

The Dubliners, Donegal Danny

I remember the night that he came in
From the wintry cold and damp
A giant of a man in an oilskin coat
and a bundle that told he was a tramp
He stood at the bar and he called a pint
Then turned and gazed at the fire
On a night like this, to be safe and dry
Is my one and only desire

[chorus]

So here's to those that are dead and gone
The friends that I loved dear
And here's to you then I'll bid you adieu
Sayin' 'Donegal Danny's been here, me boys,
Donegal Danny's been here'
Then in a voice that was hushed and low
He said 'Listen, I'll tell you a tale'
How a man of the sea became a man of the road
And never more will set sail
I fished out of Howth and Killybegs,
Ardglass and Baltimore
But the cruel sea has beaten me
And I'll end my days on the shore

[chorus]

So here's to those that are dead and gone (...)
One fateful night in the wind and the rain
We set sail from Killybegs town
There were five of us from sweet Donegal
And one from county Down
We were fishermen who worked the sea
And never counted the cost
But I never thought 'ere that night was gone
That my fine friends would all be lost

[chorus]

So here's to those that are dead and gone (...)
Then the storm it broke and broke the boat
With the rocks about ten miles from shore
As we fought the tide, we hoped inside
To see our homes once more
Then we struck a rock and hold the bow
And all of us knew that she'd go down
So we jumped right into the icy sea
And prayed to God we wouldn't drown
But the ragin' sea was risin' still
As we struck out for the land
And she fought with all her cruelty
To claim that gallant men
By Saint John's point in the early dawn
I dragged myself on the shore
And I cursed the sea for what she'd done
And vowed to sail her never more

[chorus]

So here's to those that are dead and gone (...)
Ever since that night I've been on the road
Travelin' and trying to forget
That awful night I lost all my friend
I see their faces yet
And often at night when the sea is high
And the rain is tearing at my skin
I hear the cries of drowning men
Floating over on the wind

[chorus]

So here's to those that are dead and gone (...)