

Hieland Laddie

1. Where ha' you been all the day?
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie *
Where ha you been all the day?
Hey there, Hieland Laddie. **

Way hay and away we'll go Heiland Laddie, Lowland Laddie,*
Way hay and away we'll go
Hey there, Hieland Laddie. **

2. Did nae see you down the glen
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
Did nae see you near the burn.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

3. Shipped far north on a Dundee whaler
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
Shipped far north like a whalin' sailor.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

4. Bound out for Iceland cold,
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
Found much ice but nae much gold.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

5. Greenland is a cold country
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
No the place for you and me.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

6. Wish I was back hame again
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
Back again in bonnie Scotland.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

7. Caught some whales and boiled their blubber,
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
Oil and fat choked every scupper.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

8. Wish I was back hame again
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
I'll gie up this whalin' game.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

9. Hieland Laddie went a whalin'
Hieland Laddie, Lowland Laddie
Hieland Laddie went a-sailin'.
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

Way hay and away we'll go Heiland Laddie, Lowland Laddie,
Way hay and away we'll go
Hey there, Hieland Laddie.

This may also be sung with refrains:

* **Hieland Laddie, Bonnie Laddie,**
or
* **Bonnie Laddie, Hieland Laddie,**
then
** **Bonnie Hieland Laddie.**

We'll listen to this (long = capstan shanty) version sung by **Stormalong John** on their CD: **Liverpool.**

You can also hear a (short = stamp & go) version by **Hastings Shanty Singers** at youtu.be/9o02Zj_OHfk

Whose refrains go:

...
Hieland Laddie, Bonnie Laddie,
...
My Bonnie Hieland Laddie.



Breaking through soft ice,
one of many excellent illustrations from
A voyage to the arctic in the whaler Aurora, by
David Moore Lindsay, 1911.
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Notes

A **walkaway** or **stamp'n'go** shanty, also used at the capstan and halyards,

A **stamp'n'go** shanty is used at the halyards when the crowd ! seize the fall and stamp the sail up. Sometimes when hauling a heavy boat up the falls would be 'married' and both hauled on at the same time as the hands stamped away singing. [Hugill]

Other names: Bonnie laddie hieland laddie, Hieland laddie, Bonnie Highland Laddie, etc

Stan Hugill, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:

Hieland Laddie is based on an old **Scottish march and dance tune**. It was popular in the old Dundee Whalers.

The next shanty in Hugill's book is Donkey Riding, which you may recognise as having the same tune!

Nordoff mentioned [its use] by the **cotton stowers** of Mobile Bay in the 1830's and 40's, with a chorus of Bonnie Laddie, Highland Laddie.

Hugill's first version, which has 15 verses: "was obviously the **capstan** version - when used for **stamp'n'go** normally the whole song would be sung in unison and only half the number of verses needed."

Hugill's second version: "when sung with the full chorus was used by the **timber drogher's** crews at the capstan when working cargo heaving in and out through the great bow ports cumbersome logs, in the timber ports of Canada and nor'-east America. When sung without the grand chorus it was at **halyards** or .. at the "**screw**" use to ram tight bales of cotton down the holds of the Cotton Traders."



Pounding away at the floe, one of many excellent illustrations from *A voyage to the arctic in the whaler Aurora* by **David Moore Lindsay**, 1911, Photograph from [Freshwater and Marine Image Bank](#) via [wikimedia commons](#),