

## Sugar in the Hold

1. I wish I was in Mobile Bay,  
Screwing cotton all of the day.  
But I'm stowing sugar in the hold below,  
Below, below, below.

**Hey, ho, below, below**  
**Stowing sugar in the hold below ...**  
**Hey, ho, below, below**  
**Stowing sugar in the hold below.**

2. The J.M. White, she's a new boat  
Stem to stern she's mighty fine,  
The fastest boat on the Orleans line  
Stowing sugar in the hold below.

**Hey, ho, below, below ...**

3. The engineer blows on his trumpet,  
"Tell the mate we got bad news -

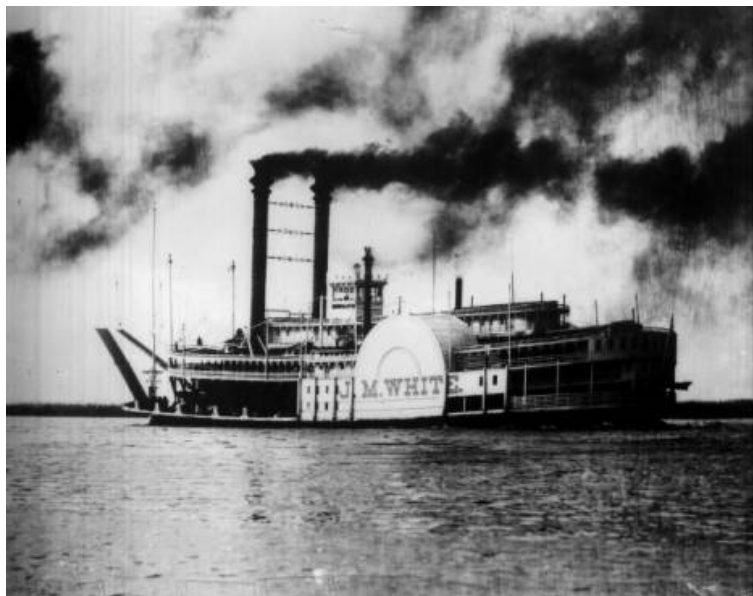
We can't raise steam for the firin' crew."  
Stowing sugar in the hold below.

**Hey, ho, below, below...**

4. The captain's out on the quarter deck  
Scratchin' away at his own neck  
And he says, "Throw that stow in the  
starboard deck!"  
Stowing sugar in the hold below.

**Hey, ho, below, below**  
**Stowing sugar in the hold below ...**  
**Hey, ho, below, below**  
**Stowing sugar in the hold below.**

Listen to powerful female shanty group **The She Shanties** sing their version at  
[youtu.be/IFBgG5IYCvq](https://youtu.be/IFBgG5IYCvq)



Howard, James E (photographer): **J.M. White, 1878-1886**  
Howard Steamboat Museum Collection, University of Louisville.  
<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ref/collection/howard/id/1345>

### Notes:

A **cargo-loading** shanty originally from the Mississippi steamships; used on the Mississippi in the 1800s.

**Other names:** Stowin' sugar, Sugar in the hold, Sugar in the hold below,

### About the J M White and the Orleans line

**The J.M. White** (1878-1886) was a side-wheel packet with wood hull (312.7 x 47.9 x 11.5 feet). She was built at Howard Shipyard, Indiana, for Captain J M White (1823-1880). She was owned by Greenville & New Orleans Packet Co. [the **Orleans Line**] and operated on the lower

Mississippi River until she burned at Blue Store Landing, St Maurice Plantation, Louisiana on December 13, 1886.

The J M White was the ultimate "floating palace" and the shipyard's crowning achievement. Her large main cabin, 233 x 19 x 13 feet, was lined with rosewood and walnut burl inlaid panels and lit by seven sixteen-burner gold gilt chandeliers.  
[[digital.library.louisville.edu/](http://digital.library.louisville.edu/)]

See steamboat photographs at  
[steamboats.com/museum/jmwhite.html](http://steamboats.com/museum/jmwhite.html)

**Blows on his trumpet** - shouts through his trumpet