

## Trinidad

1. Oh tell me, massa stevedore, how you  
stow your cargo.

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore.**

Tell me, massa stevedore, how you stow  
your cargo.

**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

**Booch free, me bully boys,  
and burtoned in the archway,  
Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore.  
Booch free, me bully boys,  
and burtoned in the archway.  
Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

2. O Trinidad! O Trinidad! You pretty little  
harbor.

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore!**

O Trinidad! O Trinidad! You pretty little harbor  
**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

3. What will you do with Sunny Dore if  
ever you should find her?

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore!**

Roll her in the grass, me boys, and all  
amongst the clover  
**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

4. Oh say, Mr. Barber, how do you shave your  
customers?

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore!**

Take 'em by their noses, and scrape them on  
their chinsi-oes!  
**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

5. Now stretch her luff, she's high enough,  
the end is just in sight boys,

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore!**

Now stretch her luff, she's high enough,  
the end is just in sight boys,  
**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

6. Hoist her high an' hoist her dry, come  
rock and roll me over.

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore!**

The ship's all right, the crew is tight,  
the ol' man's all in clover.  
**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

7. Oh tell me, massa stevedore, how you  
stow your cargo.

**Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore.**

Tell me, massa stevedore, how do you stow  
your cargo.  
**Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

**Booch free, me bully boys,  
and burtoned in the archway  
Way, hey, sing Sunny Dore!  
Booch free, me bully boys,  
and burtoned in the archway  
Bound down Trinidad, to look for  
Sunny Dore.**

Hear **Bob Walser** sing this, from his CD: *When  
Our Ship Comes Home*, at  
[youtu.be/Bckz2luqk2w](https://youtu.be/Bckz2luqk2w)

Hear Fisherman's Friends' version at  
[youtu.be/qxCNQbC684Y](https://youtu.be/qxCNQbC684Y)



*Trinidad is in the Caribbean,  
just north of Venezuela!*

*Maps from  
[OpenStreetMap.org](https://www.openstreetmap.org).*

*See also the pretty,  
copyrighted map at  
[worldatlas.com](https://www.worldatlas.com)*



### Notes:

A **cargo-loading** shanty from Barbados

**Other names:** Down Trinidad, Trinidad

The song is in the James Madison **Carpenter** collection, at the Smithsonian Institution. Carpenter collected it in 1928 from Richard **Warner** of Cardiff (Wales), who in turn heard it sung aboard ship in the 1870's.

**Bob Walser** has published extensive **notes** at [bobwalser.com/recordings/when-our-ship-comes-home/](http://bobwalser.com/recordings/when-our-ship-comes-home/) and says

James Madison **Carpenter** was an American scholar who wrote his doctoral thesis on sailors' music (*Forecastle Songs and Shanties*, Harvard University, 1929). He travelled Great Britain meeting and recording old sailors. His recordings and papers are now held at the Archive of Folk Culture. In 1928,

**Carpenter's** notes say that it was 'sung in Barbados, Negroes in sugarlog station on S.S. Bananzo.'

### About the words

**Booch** - ?? a **booge** is the widest part of a barrel.

**Booch free** - When the 'booge is free' the bung is easy to reach as the barrels don't touch each other.

**Burton** - Carpenter noted a burton is a block and tackle used in hoisting, particularly among longshoremen.

**Archway** - the widest part of a ship

**Embozarth** wrote in [mudcat.org](http://mudcat.org) : "Burton in the archway" had something to do with the way that they stored the barrels in the hold of the ship to prevent them from rolling.

**Madam Gashee** on [mudcat.org](http://mudcat.org), wrote If a cask is stored athwartships (port to starboard not bow to stern!) it is said to be "a-burton". It's not clear if the barrel was to be standing or lying for this position though.



**Stevedores on a New York dock loading barrels of corn syrup onto a barge on the Hudson River, c 1912**

from US National Archives, via [wikimedia commons](#)