WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG MAGGIE
Words by George W. Johnson 1864, Music by James Austin Butterfield – 1866
The words to ’When You and I Were Young, Maggie’ come from a poem written in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada by George W. Johnson, a schoolteacher who taught languages and mathematics. The poem was written ca 1864 and was a pledge of his undying love to his wife Maggie Clarke, who died in 1865.

F  F7  Bb  Bb  F  F  C7  C7
I wan -der'd to –day to the hill, Mag -gie,  To watch the scene be -low,
They say that I'm feeble with age, Maggie,  My steps are less sprightly than then,
F  F7  Bb  Bb  F7  C7  F7  F7
The creek and the creak -ing old mill Mag –gie  As we used to, long a -go.
My face is a well-written page, Maggie,  And time alone was the pen.
Bb  Bb  F  F  C  G7  C7  C7
The green grove is gone from the hill, Mag -gie,  where first the dai -sies -sprung;
They say we are agèd and grey, Maggie  As sprays by the white breakers flung,
F  F7  Bb  Bb  F  C7  F  F
The creak -ing old mill is still, Mag -gie,  since you and I were young.
But to me you're as fair as you were, Maggie, When you and I were young.
Refrain:
And now we are a -ged and gray, Mag -gie  the tri -als of life near -ly done;
Let us sing of the days that are gone, Mag-gie  When you and I were young.