

Down Among the Dead Men

Not a shanty. This is a traditional English tune which dates to at least 1700. The words were written by John Dyer (1700-58). The air appears in The Dancing Master (circa 1726). It was popular during Queen Anne's reign, but this version refers to George I ("Here's a health to the King"). The 'dead men' are empty bottles.

Here's a health to the King, and a lasting peace
To faction an end, to wealth increase;
Come let's drink it while we have breath
For there's no drinking after death;
And he that will this health deny

Chorus

*Down among the dead men,
Down among the dead men,
Down, down, down, down;
Down among the dead men let him lie.*

Let charming beauty's health go round
In whom celestial joys are found;
May confusion still pursue
The selfish woman-hating crew;
And they that women's health deny

In smiling Bacchus' joys I'll roll
Deny no pleasure to my soul;
Let Bacchus' health round briskly move
For Bacchus is a friend to Love;
And he that will his health deny

May love and wine their rites maintain
And their united pleasure reign;
While Bacchus' treasure crowns the board
We'll sing the joys that both afford;
And they that won't with us comply