Rolling Home

Verse

Call all hands to man the cap-stan, See the ca-ble run-ning clear, Heave a way and with a will, boys, For new Eng-land we will steer.

Chorus

Rol-ling home, rol-ling home, Rol-ling home a cross the sea, Rol-ling home to old New Eng-land, Rol-ling home dear land to thee.

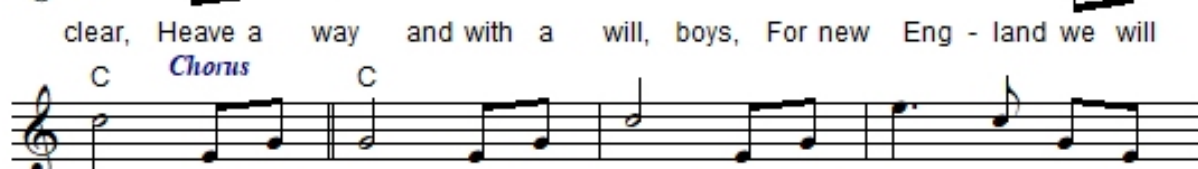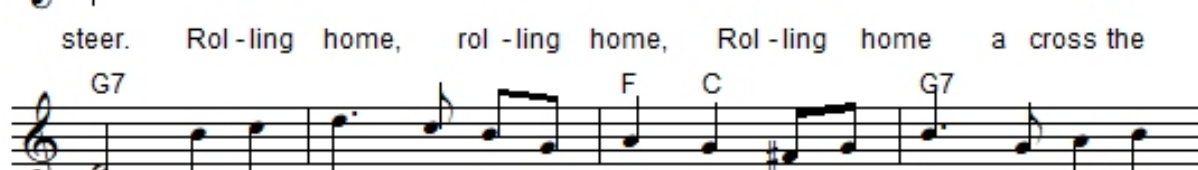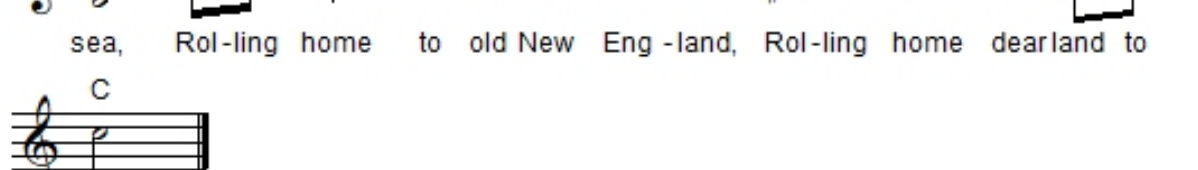1. Call all hands to man the capstan
   See the cable running clear
   Heave away and with a will, boys
   For New England we will steer
   Chorus
   Rolling home, rolling home
   Rolling home across the sea
   Rolling home to old New England
   Rolling home dear land to thee

2. Fare you well, you Spanish maidens
   It is time to say adieu
   Happy times we've spent together
   Happy times we've spent with you
   Chorus

3. Round Cape Horn one frosty morning
   And our sails were full of snow
   Clear your sheets and sway your halyards
   Swing her out and let her go
   Chorus

4. Up aloft amid the rigging
   Blows a wild and rushing gale
   Like a monsoon in the springtime
   Filling out each well-known sail
   Chorus

5. And the waves we leave behind us
   Seem to murmur as they flow
   There's a hearty welcome waiting
   In the land to which you go
   Chorus

6. Many thousand miles behind us
   Many thousand miles before
   Ocean lifts her winds to bring us
   To that well remembered shore
   Chorus

This is a fo'c's'le song probably sung by sailors on the last leg of a long voyage. The melody is beautiful and sticks in your head. The guys in our band found the lyrics to be overly sentimental. Of course, we teenagers had no experience of months-long voyages which would justify the sentimentality of a song about returning home.

The origins of the song are uncertain. There are versions from England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, Germany, Sweden and America. There is a version written by Charles Mackay, who wrote it on May 26, 1858 while he was on board "The Europe" going home. There is some controversy about whether the shanty was derived from the poem or the poem was inspired by an existing chanty.

The melody was used for the Irish rebel ballad "Kevin Barry".

It was recorded by The Golden Ring and numerous others.

It was printed in Hugill's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1961), Ives' **The Burl Ives Songbook** (1953) and many other sources.

I learned it from **The Burl Ives Song Book** and Ed Trickett.

It was recorded on **The Golden Ring**.