

Whip Jamboree

1. Now me lads be of good cheer
For the Irish coast we'll soon draw near;
In a few days' time we'll sight Cape Clear.
Jenny get your oat cakes done.

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh you pig-tailed sailor, hanging down
behind,**

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh, Jenny get your oat cakes done.**

2. Now Cape Clear it is in sight,
We'll be off Holyhead by tomorrow night,
And we'll steer a course for the old Rock
Light,
Ah Jenny get your oat cakes done.

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh you pig-tailed sailor, hanging down
behind,**

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh, Jenny get your oat cakes done.**

3. Now my lads we're off Holyhead;
No more salt beef, or weevilly bread.
One man in the chains to heave the lead,
Oh Jenny get your oat cakes done.

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh you pig-tailed sailor, hanging down
behind,**

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh, Jenny get your oat cakes done.**

4. Now my boys we're off Old Perch Rock,
All hammocks tied, and all chests locked.
We'll haul her into the Waterloo Dock,
Jenny get your oat cakes done.

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh you pig-tailed sailor, hanging down
behind,**

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh, Jenny get your oat cakes done.**

5. Now my lads we're all in dock
We'll be off to Dan Lowrie's on the spot;
And there we'll sup a big pint pot
Oh Jenny get your oat cakes done.

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh you pig-tailed sailor, hanging down
behind,**

**Whip jamboree, whip jamboree,
Oh, Jenny get your oat cakes done.**

Notes:

Capstan or windlass shanty, a **homeward-bound** shanty

Other names: Whip jamboree, Whup jamboree,

This version from CD: **Seascape**, by Hughie Jones -
listen to Hughie Jones at youtu.be/ASJIL0Qjx88

Also recorded by [Stormalong John](#).

Notes on the words

Place names - as is often the case, the places mentioned in the verses varied to suit the ship's destinations.

Weevilly bread - weevils lived in the bread - or ship's biscuit - and were not welcomed by the sailors.

Variations in last lines:

Jenny get your oat-cakes done.
Jenny keep your old kegs warm. (kegs=legs)
Come and get your oats, my son.

Jenny keep your ring-tail warm.
Jenny keep your tail piece warm.
Jenny keep your arse-hole warm.

Variations in the chorus line two:

Oh you pig-tailed sailor, hanging down behind,
Oh you long-tailed black man, poke it up behind,

Oat cakes - There is a minstrel tune by Joel Sweeney (1810-1860) called "Jenny get your hoe-cake done", hoe cakes being a southern US food; perhaps oat-cakes a British mis-hearing.

kegs - dialect word for stomach (1885)
- Liverpool & NE word for trousers, cf kecks

It's not known whether oat-cakes or old kegs appeared first.

Come and get your oats - possibly a folk-revival attempt to get back to the original implications.

Ringtail - this is Huggill's version of the chorus. Huggill says he has "endeavoured to get nearer to the original than other writers."

Changing one word to 'ringtail' is a clever nautical double-entendre. A ring-tail was a small jib-shaped sail set aft-most. The allusion is clearly to some two-syllable word for a rear part such as arse.

Indeed, ...

Barry on **Mudcat** mentioned hearing how Stan Huggill intimated to another that arsehole was the camouflaged word.