

MINGULAY BOAT SONG

trad.; amendments by Lew Toulmin, 2003; Waltz DUU
sung at the memorial for Mary Morgan Duggar Toulmin, 2004

Mingulay is a small island off the west coast of Scotland, now uninhabited. The Minch is the channel between Mingulay and the “mainland.” Skye, Lewis, Mull etc. are nearby islands. Waltz, DDU

Intro: **D C Am D**

[D] What care we, how white the Minch is?

What [C] care we now for wind or

[D]weather?

[D] For we know that every inch is

Sailin’ her [Am] closer to [D] **Mingulay**.

Chorus:

[D] *So heave ya ho, boys; let her go, boys;*

Turn her [C] head round, into the [D]weather,

[D] *Heave ya ho, boys, let her go, boys*

*Sailin’ her [C] homeward to [D] **Mingulay***

[D] Wives are waiting, on the banks, or

Gazing [C] seaward, from the [D] heather;

[D] Turn her ‘round, boys, and we’ll anchor

Where the [Am] sun sets on [D] **Mingulay**.

[D] Mothers holdin,' bairns a-cryin'

Dawn and [C] dusk now they are [D] sighin'

[D] They are prayin' that we're stayin'

On a [Am] home course for [D] **Mingulay**.

[D] Skye or Lewis, Mull or Uist,

Tyree, [C] Coll or [D] Vatersay;

[D] None can call us, like our Highland,

Our [Am]own dear island, of [D] **Mingulay**.

[D] Longer, longer shall I tarry,

Where [C] our hearts are both [D] blithe and
merry.

[D] Turn her 'round boys, and she'll carry

Hearts [Am] to hearth, home and [D]

Mingulay.

NOTE: alternate version: substitute “Mobile Bay” for all or most of the “Mingulay” words above, or just for the last one in the last chorus.