

South Australia

Verse

C F C F C

In South Aus - tral - ia I was born! Heave a - way!

F C G C

Haul a - way! In South Aus - tral - ia round Cape Horn! We're -

G C F *Refrain*

bound for South Aus - tral - ia! Heave a - way, you

C F C F C

rol - ling king, Heave a - way! Haul a - way!

F C

All the way you'll hear me sing We're - bound for South Aus -

G C

tral - ia!

1. In South Australia I was born!
Heave away! Haul away!
South Australia round Cape Horn!
We're bound for South Australia!
Refrain:
Heave away, you rolling king,
Heave away! Haul away!
All the way you'll hear me sing
We're bound for South Australia!
2. As I walked out one morning fair,
It's there I met Miss Nancy Blair.
3. I shook her up, I shook her down,
I shook her round and round the town.
4. There ain't but one thing grieves my mind,
It's to leave Miss Nancy Blair behind.
5. And as you wallop round Cape Horn,
You'll wish to Christ you'd never been born!
6. Up the coast to Vallipo,
Northward on to Callao.
7. It's back again to Liverpool,
I spent me pay like a bloody fool!
8. I'm Liverpool born and Liverpool bred,
Long in the arm and thick in the head.
9. Oh, rock and roll me over boys,
Let's get this damn job over boys.

"South Australia" (Roud # 325) is a capstan shanty, also known under such titles as "Rolling King" and "Bound for South Australia". This has an extended form - a call and response verse section and a refrain sung by all. As an original worksong it was sung in a variety of trades, including being used by the wool and later the wheat traders who worked the clipper ships between Australian ports and London. It was first noted by sea music author L.A. Smith, who collected it "from a coloured seaman at the [Sailors'] 'Home'" in London and published it in her 1888 collection, **The Music of the Waters**. In the 1930s or 1940s, at Sailors' Snug Harbor, New York, shanty collector William Main Doerflinger recorded veteran sailor William Laurie of Greenock Scotland, who began a career in sailing ships in the late 1870s. The one verse sung by Laurie was published, with tune, in Doerflinger's 1951 book **Shantymen and Shantyboys: Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman**.

The song has been recorded many times in both traditional and modern arrangements.

Recordings include:

A.L. Lloyd, A.L. Lloyd and Ewan MacColl, The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem, The Hardtackers and others.

I probably learned it from the Clancys.