

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.