

## 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](https://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.  
via [wikimedia commons](#), Copyright by Valentine,  
Dundee,

### 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](#),