) but was not in the workshop. This workshop was the reason for arbitrarily distinguishing NF from the rest of Hampshire.

JC	John Carter (Twyford)	FH	Frank Harrington (Cadnam)
MB	Moses Blake (Emery Down)	JL	James Lake (Dummer)
GB	George Blake (St. Denys, Bitterne Park)	HP	Harry Purkiss (Cadnam)
HB	Henry Blake (Bartley)		

Linda Champ also wrote some 50 pages on the biographies of all the singers. This shows, for example, that George Blake was born in Minstead (NF) ca.1827, and was in Lyndhurst (NF) aged 73 in the 1901 census, although living in St. Denys when his songs were collected in 1906.

Some of these carols may also have been collected from other singers in other parts of Hampshire. The same singers often sang folk songs, which were Gardiner's primary goal. Gardiner himself collected the words, and sent colleague musicians to collect the tunes.

Interim conclusions

It is obvious from the firm identifications that have been made that collected carol tunes and words both differ from printed versions, some of which were 150 years older. Oral transmission and copying over time may introduce variation. The recollections of the singers and the recording of their singing may be imperfect, not least because they were encouraged to provide more by being offered drink. It is a serious defect that Gardiner did not know whether he was collecting an air, an inner part, or a mixture, and had no interest in full harmonies. Further identifications are becoming more difficult, especially where no printed version is known, but we have still to work on some of the above, and welcome input.