

Irish Rover

On the Fourth of July 1806 we set sail from the sweet cove of Cork
We were sailing away with a cargo of bricks for the grand City Hall in New
York
'twas a wonderful craft, she was rigged for and aft and oh, how the wild
wind drove her
She stood several blasts, she had twenty-seven masts and they called her the
Irish Rover

We had one million bags of the best Sligo rags, we had two million barrels
of stone
We had three million sides of old blind horses hides, we had four million
barrels of bones
We had five million hogs, and six million dogs, seven million barrels of
porter
We had eight million bails of old nanny-goats' tails in the hold of the
Irish Rover

There was awl Mickey Coote who played hard on his flute when the ladies
lined up for a set
He was tootlin' with skill for each sparkling quadrille, though the dancers
were fluther'd and bet
With his smart witty talk, he was cock of the walk and he rolled the dames
under and over
They all knew at a glance when he took up his stance that he sailed in the
Irish Rover

There was Barney McGee from the banks of the Lee, there was Hogan from
County Tyrone
There was Johnny McGurk who was scared stiff of work and a man from
Westmeath called Malone
There was Slugger O'Toole who was drunk as a rule and Fighting Bill Treacy
from Dover
And your man, Mike McCann from the banks of the Bann was the skipper on the
Irish Rover

For a sailor it`s a bother of life, it`s so lonesome by night and by day
When he longs for the shore and a charming young whore who will melt all his
troubles away
All the noise and the rout swillin` poitin and stout, for him soon is done
and over
Of the love of a maid he is never afraid, that ould salt from the Irish
rover

We had sailed seven years when the measles broke out and the ship lost it's
way in the fog
And that whale of a crew was reduced down to two, just meself and the
Captain's old dog
Then the ship struck a rock, Oh Lord! what a shock, the bulkhead was turned
right over
Turned nine times around and the poor old dog was drowned, I`m the last of
the Irish Rover