

Stormalong John

Stormalong John came from the shantyman “Harding, the Barbadian Barbarian” from Barbados. Stan Hugill wrote that Harding was master of the ‘hitch’ – the singing of wild yelps at certain points in a hauling song. Roud 216.

Old Stormy's gone, that good old man
Wey, Stormalong John

Old Stormy's gone, that good old man
Wey hey, Mister, Stormalong John

Old Stormy heard the angels call
So sing his dirge now one and all

Old Stormy died way off Cape Horn
Close by the place where he was born

Well I wish I was old Stormy's son
I'd build me a ship of a thousand ton

I'd fill her hold with food and rum
And stay in port 'til it was gone

Then I'd sail the oceans round and round
With plenty of money I'd be found

<Quiet>

We dug his grave with a silver spade
And lowered him down on a golden chain

Old Stormy's now been laid to rest
Of all our boys he was the best