

## Loss of the John Harvey

*As sung by Al Stacey, Carbonear, 8 December, 1994*

1. The wind it blew from the East-South-East,  
O the worst storm of the year,  
The *John Harvey* sailed from Gloucester  
To the island of St. Pierre.\*
2. She was loaded deep with lumber,  
And loud the storm did roar,  
On the tenth of January,  
The John Harvey went a-shore.
3. The captain, he gave orders,  
The vessel to dismast,  
For the boats were frozen to her deck,  
And the sea swept fore and aft.  
  
Said Captain Kearly to his men,  
"Boys I see it is no use,  
I'm afraid that we're all doomed to die,  
Near the shores of Gabarus. \*"
5. The young John Keeping, a rope he took,  
And he tied it 'round his waist,  
Said he, "I'll swim to the nearest shore,  
And that icy foam he'd face."
6. Bitterly cold was the winter night  
As the sea rolled mountains high,  
All bruised and battered by the waves  
Was the brave Belloram\* boy.
7. He was bruised and battered by the waves,  
"Till at last the shore he reached.  
Then with his badly frozen hands,  
Made the line fast to the beach.
8. The crew of the *Harvey* got on shore,  
There were six of them all tolled.  
They owed their lives to God above,  
And the sailor boy so bold.
9. Foote and young John Kippen,  
We laid them down to rest,  
They thought upon their home and friends,  
And the ones that they loved best.
10. They knew their time was drawing nigh,  
And in the prime of youth,  
Gave up the struggle for their lives,  
Near the shores of Gabarus.
11. The survivors walked to some fishing shacks,  
That stood upon the shore,  
Much tired by their heavy boots  
And the oilskins that they wore.
12. They had no match to light the fire,  
O how awful was their plight,  
As they struggled for existence  
On that stormy winter's night.
13. But help soon came from Gabarus,  
And then the tale was told,  
If the wreck of the *John Harvey*  
And the sailor boy so bold.
14. We followed the caskets to the train,  
As the tears fell from our eyes,  
When we thought upon the noble deeds.  
Of the brave Belloram boys.
15. Come all ye bold young sailor boys,  
Think of those two noble youths,  
Who died far away from their native homes,  
Near the shores of Gabarus.

\* *St Pierre is one of the French islands off the South coast of Newfoundland.*

\* *Belloram is in Fortune Bay, on the south coast of Newfoundland.*

\* *Gabarus is on the east coast of Cape Breton Island.*

## Loss of the John Harvey

