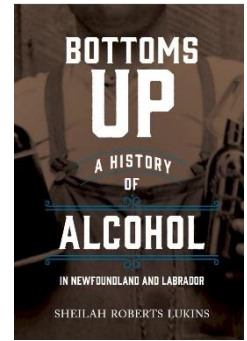


## THE LANGUAGE OF LIQUOR



**Alky** (alkie) – a term for an alcoholic. It could also refer to poor quality bootlegged liquor or pure grain alcohol smuggled in from St. Pierre and Miquelon.

**Bever** - slight refreshment taken between meals. Liquor taken at a specified time during working hours.

“Beaver. A dram at eleven in the forenoon.”

**Bond store** -- warehouse or cellar storing spiritous liquor; a liquor store.

**Bumper** – a cup filled so the liquor swells over the brim.

**Bung-your-eye** - to drink heartily. Strong alcoholic beverage. Bung-yer-eye - an old sailing term referring to strong rum or hard liquor.

**Callibogus** - also calabogus, calebogus, calibogus, callabogus; calli. A maritime beverage of eastern North America. Other drinks made in a similar way include purl, 'hot beer with gin';

**Chouder or chowder beer**-- a concoction of black-spruce boughs, molasses, etc, drunk to prevent scurvy. Also known as Spruce Beer.

**Controller**-- the government-appointed Board of Liquor Control or one of its retail stores.

**Crapulence** -- drunkenness, or sickness by intemperance

**Dawn** --a drink of rum. To have the dawnies or to be in the dawnies means to be harried or tired; to be hung-over.

**Draw the spile** -- to imbibe.

**Elevener** -- also eleven, levener. A drink of liquor, or a light snack, taken at 11 a.m. “A glass of grog taken at eleven o'clock, when the sun is over the fore yard.”

**Flinter**--a term of reproach, used of a drunken woman' (1862). A mischievous or saucy girl.

**Fluking** --very drunk.

**Foxy rum**-- a light-coloured or amber rum.

**Grog** - a shot of liquor. It also means a little bit of food accompanying a drink i.e. a grog-bit

**Half-cut** – drunk

**Hurt wine** -- home-made wine brewed from blueberries. hurtleberry (1460-), whortleberry (1578-).

**Jar** --a stone bottle or a drink (of beer, etc)

**Jig-house** -- also jig-loft. 'illicit distillery.' A boarding house for seamen, flop-house; especially one at which liquor is sold illegally.

**Joog (jook, jug)** -- a drop, a drain.

**Juniper beer** --Juniper beer was a fermented drink brewed from Juniper (Tamarack tree) boughs also known as hop beer.

**Keg/cag out** -- to swear off liquor for a period of time. To become unconscious from intoxication; to pass out; (b) to lie down; to collapse (with exhaustion); keel out. A caged man is one who has taken the pledge i.e. stopped drinking. Many Roman Catholics would take a vow before the priest known as caging [caging], promising not to touch rum or spirits for a year or two, for the rest of their lives or while they were on shore.

**Under keg** - proverb: when the rum is in the 'kag, 'the tongue doesn't wag

**Liquor** -- the word originally referred to other liquids for example pot liquor, the liquid left in the pot after boiling meat or vegetables. The term pot liquor can be seen in old English recipes from the 17th century and earlier.

**Loaded**-- drunk

**Log-loaded** -- drunk, loaded. If a person got very drunk he was said to be log-loaded. Quite drunk, barely able to stagger around.

**Nelson** --drink it off dead Nelson, the one-eyed hero. Indiscriminate and copious consumption of alcohol. (Horatio Nelson died at sea and in order to preserve the body for a proper burial, the ship's surgeon preserved it in a barrel of alcohol.) Legend has it that "Nelson's body was packed in rum and sent home for burial, but seamen tapped and drank from these casks of rum unaware that there were bodies inside."

**Nipperkin** --a half a pint of wine. Known in Newfoundland as a 'nip' a small bottle in between a flask and a mini that you would buy today.

