

Roll the Woodpile Down

1. Way down south where the cocks do crow,
Way down in Florida.
The gals all dance to the old banjo.
And we'll roll the woodpile down.

**Rollin', Rollin',
Rollin' the whole world round.
That brown gal of mine's on the
Georgia Line ...
And we'll roll the woodpile down.**

2. When I was young and in me prime,
Way down in Florida!
I had them yaller girls two at a time,
And we'll roll the woodpile down

3. Now that I'm old and I'm turning grey
Way down in Florida!
Them young gals all look the other way
And we'll roll the woodpile down

4. Curly he goes on the old ran-tan
Way down in Florida!
'Cos Curly's just a Down-East man.
And we'll roll the woodpile down.

5. Oh rouse and bust her is the cry;
Way down in Florida.
A black man's wage is never high.
And we'll roll the woodpile down.

6. We'll rouse 'em up from down below
Way down in Florida!
We'll rouse 'em up and let 'er go!
And we'll roll the woodpile down.

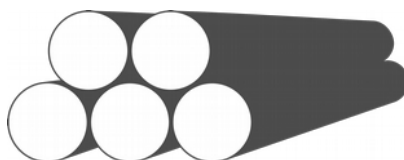
7. Oh one more heave and that'll do,
Way down in Florida!
We are the bucko's to kick 'er through.
And we'll roll the woodpile down.

**Rollin', Rollin',
Rollin' the whole world 'round.
That brown girl o' mine's on the
Georgia Line ...
And we'll roll the woodpile down.**

Other verses:

I'm goin' down to Alabam'
To roll them bales of cotton down.

Mobile Bay's no place for me,
I'll pack my bags and go to sea.



[NunoPequito](#), 2013, *Logpile*, via [openclipart.org](#)

Notes:

Shanty sung at both **capstan** and **pumps**.

This version: **The Shanty Crew** CD: [Let the Wind Blow Free](#),

Hugill, Stan, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:

This is partly related to Roll the Cotton Down. It was the sea version of a negro song **Haul the woodpile down** ... [which starts]

Old Aunt Dinah had a farm (Way down in Florida)
Old Aunt Dinah had a farm (**Haul** the woodpile
down!)

I had my version from West Indian seamen, and it is fairly obvious that it originated in either the West Indies all the southern states of America, most probably the latter, being, perhaps, one of the many

rivermen songs that reached deep water.

Sailors sometimes sang the negro refrain "Haul the woodpile down". Taylor-Harris gives "Trav'ling, trav'ling" for "Rolling, rolling".

Notes on the words

Georgia line - I can't find a shipping line; could it be the Georgia and Florida railroad line?

Down-East man - a sailor who sails on Down-Easters.

A **Down Easter** - a square-rigged merchant vessel combining large carrying capacity with a relatively sharp hull. They got their name from having been built in Maine, downwind and east of all the major East Coast ports, and were being used largely for the California grain trade, 1865-1890.