

# Traditional & Folk Songs with lyrics & midi music

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## The Greenland Whale

(alternate:)

GRENFISX.gif"

(alternate:)

GRENFISY.gif"

### The Greenland Whale

It was seventeen hundred and eighty-four  
On March the seventeenth day  
We weighed our anchor to our bow  
And for Greenland bore away brave boys  
And for Greenland bore away

Bold Stevens was our captain's name  
Our ship called the Lion so bold  
And our poor souls our anchor away  
To face the storms and cold brave boys  
To face the storms and cold

Oh when we arrived in that cold country  
Our goodly ship to moor  
We wished ourselves safe back again  
With those pretty girls on shore brave boys  
With those pretty girls on shore

Our boatswain to the main top stand  
With a spyglass in his hand  
A whale a whale my lads he cries  
And she spouts at every span brave boys  
And she spouts at every span

The captain walked the quarter-deck  
And a jolly little fellow was he  
Overhaul overhaul your davit tackle fall  
And we'll launch our boats all three brave boys  
And we'll launch our boats all three

There was harpineery and picaneery  
And boat steerery also  
And twelve jolly tars to tug at the oars  
And a-whaling we all go brave boys

And a-whaling we all go

We struck that whale and down she went  
By the flourish of her tail  
By chance we lost a man overboard  
And we did not get that whale brave boys  
And we did not get that whale

When this news to our captain came  
It grieved his heart full sore  
And for the loss of a 'prentice boy  
It was half mast colors all brave boys  
It was half mast colors all

It's now cold months is a-coming on  
No longer can we stay here  
For the winds do blow and the whales do go  
And the daylight seldom does appear brave boys  
And the daylight seldom does appear

DT #321

Laws K21

From Songs the Whalemens Sang, Huntington  
collected from the journal of the Bengal, 1833, kept by  
William Silver of Salem