

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## The New York Trader

The New York Trader

To a New York trader I did belong,  
She was well built, both stout and strong,  
Well rigged, well manned, well fit for sea,  
Bound for New York in America.

Our cruel captain, you do understand,  
Meant to starve us before we made the land;  
At length our hunger grew very great,  
We had but little on board to eat.

Being in necessity  
All by our captain's cruelty,  
Our captain in his cabin lay,  
He dreamt a dream, those words did say:

"Prepare yourselves and ship's company,  
For to-morrow night you must lie with me."  
Our captain awoke in a terrible fright,  
It being the first watch of that night.

Loud for the bos'n he did call,  
And to him related his secret all.  
"Captain," said he, "if this be so,  
O let none of your ship's crew know,  
But keep your secrets in your breast,  
And pray to God to give you rest."

"There is one thing more I have to tell  
When I in Waterford town did dwell,  
I killed my master, a merchant there  
All for the sake of his lady fair.

I killed my wife and children three  
All through that cursed jealousy  
And on my servant laid the blame  
And hang-ed he was for the same."

Early next morning a storm did rise  
Which caused the seamen much surprise  
The sea broke over us fore and aft  
Till scarce a man on the deck was left.

Then the bos'un he did declare  
Our captain was a murderer  
That so enraged all the ship's crew  
They overboard the captain threw.

When this was done a calm was there  
Our good light ship homeward did steer  
The wind abated and calmed the sea  
And we sailed safe to America.

And when we came to anchor there  
Our good light ship for to repair  
The people wondered much to see  
What poor distressed shipwreck were we.

From Ballads and Sea Songs from Nova Scotia, Mackenzie

Collected from Peter Hines

DT #563

Laws K22

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oct96