

# A Lumbering We Will Go

As sung by  
 Lewis Winfield Moody  
 08-27-1940 Plainfield, WI

17. ~~Will A Lumbering We Will Go~~

On the banks of the Wisconsin, when the limpid waters flow, we'll tell our wild ad-  
 -ventures and once more a lum-bering go And once more a lum-bering go

1. Will tell our wild ad-ventures and once more a lum-bering go with the music of our  
 axe - ss, will make the woods re-sound And man-y a raft of for-est pine will tumble to the ground  
 with a-round our good camp fire, they'll sing while the wild winds blow and we'll tell our wild ad-ventures and once  
 more a lum-bering go, and once more a lum-bering go, and once more a lum-bering go and we'll tell our wild ad-  
 -ventures and O. M. A-L-I-G. You may talk a-bout your past-time, your pleasures and your play, But  
 think of us joll-y lum-ber-men while deck-ing in our skiffs We ask no bet-ter past-time than to  
 hunt the buck or dog And we'll tell our wild ad-ventures and O. M. A-L-I-G. And O.  
 M. A-L-I-G. And O. M. A-L-I-G. And we'll tell our wild ad-ventures and once  
 more A-L-I-G. And you talk a-bout your past-time, your pleasures or your play But



think of us jol-ly lum-ber-men while dash-ing in our sleighs We ask no bet-ter pas-time than to  
 hunt the buck or doe and we'll tell our wild ad-ven-tures and once more a-lumb'ring go. Pause  
 4.  
 Get-ting old and our pock-ets get-ting warm we'll each one take a lit-tle wife and  
 set-tle on the farm With en-ough to eat, to drink, to wear, con-tent throu-gh life we'll go And we'll  
 tell our wild ad-ven-tures and once more a-lumb'ring go. And we'll tell our wild ad-ven-tures and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 M A L - G And we'll tell our wild ad-ven-tures and once more a-lumb'ring go.

Verse 1.

On the banks of the Wisconsin, where the limpid waters flow,  
 We'll tell our wild adventures and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 And once more a-lumb'ring go, and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 And we'll tell our wild adventures and once more a-lumb'ring go.

Verse 2.

With the music of our axes, we'll make the woods resound,  
 And many a raft of forest pine we'll tumble to the ground.  
 At night around our good camp fire, oh you'll sing while the wild winds blow,  
 And we'll tell our wild adventures and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 And once more a-lumb'ring go, and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 And we'll tell our wild adventures and once more a-lumb'ring go.

Verse 3.

You may talk about your pastimes, your pleasures, or your play,  
 But think of us jolly lumbermen, while dashing in our sleighs.  
 We ask no better pastimes than to hunt the buck or doe,  
 And we'll tell our wild adventures and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 And once more a-lumb'ring go, and once more a-lumb'ring go.  
 And we'll tell our wild adventures and once more a-lumb'ring go.

Verse 4.

[Syllables missing] getting old, and our pockets getting warm,  
 We'll each one take a little wife and settle on the farm.  
 With enough to eat, to drink, to wear, content through life we'll go,

And we'll tell our wild adventures and no more a-lumb'ring go.  
And no more a-lumb'ring go, and no more a-lumb'ring go.  
And we'll tell our wild adventures and no more a-lumb'ring go.

*Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.*

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## **Critical Commentary**

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 85, and HST.

### **HST notes:**

In the Professional Papers series:

*Sung by Lewis Winfield Moody, age 75, Plainfield, 1940*

*Since Mr. Moody's first verse is incomplete we have printed the words of the second verse. A Maine version designates the river as the Penobscot; Michigan version as the Tittabawassee.*

### **Editor's notes:**

Edith Fowke writes that the version of "A-Lumbering We Go" she collected was a mixture between "two old woods songs"—"The Logger's Boast" (first printed in 1851 in Maine) and "Bung Yer Eye"—which are "rare in tradition" but have been published many times (Fowke 32). Her text has some similarities to Mr. Moody's song, but the tunes are quite different. Mr. Moody's version includes the verses that Fowke designates as related to "The Logger's Boast," but does not bear any relation to "Bung Yer Eye."

Alternate titles/related songs: "Lumbering we will go," "Once more a-lumbering Go," "A-Lumbering we go."

### **Sources:**

Beck, Earl Clifton. *Songs of the Michigan Lumberjacks*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1942. "Once more a-lumbering Go."

Fowke, Edith. *Lumbering Songs from the Northern Woods*. Transcriptions by Norman Cazden. Published for the American Folklore Society. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1970. "A-Lumbering we go."

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

K.G.