

Alabama Bound (Boat's Up The River)

Traditional -- as sung by Ola Belle Reed

TablEdited by Randall Rode
Open D Tuning

Well the boat's up the ri -- i -- ver won't come

down Tell by the way that she's head-- --ed she's

Al- -la- -bam- -a bound She's...

Play an instrumental round between each verse

Well boat's up the river, won't come down.

By the way that she's headed, she's Alabama bound

She's Alabama bound, Alabama bound

By the way that she's headed, She's Alabama bound

*Oh, the boat's up the river, And the tide's goin' down

I believe to my soul that, she's Alabama bound.

Alabama bound, Alabama bound

I belive to my soul that, he's Alabama bound

*Where was you sweet mama when the boat come down

On the deck baby yellin', Alabama bound

Alabama bound, Alabama bound

On the deck baby yellin', Alabama bound

Well there ain't but one thing, that bother's my mind.

It's my old Waterbury and she won't keep time,

No she won't keep time, won't keep time.

It's my old Waterbury and she won't keep time

Repeat first verse

Based on the singing of Ola Belle Reed. The roots of this song are an african-american worksong from the river packet days. In the mid-late 19th century there were over 2,000 Mississippi river system steamers (all painted white), each with about 50 roustabouts on board, before the railroads became dominant. The roustabout carried everything from live pigs to cotton bales. Between loading and unloading, the men rested on deck, gambled and ate -- and maybe sang or played a banjar? The old Waterbury? It is a pocket watch manufactured in Waterbury Connecticut.

*Additional lyrics based on a thread at <http://www.mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=54404#841817> .

For more on Ola Belle Reed pick up a copy of A Banjo Pickin' Girl by Judy H. Marti, 1934 Wenksville Rd., Biglerville, PA 17307, www.broadvalleyorchard.com .