

# Traditional & Folk Songs with lyrics & midi music

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### Captain Kidd

Captain Kidd

My name is Captain Kidd, as I sailed, as I sailed  
My name is Captian Kidd, as I sailed  
My name is Captian Kidd, God's laws I did forbid  
And most wickedly I did, as I sailed, as I sailed

Oh, my parents taught me well, as I sailed, as I sailed  
My parents taught me well, as I sailed  
My parents taught me well to shun the gates of Hell  
But against them I rebelled, as I sailed, as I sailed

Well, I murdered William Moore, as I sailed, as I sailed  
I murdered William Moore, as I sailed  
I murdered William Moore and I left him in his gore  
Forty leagues from shore, as I sailed, as I sailed

And being cruel still, as I sailed, as I sailed  
And being cruel still, as I sailed  
And being cruel still the gunner I did kill  
And his precious blood did spill, as I sailed, as I sailed

Well, my repentance lasted not, as I sailed, as I sailed  
My repentance lasted not, as I sailed  
My repentance lasted not, my vows I soon forgot  
Damnation was my lot, as I sailed, as I sailed

To execution dock I must go, I must go  
To execution dock I must go  
To execution dock, lay my head upon the block  
And no more the laws I'll mock, as I sail, as I sail

The reputation for cruelty and viciousness generally assigned to Captain Kidd, probably the most famous of all pirates, is largely the result of the ballad maker's art. Actually, it would appear that William Kidd (1645?-1701) was the victim of a frame-up. He was hanged, guilty or not, near London on May 23, 1701.

The tune, and particularly the verse pattern, of this song has been used for other songs, such as: "Samuel Hall", "The Praties They Grow Small", and the American hymn, "Wonderous Love." This version comes from Peter Seeger, who learned it in London from Steve Benbow.

NOTE: Most versions have "My name is Robert Kidd etc." Nobody seems to know where the "Robert" came from. RG

Recorded on "Golden Ring", FSI-16, 1964

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