JULY FEATURED SONG   *by Saena Eyre*

DRINKING ALL NIGHT

Unbeknownst to many, a song made popular by The Beach Boys in the 1960's, that topped the charts in the US and several other countries, entitled *Sloop John B* actually had deep roots in Bahamian folk music. It was first published in Richard Le Gallienne's article "[Coral Islands and Mangrove-Trees](#)" on page 82 of the December, 1916 issue of *Harper's Magazine*. A version with sheet music was included in Carl Sandburg's *[The American Songbag](#)* in 1927 on page 22.

Played with that wonderful Carribean rhythm, chords here are in E but capo where you're comfortable (The Beach Boys sang it high). A traditional early version [here](#) collected by Alan Lomax. The Kingston Trio sticking close to Sandburg's arrangement [here](#) and on the [HFMS Audio Archive](#).

JOHN B SAILS

Traditional


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        E
We come on the Sloop John B, My grandfather and me.
                              B
Around Nassau town we did roam.
          E   E7              A   F#m
Drinkin' all night,      Got into a fight.
        E              B/F#             E
Well, I feel so broke up,      I wanna go home.


CHORUS        E
        So hoist up the John B's sail; See how the main sail sets;
                                         B
        Call for the captain ashore, let me go home.
            E   E7                            A   F#m
        Let me go home,      I wanna go home let me go home
            E                B/F#            E
        Well, I feel so broke up,      I wanna go home.
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The first mate he got drunk;   He broke in the captain's trunk
The constable had to come and take him a-way
Sheriff John Stone,   Why don't you leave me a-lone?
Well, I feel so broke up, I wanna go home.   *CHORUS*

The poor cook he caught the fits   And threw away all my grits
And 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   I've ever been on   *CHORUS*