

**The Ether Song**  
**Walter Smith 3-22-01**  
**(To the tune of “Nancy Whisky”, by Ian & Sylvia)**

**Disclaimer:** The song below correctly gives the impression that it took decades for Michelson to accept the results of his famous experiment. However, it would be wrong to think that he languished in obscurity. He is widely regarded as one of the most skillful experimental physicists ever, and received the Nobel prize in 1907 for his contributions to interferometry.

C                      G                      C                      D7  
**My name is Michelson, Albert Michelson.**

C                      G                      C                      D7  
**Long ago I was full of pride --**

C                      G7                      Am                      D7  
**I thought I knew just what I wanted --**

C                                      Em                      Am                      D  
**Thought I could find it and more beside.**

**Refrain:**

G                      G7                                      Am                      D  
**Ether, ether, luminiferous ether,**

G                      Em                      D7                                      G  
**Ether, ether, where'd you go?**

C                      G                                      C                      D7  
**I found a partner, a physics partner.**

C                      G                      C                      D7  
**Edward Morley was his name.**

C                      G7                      Am                                      D7  
**We set out to measure the ether.**

C                      Em                      Am                                      D  
**We set out to find our fame.**

**(Refrain)**



Albert A. Michelson  
1887



Edward W. Morley  
1887

C G C D7  
The harder we measured, the less we found it.

C G C D7  
It was supposed to be all around.

C G7 Am D7  
We finally published, though we didn't want to --

C Em Am D  
We finally said it could not be found.

**(Refrain)**

C G C D7  
So gather ye students, ye physics students,

C G C D7  
Now that you've heard my tale of how

C G7 Am D7  
I spent a lifetime searching for the ether--

C Em Am D  
I couldn't find it, it's your turn now.

**(Refrain)**

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Michelson, 1900



Michelson, 1928