

John Henry

When John Henry was a little baby
Sittin' on his mammy's knee
Picked up an hammer and a little piece of steel
he said, "Hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lordy Lordy Lord
The hammer's gonna be the death of me"

Well, John Henry grew up to besix feet tall
nearly two feet and a half across his breast
he'd hammer with a nine pound hammer every day
and never got tired and wanna rest, Lordy Lordy Lord
and never got tired and wanna rest

Well, the Captain said to John Henry
"I'm gonna bring my steam drill around
Gonna bring my steam drill out on the job
Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down
Whup that steel on down"

John Henry said to the Captain
(What he say?)
"You can bring your steam drill around
You can bring your steam drill out on the job
I'll beat your steam drill down, down, down
Beat your steam drill down"

John Henry said to his Shaker
"Shaker, you had better pray
If my twelve pund hammer miss that little piece of steel
That'll be your buryin' day, Lordy Lordy Lord
That'll be your buryin' day"

And John Henry said to the captain
"Man ain't nothing but a man
But before I'd let that steam drill beat me down
I'd die with the hammer in my hand, Lordy Lordy Lord
I'd die with the hammer in my hand"

Well John Henry hammered on the right side
and the steam drill kept driving on the left
and John Henry beat that old steam drill down
but he hammered his poor heart to death, Lordy Lordy Lord
he hammedred his poor heart to death

John Henry had a little woman
and her name was Polly Anne
John Henry took sick and was laid up in bed
While Polly handled the steel like a man, Lordy Lordy Lord
She handled the steel like a man

They took John Henry to the graveyard
Laid him down in the sand
and every steam locomotive comin' a-rolling by
Hollered, here lies a steel-drivin' man, Lordy Lordy Lord
here lies a steel-drivin' man

here lies a steel-drivin' man, Lordy Lordy Lord
here lies a steel-drivin' man

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