

Billy Barlow in Australia

Chords in parentheses – Guitar capo II

- Bm (Am)**
1. When I was at home I was down on my luck
A (G)
And I earned a poor living by driving a truck
Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) G (F)
But an aunt died and left me a thousand pounds-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
"I'll start on my travels" said Billy Barlow
D (C) A (G) D (C) G (F)
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
So off to Australia went Billy Barlow
- Bm (Am)**
2. When to Sydney I got there a merchant I met
A (G)
Who said he would teach me a fortune to get
Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) G (F)
He had cattle and sheep past the colony's bounds
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
Which he sold with the station for my thousand pounds
D (C) A (G) D (C) G (F)
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
He gammoned the cash out of Billy Barlow
- Bm (Am)**
3. So I got my supplies and I gave him my bill
A (G)
And for New England started – my pockets to fill!
Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) G (F)
But by bushrangers met – with my traps they made free
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
Took my horse and left Billy tied up to a tree
D (C) A (G) D (C) G (F)
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
"I shall die of starvation" thought Billy Barlow
- Bm (Am)**
4. At last I got loose and I then did repair
A (G)
For my station once more and at length I got there
Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) G (F)
But a few days before that the blacks, you must know,
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
Had speared all the cattle of Billy Barlow
D (C) A (G) D (C) G (F)
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
"It's a beautiful country" said Billy Barlow
- Bm (Am)**
5. And for nine months before that no rain there had been
A (G)
So the devil a blade of grass was to be seen
Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) G (F)
One third of my wethers the scab they had got
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
And the other two - thirds had just died of the rot
D (C) A (G) D (C) G (F)
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
"I shall soon be a settler" said Billy Barlow
- Bm (Am)**
6. I'm in Sydney – insolvent – in poverty's toil
A (G)
I've no cattle for salting, no sheep for to boil
Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) G (F)
I can't get a job, though to any I'd stoop
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
If 'twas only the making of portable soup
D (C) A (G) D (C) G (F)
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
Bm (Am) Em (Dm) Bm (Am)
Pray give some employment to Billy Barlow!

Based primarily on the setting given by John Manifold in his book "The Penguin Australian Songbook". In his notes for the song he cites A. B. Paterson's "Old Bush Songs" as the source for the lyrics and Hugh Anderson's "Colonial Ballads" for the melody.

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 aunt died and left me a thou - sand pounds - o! "I'll
 start on my tra - vels" said Bil - ly Bar - low.
 Oh, dear! Lack - a - day - o! So
 off to Aus - tral - ia went Bil - ly Bar - low

arr. Peter McLaren

2. When to Sydney I got there a merchant I met
 Who said he would teach me a fortune to get
 He had cattle and sheep past the colony's bounds
 Which he sold with the station for my thousand pounds
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 He gammoned the cash out of Billy Barlow

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