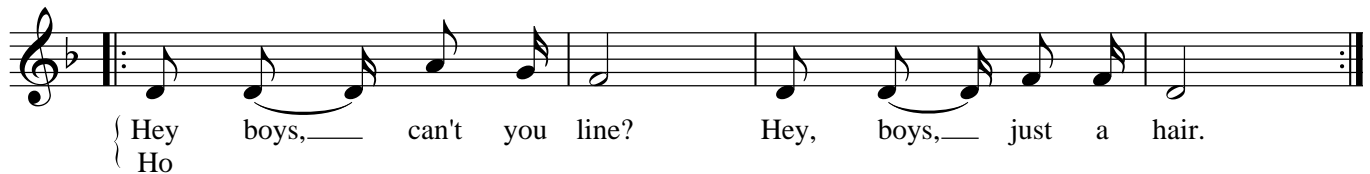
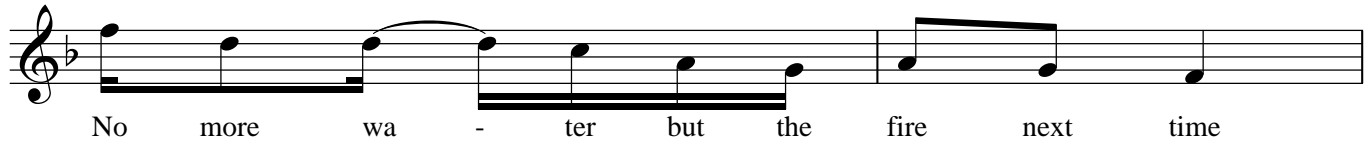
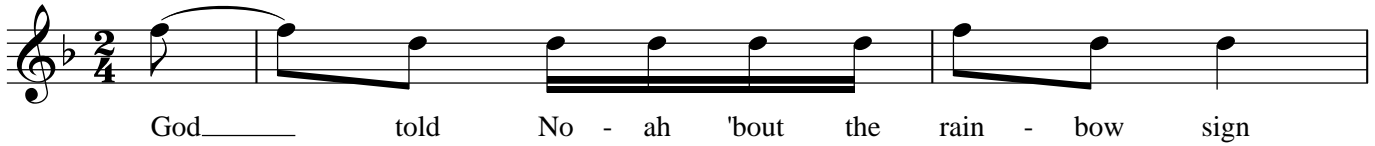


Lining Track

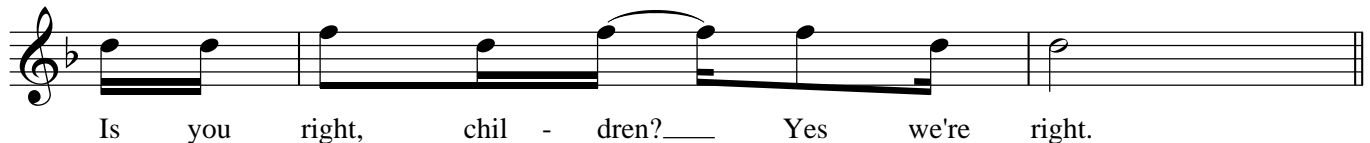
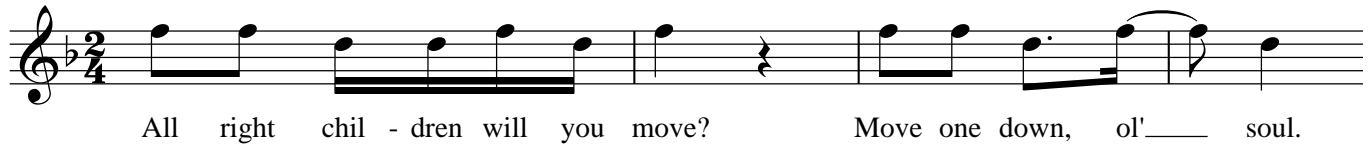
Informant/Performer:
Henry Hankins
Tuscumbria, AL, 1939

Source:
Archie Green, ed.
Railroad Songs and Ballads
Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1968
AFS L61



(Spoken): All, right, we're moving on up the joint ahead.

Verse 5 (only)



Transcribed by Peggy Struck

2. Captain keep a hollerin' 'bout the joint ahead,
Ain't said nothin' bout the hog and bread.
Hey boys, can't you line? Hey boys, just a hair;
Ho, boys, line them over; hey boys, just a hair.

3. Captain keep a hollerin' 'bout the joint ahead,
Ain't said nothin' 'bout the bowl and bread.
Hey, boys, can't you line? Hey boys, just a hair.
Ho boys, line them over; hey boys, just a hair.

(Spoken): Ol' soul, let's move ahead, children.

All right, is you right? Yes we're right.

4. Gone to town, goin' to hurry back
See Corinna when she ball that jack.
Hey, boys, can't you line? Hey boys, just a hair.

5. (See above tune and text underlay)

6. (Identical to verse 4)

Background Information

The building of any roadbed section involved myriad skills: timber falling, brushing, blasting, grading, tie and steel unloading, track laying and lining, spike driving, tie tamping. Each detailed function called for a characteristic rhythm that drew to itself hundreds of floating lyrics. Henry Hankins' "Lining Track", which mentions the Biblical Noah as well as the worldly Corinna, is but one example of hundreds of Library of Congress field recordings for this genre.