

Jack Williams

I am a boat - man by my trade. Jack Wil - liams is my name. And
by a false de - lu - ding girl I was brought to grief and shame. In
Kath' - rine Street I did re - sort where the peo - ple did me know. I
fell in love with a gay, young girl, which proved my ov - er - throw.

Oh, then I took to robbing; I robbed both night and day.
The gold I got I valued not but took to her straightway.
At length to Newgate I was brought, bound down in irons strong,
With rattling chains about my limbs, and she longed to see them on.

I wrote my love a letter some comfort for to find,
But she answered me most scornfully, saying, "I hate such company,
Now since you've made your bed, young man, down on it you must lie."

Oh, now I lie in prison; 'tis more than I deserve.
It fairly makes my blood run cold to think how I am served,
But if ever I gain my liberty a solemn vow I'll make
To forsake all evil company for that false woman's sake.

Oh, then my trial it came on and hanged I was to be,
It grieved my parents' hearts full sore to think of my destiny.
But Providence proved kind to me as you can plainly see,
I broke my chains and scaled the walls and gained my liberty.

Note: My mother's brother used to sing this song and we always called it
Uncle Jim's song.