

# When First Into This Country

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The image shows a musical score for the song 'When First Into This Country'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 2/4 time signature. Below the staff are two lines of guitar tablature. The first system has 8 measures, and the second system has 8 measures. The tablature includes numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, representing fret positions on the strings. The melody is written in a simple, folk style.

When first into this country a stranger I came  
There was no one that knew me or asked me my name  
I came into this country to tarry for a while  
And to leave my dear jewels alone on that isle

A story has been reported as you may have been told  
Of three pretty maids from my country I stole  
But thievery and robbery oh that I do defy  
But these three pretty fair maids I never will deny

The first was pretty Betsy although she was poor  
The next was lovely Nancy the maid I adore  
The other was black-eyed Susan the girl of my delight  
And I'll roll her in my arms on a cold winter night

Her eyes were like two diamonds so bright and so clear  
Her cheeks were like the roses the first of the year  
Though her cheeks they have been faded this past summer  
And I fear she's in love with some other young man

I never never knew what it was to be a slave  
Till both my parents were dead and laid in their graves  
When I was bound apprentice for more than seven long years  
My master and my mistress were cruel and severe

My mistress scarce ever spoke a kind word to me  
Which caused my mind to wander like waves on the sea  
But now I've regained my liberty I'll return to the girl I like  
And I'll roll her in my arms on the cold winter nights

Now I am married I live at my ease  
I go when I like and I come when I please  
I married pretty Susan for she is the girl that I like  
And I fold her in my arms on a cold winter night