

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 - 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/
via [wikimedia](#)

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