

## 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 chests all 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

Alternative names: Whip jamboree, Whup jamboree,

This version from CD: **Seascape**, by Hughie Jones  
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 the last line:

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.

[\[Hultonclint on YouTube\]](#)