

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Up They Gaed a-Gallopin

Up They Gaed a-Gallopin

Up they gaed a-gallopin, gallopin;  
Up they gaed a-wallopin, wallopin;  
'Deil tak the hindmost!' quo Duncan MacAlapine,  
Laird o' Killiben-jo.

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Nicht at Eenie (1932), 34.

A memorial version of the first chorus of "Duncan McCallpin", otherwise called "The Tranent Wedding", published in Poems chiefly in the Scottish Dialect, by Peter Forbes, a gardener at Dalkeith (Edinburgh, 1812). The subject is the "riding of the broose" at a country wedding: a race (on foot if a short distance, on horse if far) from the bride's home to her new one, the winner getting a kiss from the bride, being allowed to welcome her to her married house, and having the first dance. The original first stanza and chorus are:

It was at a wedding near Tranent,

Where scores an' scores on fun were bent,

An' to ride the broose wi' full intent,  
Was either nine or ten, jo!

Then aff they a' set galloping, galloping,  
Legs an' arms a walloping, walloping,  
Shame take the hindmost, quo' Duncan McCallpin  
Laird o' Jelly Ben, jo.

This has been modified after an imitation called "Duncan McCallagan", probably by Archibald Cochrane of Glasgow:

'Twas for a peck o' meal or mair,

Ae night, when coming frae the fair,

That Duncan laid, wi' his grey mare,  
To rin wi' nine or ten, jo.

Then aff they set a-galloping, galloping,

Legs and arms a-walloping, walloping,  
"Deil tak' the last!" quo' Duncan MacCallagan,  
Laird o' Tullyben, jo.

[Ross SSCA (1870), 367: McCallapin...Tullyben; Whitelaw BSS (1875), 506, and Ford VSB I (1899), 40, the 1812 version, and Cochrane's parody, with slight differences.] The tune is The Brisk Young Lad, i.e. Bung Your Eye (John Walsh's Caledonian Country Dances, c. 1740, and the same date in the Bodleian MS.; Robert Ross, Choice Coll. of Scots Reels, 1780, 1; and frequently since). The first title is from words to the tune in Herd 1776, often called "The Cauldrife Wooer".

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