

Old Molasses Rum

A great modern song in a traditional style written by the late [Tom Rowe](#) of the band [Schooner Fare](#). The [Great Molasses Disaster](#) of 15 January 1919 in Boston is indeed a historical fact, although only 21 are said to have died rather than the 26 mentioned in the song... traditional music license.

Oh, the African man cuts the sugar cane

Oh, molasses!

He works in the sun and he works in the rain

Oh, molasses rum!

Then he loads it up on a wooden ship and he sends it off on a northern trip

Singing, oh molasses, oh molasses rum

Oh, molasses Old New England tea

It killed my grandpa, killed my pa

And it sure as Hell is killing me

Singing, oh molasses, oh molasses rum

When they fought the war for the colonies...

They fought it over New England tea...

When Old King George put a tax on it the colonies nearly took a fit...

In the time of the 1917 war

Molasses sitting on the Boston shore

When they pumped it in it was twelve degrees, a long cold night in a Boston freeze

In the morning it was 42

Molasses vat split clean in two

Two million gallons covered the bay, 26 people drowned in the flood that day

My grandpa he died cutting cane

My pa went down in the great brown rain

But I won't go in a pool of blood, no I won't drown in a black-strap flood

Still, I'll go down to molasses, oh molasses rum