

## Hooker John

1. Oh Mary she's a sailor's lass  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**  
 We courted all day on the grass,  
**To me, Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**

**Way Susanna,  
 Way, hay, high-high-ya!  
 Johnny's on the foreyard,  
 Yonder, way up yonder!**

2. Oh, me Susie she's a sailor's gal,  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**  
 She's nine foot high that gal's so tall,  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**

**Way Susanna  
 Way, hay, high-high-ya!  
 Johnny's on the foreyard,  
 Yonder, way up yonder!**

2. Oh my Flora she's a hoosier's friend,  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**  
 She's beamy round the ol' beam end.  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**

**Way Susanna,  
 Way, hay, high-high-ya!  
 Johnny's on the foreyard,  
 Yonder, way up yonder!**

3. Oh Sally Brown she's the gal for me  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**  
 She courts a bit when her man's at sea  
**To me Hooker John, me Hoo-John!**

**Way Susanna,  
 Way, hay, high-high-ya!  
 Johnny's on the foreyard,  
 Yonder, way up yonder!**

Sing along with **Shantykoor Blankenberge** at  
[youtu.be/912KPla3td4](https://youtu.be/912KPla3td4) - watch out for the  
 "floating verse" at the end.

### Notes

A cargo loading and capstan shanty.

Stan Hugill in *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:  
 1994, gives the same chorus as above but  
 different verses 2-4

2. Oh, my Susie she is a nigger's gal.  
 She's nine foot high – that girl's so tall.

3. Oh, my Flora she is a Hoosier's friend,  
 She's being me round the old beamer end.

4. Oh, Sally Brown she's the gal for me,  
 She courts a bit when her man's at sea.

Hugill writes that **Whall** (Captain J B) calls the  
 song **Ooker John** and gives

My Mary she is a blooming lass  
**To my Ooker John, my Oo-John**  
 Hello my Mary she's blooming lass  
**To my Ooker John, my Oo-John**

**Way fair lady, O way-ay-ay-ay-ay  
 My Mary's on the Highland  
 Oh yonder Mary yonder.**

Hugill says the song probably originated in the  
 West Indies.

Johnny on the foreyard would be working like  
 these men are



Furling sail on the mainyard of the Parma,  
 by Alan Villiers, 1932/3,

National Maritime Museum, [www.nmm.ac.uk/](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/)  
 via [wikimedia](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alan_Villiers_-_Furling_sail_on_the_mainyard_of_the_Parma.jpg)

### About the words

**Hooker** - one who hooks uses a hook; in this  
 case, for hooking of cargo such as cotton bales.

Also types of ship such as lumber hooker or  
 Galway hooker.

**Foreyard** - yard across the foremast, from which  
 hangs a sail. Much like the mainyard in the  
 photograph above.

**Hoosier** - resident of Louisiana