

# The Ballads o Anna Gordon Brown

## Primary activities

Anna Gordon wis born in 1747 in Aiberdeen, a time when ballads wir susteened throu the oral tradition an in prent bi circulation o popular broadsides an chap-buiks. Aunts, nurses an auldwives frae upper Deeside wir said in a letter scrievit bi Anna's faither tae hae been the springheid o Anna's ballad collection.

In the 'Brown C' manuscript Anna Gordon offers an introduction tae "Thomas the Rhymer & Queen of Elfland", a ballad also kent as "Tam Lin" or "Tamlane"; 'The tradition concerning this ballad is that Thomas Rhymer when young, was carried away by the Queen of Elfland or Fairyland, who retained him in her service for seven years, during which period he is supposed to have acquired the wisdom which afterwards made him so famous.'

Tam Lin has been imprentit amang ithers bi Robert Burns an Walter Scott, an maist recently retelt bi Lari Don.

1. Why dae ye think Anna's faither thocht it important tae tell fowk how Anna kent the sangs she collected?
2. Can ye think o ony reasons why there micht be mair than wan version o the same sang?
3. In whit weys are the modren story an the ballad seemilar/different?

Similar	Unlike

4. Noo mak a comic strip o the tale o Tam Lin.  
Gie the characters speech bubbles an mak them speak in Scots.
5. Pick oot the main pairts o the story. Can ye mak these intae wurds fir a sang?  
Wi a shooderfreen yaise a weel kent tune sic as 'Coulter's Candy' or 'Three Crows' an mak yer ain ballad aboot Tam Lin.  
Add twa-three musical instruments, an record it or perfom it fir an audience