

When John Hen-ry was a lit-tle ba-by, a - sit-tin' on his pa-pa's knee, he
 5 picked up a ham-mer and a lit-tle piece of steel and he said, "ham-mer's gonna be the death of
 8 me, Lord, Lord" and he said, "ham-mer's gon-na be the death of me."

When John Henry was a little baby,
 asittin' on his papa's knee,
 he picked up a hammer
 and a little piece of steel
 and he said, "hammer's gonna be
 the death of me, Lord, Lord"
 and he said,
 "hammer's gonna be the death of me."

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 his Shaker
 "Shaker, you had better pray
 If you miss your six feet of steel
 It'll be your buryin' day, day, day
 It'll be your buryin' day".

Some say he's born in Texas.
 Some say he's born up in Maine.
 I just say he was a Louisiana man.
 Leader of a steel-driving chain gang.
 Leader on a steel-driving gang.

John Henry said to the Captain:
 "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".

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

John Henry had a little woman,
 Her name was Polly Ann.
 John Henry took sick
 and was laid up in bed
 While Polly drove steel like a man,
 man, man.
 Polly drove steel like a man.

They took John Henry to the graveyard
 Laid him down in the sand
 Every locomotive
 comin' a-rolling by Hollered,
 there lies a steel-drivin' man,
 man, man There lies a steel-drivin' man
 There lies a steel-drivin' man, man,
 man There lies a steel-drivin' man.