



Sweet Afton

B. C. Unseld
(1843-1923)

Sweet Afton

B. C. Unseld

S
A
T
B

Flow gen - tly, sweet Af - ton, a - mong thy green braes, Flow gen - tly, I'll

7
S
A
T
B

7
sing thee a song in thy praise, A song in thy

12
S
A
T
B

12
praise. Thy crys - tal stream, Af - ton, how love - ly it

Sweet Afton

18

S glides And winds by the cot where my Ma - ry re - sides, My Ma -

A glides And winds by the cot where my Ma - ry re - sides, My Ma -

T glides And winds by the cot where my Ma - ry re - sides, the cot where my

B glides And winds by the cot where my Ma - ry re - sides, the cot where my

24

S ry re - sides. My Ma - ry's a - sleep by thy

A ry re - sides. My Ma - ry's a - sleep by thy

T Ma - ry re - sides, re - sides. My Ma - ry's a - sleep by thy

B Ma - ry re - sides, re - sides. My Ma - ry's a - sleep by thy

30

S mur - mur - ing stream; Flow gen - tly, sweet Af - ton, dis - turb not her

A mur - mur - ing stream; Flow gen - tly, sweet Af - ton, dis - turb not her

T mur - mur - ing stream; Flow gen - tly, sweet Af - ton, dis - turb not her

B mur - mur - ing stream; Flow gen - tly, sweet Af - ton, dis - turb not her

Sweet Afton

35

S
dream, Dis - turb not her dream.

A
dream, Dis - turb not her dream.

T
8 dream, Flow gen - tly, dis - turb not her dream, her dream.

B
dream, Flow gen - tly, dis - turb not her dream, her dream.

The Fillmore Bros.
(1911)

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides.

My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream;
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Benjamin Carl Unsell (1843-1923) was born in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. He left school at age 14 and pursued various commercial jobs. He started to learn music at age 15 from a friend who had attended a singing school. They went to church and practiced together after work. He witnessed part of the Battle at Antietam in 1862 and soon after moved to Columbia, Pennsylvania, and worked as a railroad clerk. He continued to study music, rented a melodeon, and sang in a choir. He accepted a position as organist at the Methodist Church in Columbia. He studied at the Musical Institute at Providence, Rhode Island, under Eben Tourjée and became the Institute's secretary. He followed Tourjée to Boston when Tourjée helped found the New England Conservatory of Music and was the school's first secretary. He also had additional studies with Theo. F. Seward. He later taught at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, assisting in training the famous Jubilee Singers, and was the first principal of the Virginia Normal School of Music. He was then organist and choirmaster at St. James' Episcopal Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and then lived in New York City for fifteen years where he taught, composed, directed choirs, held summer normal schools, edited music and published with the firm Biglow & Main. He later went to Cincinnati, Ohio, as editor with the Fillmore Music House and then to Dayton in a similar capacity with the Lorenz Publishing Company. He then returned to NCY and then moved to Hagerstown, Maryland. In 1911, he moved to Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, as dean of the new James D. Vaughan School of Music. He died in Lawrenceburg. With Seward, he imported John Curwen's Tonic Sol-fa system from England and promoted it, but the method was never widely received in the United States. He wrote many Gospel songs, hymns and secular songs and published a number of volumes for pedagogical use including "The Tonic Sol-Fa Music Reader."

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