When First Unto This Country

Traditional III-122

E B A E
When first unto this country, A stranger I came
A B A E
I courted a fair maid, And Nancy was her name

I courted her for love, Her love I didn't obtain
Do you think I've any reason, Or right to complain

I rode to see my Nancy, I rode both night and day
I stoled a fine stallion, From Colonel Charles Grey

I rode to see my Nancy, I rode both day and night
I courted fairest Nancy, My own heart's true delight

The sheriff's men they followed, And overtaken me
They carted me away, To the penitentiary

They opened up the door, And then they threw me in
They shaved off my hair, And they cleared off my chin

They beat me and they banged me, And they fed me on dry beans
'Til I wished to my own soul, I'd never been a thief

With my hands stuck in my pockets, And my cap set on so bold
My coat of many colors, Like Joseph's of old

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I courted a fair maid, And Nancy was her name