

## Shiney-O

1. Captain, captain, you are a dandy  
**Way-ay-ay-ay, shiny-o**  
Captain, captain, you love your brandy  
**Way-ay-ay-ay, shiny-o**
2. Won't you ferry me over to Dover  
**Way-ay-ay-ay, shiny-o**  
Won't you ferry me over to Dover  
**Way-ay-ay-ay, shiny-o**
3. Queenstown to Dover's a hundred miles  
or over,  
Queenstown to Dover's a hundred miles  
or over.
4. Captain, captain, how deep is the water?  
It measures one inch, six feet and a quarter
5. Captain, captain, I love your daughter  
Captain, captain, I love your daughter
6. Shiney-o is the captain's daughter  
For her I'm sailing across this water.
7. Rivers, rivers, rivers are a-rolling  
Rivers are a-rolling and I can't get over
8. Captain, captain, you are a dandy  
**Way-ay-ay-ay, shiny-o**  
Captain, captain, you love your brandy  
**Way-ay-ay-ay, shiny-o.**

Sing with **The Teacups** at <https://youtu.be/YLBq8-oIMjk>

### Notes

For their shanties CD "[In Which...](#)", **The Teacups** wrote:

As far as we know, this shanty was only collected in one place: in 1886 by **James Taft Hatfield** on a crossing from Pensacola to Nice, aboard the Ahkera. Its distinctive West Indies melody sets it apart, and there are some alternative lyrics; [the above] version is our favourite.

### Other verses

The hen and the chickens were all flying over  
When she pitches, she pitches into Dover

**These hen and the chickens** are probably stormy petrels - birds which are similar to the albatross but light brown in colour. Sailors associated them with high winds and they called the stormy petrels "Mother Carey's chickens".

Jeff on [Mudcat](#)

**Queenstown** - there are many to choose from, but assuming it was a port, I think the port of Cobh in Ireland which the English re-named Queenstown from 1849-1920 is likely. Discover its history at <https://www.cobhheritage.com/cobh-past-present/>.

**Shiny** - if Queenstown is in Ireland, then surely Shiny is a sailor's pronunciation of the name Sinéad.



Vivarès, François:

**DOVER. The Castle & part of the Town seen from the North Pier Head.**

DOUVRES. Le Château et partie de la Ville vue de l'entrée du Port.

From the British Library, the King's Topographical Collection, <https://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/>

via [wikimedia](#)