

Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection

The Skye Boat Song (Boulton)

song air

G G Am D Em C D D

G G Am Am C C Em Em

G G Am Am C C Em D

G G Am D Em C D D

G Am D Em C



The words of this popular song were written by Sir Harold Boulton in 1884. The first half of the tune is said to be an old sea shanty.

Charles Edward Stewart, the Young Pretender, or Bonnie Prince Charlie, was defeated by the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden in 1746. Aided by Flora MacDonald, Charles escaped to the island of Skye. The song commemorates his flight.