**Background**

After the death of Queen [Anne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_of_Great_Britain) the British crown passed on to [George](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_I_of_Great_Britain), the [Elector of Hanover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elector_of_Hanover). In his [entourage](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/entourage) George I brought with him a number of German courtiers, including his mistress [Melusine von der Schulenburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melusine_von_der_Schulenburg,_Duchess_of_Kendal), whom he later created the [Duchess of Kendal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchess_of_Kendal), - commonly referred to as *the Sow* - and his half-sister [Sophia von Kielmansegg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_von_Kielmansegg,_Countess_of_Darlington), known as *the Goosie* for her appearance. George I's wife [Sophia Dorothea of Celle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_Dorothea_of_Celle) remained in Hanover, imprisoned at [Ahlden House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahlden_House) after her affair with [Philip Christoph von Königsmarck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Christoph_von_K%C3%B6nigsmarck) - the *blade* in the song. Another historic personality in the song is [John Erskine, 22nd Earl of Mar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Erskine,_22nd_Earl_of_Mar), *Bobbing John*, who recruited in the Scottish Highlands for the Hanoverian cause. The nickname *Geordie Whelps* is a reference to the [House of Welf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Welf), the original line of the [House of Hanover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Hanover).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cam_Ye_O%27er_Frae_France#cite_note-1)

**Lyrics**

Cam ye o'er frae France? Cam ye down by Lunnon?  
Saw ye Geordie Whelps and his bonny woman?  
Were ye at the place ca'd the Kittle Housie?  
Saw ye Geordie's grace riding on a goosie?

Geordie, he's a man there is little doubt o't;  
He's done a' he can, wha can do without it?  
Down there came a blade linkin' like my lordie;  
He wad drive a trade at the loom o' Geordie.

Though the claith were bad, blythly may we niffer;  
Gin we get a wab, it makes little differ.  
We hae tint our plaid, bannet, belt and swordie,  
Ha's and mailins braid—but we hae a Geordie!

Jocky's gane to France and Montgomery's lady;  
There they'll learn to dance: Madam, are ye ready?  
They'll be back belyve belted, brisk and lordly;  
Brawly may they thrive to dance a jig wi' Geordie!

Hey for Sandy Don! Hey for Cockolorum!  
Hey for Bobbing John and his Highland Quorum!  
Mony a sword and lance swings at Highland hurdie;  
How they'll skip and dance o'er the bum o' Geordie!

(Repeat first verse)

**Glossary**

Believe = quickly;  
blade = a person of weak, soft constitution from rapid overgrowth;  
bonny woman = a woman of loose character;  
braid = broad;  
brawly = well;  
claith = cloth;  
gane = gone;  
gin = if, whether;  
goosie = diminutive of goose; a pig; a fat and gross person;  
ha's and mailins = houses and farmlands;  
hurdie = buttock;  
kittle housie = brothel;  
linkin = tripping along;  
Lunnon = London;  
niffer = haggle or exchange;  
tint = lost;  
wab = web (or length) of cloth)