

# Beaver River

As sung by Ted Ashlaw\*\*  
Tune: Variant of "Blue Mountain Lake"

Moderately, in 2  $\text{♩} = 56$

1. Come boys, if you'll lis - ten, I'll sing you a song, If you'll pay good at - ten - tion, it  
won't take me long; It's up at Bea-ver Riv - er, a place you know well, And it's  
not far from Tup - per, but clos - er to Hell, Der-ry down, down, day der - ry down.

Chords: Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, C, Dm, Am, Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm

2. When I first came to Beaver I got in there late,  
Quit a good job at Saranac, came there for a stake.  
The fist job I landed was for my brother, Ed;  
He had a pulp job from his chum old Hedge,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

3. The very next morning our troubles began:  
To find us a camp or a shack to stay in.  
When Paradise to Eddie said, "A camp I can get."  
He says, "If you can, why, you'll go and get it."  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

4. Paradise he started, he wasn't gone long,  
Came back with a story twice long as my song.  
For that Paradise he lied, it is surely a sin;  
He'll talk for two hours and not say a thing,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

5. But he got the camp, and that I will say;  
But he told us right then we couldn't move in that day,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

6. For his brother-in-law, Haines, he had figured on that, too;  
But he's full of big plans that he never can do,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

7. Smith was the first man had this job, you know;  
But 'course he was under this big John Davignon.  
But Harry Smith, he wasn't there long  
When to John Davignon someone else sucked around,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

8. The next man had this job it was Howard Haines;  
And he's just as big a man but I believe less brains,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

9. One day, says Eddie, he needed some pants,  
Says as he went to dinner he went by Haines' camp.  
As he was a-walking around that way  
A man would be surprised to hear what he heard Haines say,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

10. Haines was inquiring about the Canadian job  
As he walked to the swamp with his two little "Frogs,"  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

11. Now, it's over at Smitty's, where the gamblers do dwell,  
Till one night two Polacks came in to raise hell.  
Smith grabbed for his club, he got hit in his hand,  
And he made for the Polack and called his hard man,  
Derry down, down, dey derry down.

This song requires more than the customary amount of flexibility in fitting the subsequent verses to the rhythm of the first. Work through each verse carefully to keep the text clear and flowing.

\*Three-line verses should begin with the third phrase (2nd measure of the 2nd line of music).

\*\*As transcribed in Bethke's *Adirondack Voices*, pp. 128-130.