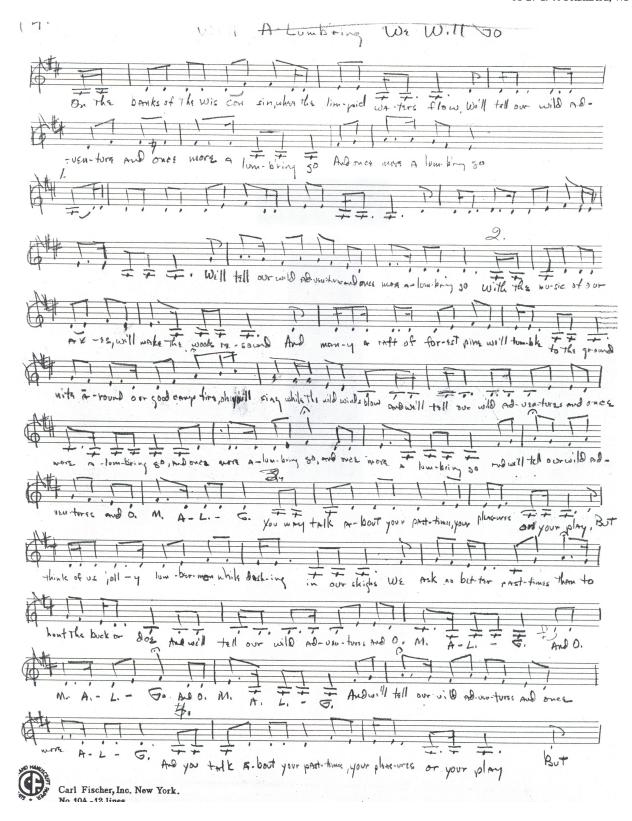
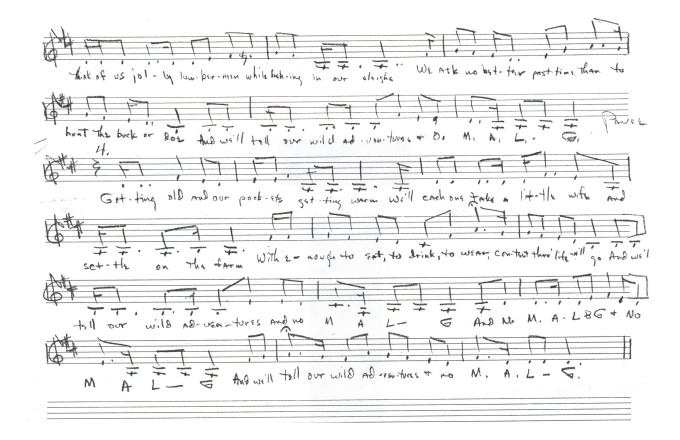
A Lumbering We Will Go

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





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.

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.