Hoe, Emma Hoe (circa 1700)

Verse 1
Caller: Emma, you from the country.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Emma help me to pull these weeds.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Emma work harder than two grown men.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.

Verse 2
Caller: Old Joseph was a wood workin' man.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: When he got old he lost his way.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Makes that boss man right mad.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Needs a young man to learn his trade.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe. (Repeat)

Verse 3
Caller: Now see that possum he works hard.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: But he cain't work as hard a me.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: He sits a horse just as pretty as can be.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: He can ride on and leave me be.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, you turn around dig a hole in the ground, Hoe Emma Hoe.

Verse 4
Caller: Master he be a hard hard man.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Sell my people away from me.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Lord send my people into Egypt land.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, Hoe Emma Hoe.
Caller: Lord strike down Pharaoh and set them free.
Chorus: Hoe Emma Hoe, Hoe Emma Hoe, Hoe Emma Hoe.

Source: Colonial Williamsburg Official Website
http://www.history.org/history/teaching/enewsletter/february03/worksongs.cfm