

Sloop John B

We come on the sloop John B, My grand-fath-er and
me, A round Nas-sau town we - did roam.
Drinl-ing all night Got in - to a fight
Well, I feel so break up I want to go
home.——

1. We come on the sloop John B,
My grandfather and me,
Around Nassau town we did roam.
Drinking all night
Got into a fight
Well I feel so break up
I want to go home.

Chorus:

So hoist up the John B's sail
See how the mainsail sets
Call for the captain ashore
Let me go home,
Let me go home
I want to go home,
Well I feel so break up
I want to go home.

2. The first mate he got drunk
He broke in the cap'n's trunk
The constable had to come and take him away
Sheriff John Stone
Why don't you leave me alone,
Well I feel so break up
I want to go home.

Chorus

3. The poor cook he caught the fits,
Threw away all my grits
Then he took and he ate up all of my corn
Let me go home
Why don't they let me go home
This is the worst trip
Since I've been born.

Chorus

"The John B. Sails" is a Bahamian folk song from Nassau. A transcription by Richard Le Gallienne was published with five verses and the chorus published in his article "Coral Islands and Mangrove-Trees" in the December 1916 issue of **Harper's Monthly Magazine** and the first three verses and chorus were included in Carl Sandburg's **The American Songbag** in 1927. Since the early 1950s there have been many recordings; variant titles include "I Want to Go Home", "Wreck of the John B", and most famously, "Sloop John B".

It has been recorded by:

Blind Blake ("John B. Sails"), The Kingston Trio ("The Wreck of the John B"), Johnny Cash ("I Want To Go Home"), Jimmie Rodgers ("Wreck of the John B"), The Brothers Four ("The John B. Sails"), The Beach Boys ("Sloop John B"), Joseph Spence ("Sloop John B"), and a long list of others.

I learned it in 1958 from The Kingston Trio.