

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. Shiny-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](#)