

TRANSCRIPTION

Peter Shephard sings “The Banks of Newfoundland” to his own accompaniment on melodeon

ScottishVoicesProj.0479

[This recording was made in July 1988 at an informal ceilidh held at a house in St. Andrews, Fife, that John Niles and his research team were renting at the time. Present were about nineteen people, some of whom were skilled performers of traditional Scottish music and song, while others were members of John Niles’s research team, visiting this region from their homes in North America. Virtually everyone at the ceilidh took a turn at singing, playing music, or otherwise entertaining the group. Some members of the audience sing along with the last words of each stanza, which serve as a refrain.]

[*Peter Shephard sings:*]

- 1 Come aa ye men and fair young lads, come aa ye sports beware,
 As ye go steamboat sailing, old dungaree jackets wear,
 And always wear a life belt, or keep it close at hand,
 For there blows a cold norwesterly wind on the Banks of Newfoundland.

- 2 Twas in the year of nineteen-six that we did suffer sore,
 We had on board some fair young lads, some Swedies and some more.
 We pawned our clothes in Liverpool, we pawned them every hand,
 Never thinking of the norwesterly winds on the Banks of Newfoundland.

- 3 We had on board a fair young maid, Bridget Wellford was her name,
 To her I promised marriage, on me she had a claim.
 She tore her flannel petticoats to make mittens for my hands,
 And she could not see her true love perish on the Banks of Newfoundland.

[*Melodeon interlude.*]

- 4 One night as I lay sleeping I had a sad old dream,
 I dreamt I was back in Scotland beside a flowing stream,
 And by my side a fair young maid and a bottle in my hand,
 But I woke up broken-hearted on the Banks of Newfoundland.

- 5 And now we’re off for Sandy Bay where the high hills covered in snow.
 Our steamboat she’s so hell-of-a-fast, by New York we will go.
 We’ll rub her up and we’ll scrub her down with holystone and sand,
 And we’ll bid farewell to the Virgin Rocks and the Banks of Newfoundland.

All: [*Applause, whoops of approval.*]