

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

## When Flrst I Went to Caledonla

When Flrst I Went to Caledonla

When First I went to Caledonia  
I got loading at Number Three  
And I got boarding at Donald Norman's  
He had a daughter could make good tea

And it was me and my brother Charlie  
The biggest shavers you e'er did see  
We're spearing eels in the month of April  
And starving slaves on Scataree

I went to Norman's for a pair of brochan  
A pound of soap and a cake of tea  
But Norman said that he would not give them  
Till fish got plenty on Scataree

So I went over to their big harbour  
Just on purpose for to see the spray  
I spied a maiden from Boulardrie over  
She seemed to me like the Oueen of May

Now if I had pen from Pennsylvania  
And if I had paper of purest wllite  
And if I had ink of the rosy morning  
A true love note unto you I'd write

But I wish I was on the deepest ocean  
As far from land as once I could be  
A sailing over the deepest ocean  
Where woman's love would not trouble me

I'd lay my head to a cask of brandy  
And it's a dandy I do declare  
For when I'm drinking I'm seldom thinking  
How I can gain that young lady fair

When first I went to Caledonia  
I got loading at Number Three  
And I got boarding at Donald Norman's  
He had a daughter could make good tea

From Tony Cuffe When First I Went to Caledonia  
Iona Records 1988

A song from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia with a rather misleading title. "Caledonia" in this case, refers not to Scotland. but to the Caledonia Coal Mines in Glace Bay, and "Number Three" is one of the pits. Scataree is a small island just off the coast of Cape Breton, now uninhabited except for a lighthouse keeper and Boulardrie is one of the more fertile farming areas

From the book "Songs and Stories of Deep Cove. Cape Breton" by Amby Thomas. AMMcD

AMMcD

oct97