

## Folksong about the riot

Almost every – if not all – written sources from the time of the Fireburn stem from either the accounts of the colonial government officials, the colonial court martial or Danish or colonial newspapers. In 1878, there were no media outlets in the Danish West Indies that took into account the experience of the African Caribbean part of the population. Hence, oral history and oral tradition are very important in trying to understand the events as a whole and not just from one side. The folksong – carizo – below is well known in the US Virgin Islands even today. It can be dated back to around 1880, and is probably composed just around the time of the Fireburn.

Read more about the song here:

[http://www.oberlinlibstaff.com/omeka\\_projects/exhibits/show/radical-thinkers-and-movements/sugar-on-st--croix--oppression/queen-mary--folksong--a-commem](http://www.oberlinlibstaff.com/omeka_projects/exhibits/show/radical-thinkers-and-movements/sugar-on-st--croix--oppression/queen-mary--folksong--a-commem)

Listen to Gladys A. Abraham Elementary School Choir sing the song here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93yCzZ-G1pY>

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Queen Mary, oh where you gon' go burn?  
Queen Mary oh where you gon' go burn?

Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and oil.  
Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.

Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and oil.  
Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.

Queen Mary, oh where you gon' go burn?  
Queen Mary, oh where you gon' go burn?

Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and trash.  
Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.

Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and trash.  
Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.

We gon' burn Bassin come down,  
And when we reach the factory, we'll burn am level down

**ARBEJDERMUSEET**  
& ARBEJDERBEVÆGELSENS BIBLIOTEK OG ARKIV