

## Long Peg and Awl

(Long pegging awl – a shoemaker's tool)

As sung by Tom Brandon

The second Ontario singer who contributed some unusual bawdy songs is Tom Brandon, a young man born in 1929, who spent a number of years working in lumber-camps and on: lake boats before taking a job with the Canadian Pacific Railway. Several songs describe the amorous adventures of cobblers and the sexual symbolism of their tools, but the only other version of this particular one I have located comes from the fine English traditional singer, Harry Cox (on Caedmon TG 1143). Of the five stanzas he sings, 1, 2, and 5 correspond roughly to 1, 3, and 4 of Tom's version.

Edith Fowke - *A Sampling of Bawdy Ballads from Ontario*

It was a beautiful morning, a beautiful morn in May,  
I spied a pretty young schoolmarm, and she was on her way  
So boldly I stepped up to her and downward she did fall,  
For she longed to be playing with my long peg and awl.

When apples, pears, and peaches, when they're ripe they must be plucked.  
When you meet a pretty young schoolmarm, she surely must be tucked.  
Come old girls and young girls, old women and all,  
You'll all take a liking to the long peg and awl.

So come my lass, oh come my lass, and come along with me!  
Ill take you to a happy home in a far-off counteree.  
I'll treat you to fine dances, assembly, and ball,  
And in the evening I will treat you to the long peg and awl.

Now mother, dearest mother, it's you, you that are to blame,  
For when you were young that you dearly loved the same.  
You left your home and country, your family, friends, and all,  
And you followed dear old daddy with his long peg and awl.

Now sister, dearest sister, you also are to blame,  
For when you were young that you dearly loved the same.  
He fooled you and he screwed you, why the devil he knows it all-  
He got you into trouble with the long peg and awl.

So come my lass, oh come my lass, and come along with me.  
I'll take you to a happy home in a far-off counteree.  
I'll take you to fine dances, assembly, and ball;  
In the evening I will treat you to the long peg and awl.