

John Henry (bedford family version)

Well John Hen-ry was a little bi-tty boy, a-a

Sittin' on his Pa-pa's knee

Big men Comin' (s) on the Card o-o-o Road

Gonna be the (s) death of (s) me Lord, Lord,

Gonna be the death of me

1. Well, John Henry was a little bitty boy
Sittin' on his Papa's knee;
Said "The Big Men Comin' on the Card O Road,
Is gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord,
Is gonna be the death of me.
2. When John Henry was just seven years old
Holdin' to his Mama's hand;
Sayin' "If I live to be 21
Gonna make a steel-drivin' man, Lord, Lord
3. John Henry made a steel-drivin' man
And on to the steel-drivin' crew;
And every time his hammer come down,
You could see the steel walkin' through.
Lord, Lord,
4. John Henry had a pretty little wife
Her name was Polly Ann;
John Henry got sick and could not work
And Polly drew that steel like a man,
Lord, Lord,

John Henry (cont'd)

5. They put the steam drill on the right hand side
They put John Henry on the left;
"Before I let that steam drill beat me down
I'll hammer my fool self to death, Lord, Lord,
I'll hammer my fool self to death.
6. John Henry walked up to his boss and said
"Oh, boss, how can this be?
The rock is so hard and the steel is so tough,
I can feel my muscles givin' away, Lord, Lord
7. Well, they took John Henry to the steep hillside,
He looked to the heavens above;
He said "Take my hammer and wrap it up in gold,
Give it to the girl I love"; Lord, Lord,
8. Oh they took his hammer and they wrapped it in gold
They gave it to Polly Ann;
The very last words he ever said to her
"Polly, do the best you can"; Lord, Lord,
9. If I die, the railroad man
will bury me under the ties
So I can hear old # 4
As she goes rollin' by, Lord, Lord
As she goes rollin' by.
10. If I die a steel drivin' man
will bury me under the sand
With a pick and a shovel at my head + feet;
A 9 pound hammer in my hand, Lord, Lord
A 9 pound hammer in my hand.