

# SAIL AWAY LADIES

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Late 1800's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Sid Harkreader & Uncle Dave Macon- 1925; Kenny Baker; Joan Baez; Erik Darling; John Hartford; David Holt; New Lost City Ramblers; Slate Mountain Ramblers; **NOTES:** The tune is related to the numerous versions of "Sally Ann" and "Great Big Taters in Sandy Land." According to Guthrie Meade (1980), the tune is identified with the south central Kentucky and middle Tennessee locals. Recorded by Uncle Dave Macon, the song was collected around the turn of the 20th century and seems to have been common to both black and white traditions. Wolfe (1991) finds the song in several older collections: Brown, Brewer and a 1903 collection by William W. Newell, Games and Songs of American Children.

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**E**  
There ain't no use to sit and cry  
**B7 E**  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.

You'll be an angel by an' by,  
**B7 E**  
Sail away, ladies, sail away,

**E A**  
**Chorus:** Don't you rock 'im die-dy-o

**E**  
Don't you rock 'im die-dy-o,  
**B7**  
Don't you rock 'im die-dy-o,  
**E**  
Don't you rock 'im die-dy-o.

Come along, girls, and go with me.  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.  
We'll go back to Tennessee  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.

If ever I get my new house done,  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.  
I'll give my old one to my son  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.

I got the news from Charlotte Town.  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.  
Big St. Louis is a-burning down  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.

I asked that girl to be my beau  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.  
She hacked at me with a garden hoe  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.

I asked that girl to be my wife,  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.  
She took at me with a butcher knife.  
Sail away, ladies, sail away.