

# The Braidwater Mill

## The Irish Rovers

They worked from morn til night and they seldom saw the light  
'Twas hearty souls a-working at the mill upon the braid  
They toiled their lives away just to earn their daily pay  
Learning all about the linen trade

They were young and strong and able and destined from the cradle  
To follow kin before them and learn the weaving skill  
Their backs were bent and burning a pittance they were earning  
But they kept the wheels-a-turning at the Braidwater Mill

When you work the golden flax then you'll soon pick up the knack  
At the scutching and the hackling to produce the finest thread  
And when the bobbin's full then you change another spool  
To keep the spinners happy in the shed

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There was flax dust in their lungs, in their eyes and on their tongues  
Drifting in the air like a mist upon the sea  
The din was everywhere and the heat was hard to bear  
As they worked away in water to their knees

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Now they've shut it down they've knocked it to the ground  
For a hundred years and more the finest linen came from here  
We praise them one and all down at the linen hall  
For giving us their blood, sweat and tears

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