

# Bonny Hieland Laddie

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| 1. Was you ever in Quebec?<br>Bonny laddie, Highland laddie,<br>Loading timber on the deck,<br>My bonny Highland laddie.                    | 4. Was you ever in Mobile Bay,<br>Screwing cotton by the day?                    |
| <b>Chorus:</b><br>High-ho, and away she goes,<br>Bonny laddie, Highland laddie,<br>High-ho, and away she goes,<br>My bonny Highland laddie. | 5. Was you ever in Miramashee?<br>Where you tie up to a tree.                    |
| 2. Was you ever in Callao<br>Where the girls are never slow?  | 6. Was you ever in New Bedford port?<br>With the girls did you cavort?           |
| 3. Was you ever in Baltimore<br>Dancing on the sanded floor?  | 7. Was you on the Brummalow,<br>Where Yankee boys are all the go?                |
|   | 8. Was you ever round Cape Horn?<br>Where you wish to God you'd never been born? |

"Highland Laddie", also known as "Hielan' Laddie", has been adapted from ancient Scottish popular folk tunes "If thou'lt play me fair play" or "The Lass of Livingston". The melody appears in the Drummond Castle Manuscript inscribed "A Collection of Country Dances written for the use of his Grace the Duke of Perth by Dav. Young, 1734." However the earliest printing of the tune is in Robert Bremner's 1757 collection. A variant appears under the title "Cockleshells" in Playford's **Apollo's Banquet** (London, 1690) and the **Dancing Master** of 1701. Highland Regiments raised in the 18th and early 19th centuries employed many unique symbols to differentiate themselves from other regiments and enlisted distinctive music to announce their arrival, but as a result of the Cardwell Reforms of 1881, all British Army Highland Regiments were required to use "Highland Laddie" as their Regimental March. The melody was used as a capstan and a "stamp and go" shanty, and (without the chorus) as a halyard shanty. It was popular on the Dundee whalers, then later used (c. 1830's and 40's) as a work song for stowing lumber and cotton in the Southeastern and Gulf ports of the United States.

Highland Laddie was used for long and slow maneuvers: hoisting sails above (2 pulls per chorus) or hauling up the anchor.

It has been recorded by Burl Ives, The Tannahill Weavers, the Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger and others.

I learned it from the Kingston Trio and Pete Seeger.