

When First Unto This Country

C F
When first unto this country

G7 C
A stranger I came,

F Em F
I court ed a fair maid
G7

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 day and night,
I courted dearest Nancy,
My own heart's true delight.

I rode to see my Nancy,
I rode both night and day,
Till I noticed a stallion
Both white-looking and gray.

The sheriff's men had followed
And overtaken me.
They carted me away
To the penitentiary.

They opened up the door
And then they shoved me in;
They shaved off my hair
And they cleared off my chin.

They beat me and they banded me,
They fed me on dry beans,
Till I wished to my own heart
I'd never been a thief.

With my hands in my pockets,
My cap set on so bold,
And my coat of all colors
Like Jacob's coat of old.