

## Roving Journeyman

1. I am a roving journey-man I roam from town to town, And if  
ev-er I get a job of work I am will-ing to set down; With my  
kit up-on my shoul-der and my stick all in my hand, A -  
down the coun-try I will go as a ro-v ing jour-ne-y - man.

Source: Sung by Chas [Charles] Smith, Coates, on April 10th 1911. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp (verse one and tune). The following verses are from a broadside by Cadman, Manchester.

2. O when I came to Carlow, the girls jump'd for joy  
Says one to another, "Here comes a roving boy";  
One treats me to a bottle and another to a dram,  
And the toast goes round the table, "Here's a health to the journeyman".
3. I had not been in Carlow days more than two or three,  
Before a Skinner's daughter, she fell in love with me;  
She wanted me to live with her, and she took me by the hand  
And she slyly told her mammy that she loved the journeyman.
4. "O hold your tongue you silly fool, what makes you say so,  
How can you love a journeyman you never saw before?"  
"O be content, dear mother, and do the best you can,  
For round the country I will go with my roving journeyman."
5. Then I took my stick all in my hand, my kit on my back also,  
And away from friends and parents a roving I did go,  
There's not a town that I go through, but I get a fresh sweetheart,  
So girls, if you'll believe me, I'm sorry with you to part
6. I do not know the reason why my love she looks so shy,  
I always carry a cordial, to make the girls comply,  
I never use the magic art with any female kind,  
Which makes me go a roving and leave my love behind.
7. So now my loving sweetheart, I will bid you adieu,  
And if ever I return again, I'd surely marry you;  
So let them all be talking and do the worst they can,  
It's down the country I will go, a roving journeyman.

The following verses were noted by Alfred Williams in the Upper Thames valley.

### The Roving Navigator

1. I'm a roving navigator and I rove from town to town,  
And when I get a job of work I'm willing to sit down;  
With my kit across my shoulder and my shovel in my hand  
I'll travel the country over, I'm a roving navy man.
2. Now when I got to London the girls did jump for joy,  
Says one unto the other, "Here comes a navvy boy"  
One will treat me with a bottle, and another with a dram,  
Let the toast go round the table, "Here's to a roving navvy man!"
3. I had not been in London town some hours two or three  
Before the landlady's daughter fell in love with me;  
She said if I'd go with her she would lead me by the hand,  
And she shyly told her mammy that she loved a navvy man.
4. "Oh daughter, dearest daughter, oh daughter dear for shame!  
To take a liking to a man, you do not know his name."  
"Oh hold your breath, dear mammy, we'll do the best we can,  
And I'll travel the country over with my roving navvy man."
5. Now we'll go down to Oxford town and there we 'll wed with speed,  
The bells shall ring so merrily and the bride shall dance indeed.  
We'll spend this night in dancing and drinking from a can."  
Now she's happy and contented with her roving navvy man.

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