

# Lovely Agnes

Sally Rogers



## Chorus:

Oh, Agnes, won't you go with me? We'll be married in style  
And we'll cross Lake Michigan, so blue and so wild.  
We'll cross over Lake Michigan, 'til we come to the shore  
And our orchards will blossom for our babies as they're born.

1. Oh yes, love, I will go with you, leave Wisconsin behind,  
Though my parents think little of my life on a farm,  
For to leave the gay city life, and be married on a farm,  
And we'll watch the orchards bloom in spring, spend the winter's warm in your arms.

## Chorus

2. Three children she gave to him, Curtis, Addie and Dee  
And their fourth child little Gussie came, ten years after these  
And she raised them with loving hand and with firmness of mind  
And she raised them through troubled times, Agnes strong willed and kind.

## Chorus

3. Now the years have gone and past, like the fruit on the trees,  
And your children have children with babes on their knees  
And they all join in the summertime, by the crystal lake shore,  
To greet lovely Agnes, now twelve years and four-score.

## Chorus

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"Lovely Agnes" was written by Sally Rogers. Her album notes from her album **The Unclaimed Pint**:

"I wrote this song for my grandmother as a present on her 92nd birthday. She was raised Agnes Challoner in Oshkosh Wisconsin and received her Master's degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1910. She then married my grandfather, Augustus James Rogers II who wanted to move to Michigan to grow cherries. After they were wed, they came to Michigan on a ferry boat in search of prime cherry growing country. They settled in Benzie County, locating their farm five miles west of the county seat, Beulah, just over the hill from Crystal Lake. Four children, eighteen grandchildren and twenty five greatgrandchildren later, she still lives on the farm.

As a young woman, her relatives couldn't understand how she could spend so much time in college and then bury herself on a farm. But today, sitting in her armchair overlooking the orchards, she says, 'You know, I've never felt buried.'"

I learned this from a concert recording of Claudia Schmidt that I heard on a PBS radio folk music show. I thought at the time that the melody may have been traditional but I have been unable to determine whether that is true. Because it sounds traditional, I have placed it in the Legacies section instead of the Songwriters section.

It was recorded by Sally Rogers on **The Unclaimed Pint** (1979) and Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt on **Closing the Distance** (1987).