

WITH HEARTS UNDAUNTED AND COURAGE TRUE

A song about cold weather seemed to be in order. This traditional ballad about Lord John Franklin's ill-fated expedition in 1845 to find a Northwest Passage around the pole is one of my favorites. There were a great many recordings on Youtube to choose from – some by big “names” like Sinéad O'Connor and Pentangle. I liked this version by Andy Toman, which you can hear at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqGpU33j4AA>. As with all traditional songs, you'll find somewhat different words with different peoples' versions.

Lady Franklin's Lament for her Husband

The Oxford Book of Sea Songs, Roy Palmer “The text given here, which was originally printed in 1853 or '54, entered oral tradition in England, Ireland, Scotland and North America...”

D **G**
Was homeward bound one night on the deep
Em **A**
Slung in my hammock, I fell asleep
D **G** **D**
I dreamed a dream which I thought was true
D **A** **G** **D**
Concerning Franklin and his gallant crew

To find a passage around the Pole
Where tempests wave and wild thunders roll
Is more than mortal man can do
With hearts undaunted and courage true

In cruel hardship they have vainly strove
Their ships on mountains of ice were drove
At Baffin's Bay where the whalefish blows
The fate of Franklin nobody knows

For since that time a hundred years are past
And many a keen and a bitter blast
Blows o'er the grave where the poor seamen fell
Whose dreadful sufferings no tongue can tell

These sad forebodings they give me pain
For the long lost Franklin across the main
Likewise the fate of so many before
Who have left their homes to return no more