**Noggin** -- also naggin. A small wooden cask; a cask sawn in half. "A naggin of rum."

**Pickled**—drunk

**Pinky** --'cheap wine' Cheap port wine; wine mixed with other spirits. A name given to cheap wine, port or wine mixed with other spirits, e.g. two parts cheap port wine mixed with one part screech. Often consumed on the waterfront. "Some people say that the pinky is fine

**Plastered**—drunk **Plunk or plonk** -- cheap wine usually of poor quality, a favourite of the down and out sorts that hung around the water-front.

**Randy** -- a frolic, a drunken carousal.

**Rory-eyed** -- also roary-eyed. Drunk.

**Rotgut or Gutrot** – a cheap or inferior alcoholic drink.

**Sack** -- sack ship: a vessel engaged in carrying supplies and migratory fishermen from Britain to Newfoundland, dried cod from the island to Mediterranean markets, and wine or sack, etc, thence to British ports; a cargo as opposed to a fishing vessel.

**Screech** -- popular name for a variety of cheap, dark Demerara rum bottled in Newfoundland; trade-name of a type of rum marketed with the label 'Screech.'

**Sea stock** -- rum carried on vessel for medicinal purposes. Around 1900 the puncheons [of rum] faded out and the mug-up of tea or coffee with a figged bun came into use. The only rum used was what they called sea stock in case a man became ill or contracted a heavy cold: rum carried on vessel for medicinal purposes.

**Shaugraun** -- 'wandering, straying,'; a drifting state; a drinking spree or drunk. A vagabond state. a drunk.

**Shebeen (Sheveen)** -- a place where alcohol is sold illegally (without a license). You could get a drink there as early as six o'clock in the morning. This was quite a practical hour for fishermen, who would just be coming in by that time. Most of the licensed taverns didn't open until 9am. Peggy Rose kept a snug shebeen at Twenty-mile Pond, on which was read the following: "I've trusted many to my sorrow. / Pay to-day and trust tomorrow.'"

**Slew** -- small drink of beer or wine

**Soused**—drunk

**Splice** -- when a bottle was bought between two or three people and shared. It was drunk in the following manner: First the cork would be removed and the first drink would put his thumb on the bottle as a marker and drink only as far as the marker. The bottle would then be passed around, each drinker marking his share in the same way.

**Steam** -- on the south coast of Newfoundland referred to illegal raw alcohol.

**St Peter's Gin** -- rum: liquor procured or smuggled from St Pierre. [Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon were also called St. Peter's]

**Stun (stunned)**-- drunk.

**Square bender** -- drinking spree

**Squatum** -- a drink or home-brewed wine made from the juice of crushed berries.

**Swish** -- liquor made by pouring water into a recently emptied rum barrel and 'swishing' it around. A second lot of swish would often be made from the same barrel and some might try a third lot. Each time the brew would get weaker, until the last lot, sometimes known as 'splinters' would be more wood alcohol. It was not always easy to get a swish barrel. the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation would sell them for \$40 back in the 60s and 70s.

**Three sheets in the wind (three sheets to the wind)** – drunk

**Tib's Eve (Topsy Eve)** -- a day that will never come; never. A day or two before Christmas.

**Tippling House** -- a tippling house was a room in someone's house where the host served ale, wine, brandy tobacco and often food. Fishermen came and purchased drinks of alcohol and smoked tobacco. The houses also functioned as boarding houses where the 'dieters', fishermen who over-wintered with planters who were not their masters, stayed.

**Wren beer** -- home-brewed beer made for the celebration of St Stephen's Day

**Yellow Belly** -- a person originally from Wexford, Ireland; member of the Newfoundland- Irish faction. A brown jug with a yellow stripe.

**Sources** Definitions were taken from:

Dictionary of Newfoundland English

Samuel Johnson, Dictionary of the English language, 1785

<https://johnsonsdictionaryonline.com/crapulence/>

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Twig (v. to catch the meaning) <https://twignl.wordpress.com/>