

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!

Chorus:

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

2. Then I was a young man in me prime
I'd take them yaller gals two at a time.
Chorus
3. We'll roll him high and we'll roll him low
We'll heave him up and away we'll go.
Chorus
4. Oh rouse and bust 'er is the cry
A black man's wage is never high.
Chorus
5. O Curly goes on the old ran-tan
O Curly's just a down-east man.
Chorus
6. O one more heave and that will do
We're the bullies for to kick 'er through.
Chorus

"Roll the Woodpile Down" is a pumping or capstan shanty. Hugill believed it to be a sea-going version of the southern Black song "Haul the Woodpile Down" and that perhaps being one of the many river men songs that reached deep water, it was popular right up to the end of the time of sail. It probably originated in the West Indies. One of Hugill's sources remembers it sung on board as late as 1920.

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