

# Flatt And Scruggs, Last Public Hanging In West V

Rock of ages cleft for me  
Now that could be the voice of John F Morgan in the Ripley jailhouse singin' hymns  
Well ol' Johnny might just be singin' hymn this mornin'  
Cause this is gonna be a hangin' day for him  
Now people say that Johnny was a bad man and that he had a aim for bein' mean  
He took a hatchet one cold weary morning he killed two children and the widow Green  
Five thousand people gathered there in Ripley invited by the sheriff Jay O Sean  
Havin' fun and drinking moonshine liquor and listenin' to ol' Johnny singin' hymn  
The day dawned cold in Ripley West Virginia the scaffold stood in silence in a field  
Johnny kept on singin' in the jailhouse waiting there to eat his final meal  
Then rumor started flying through the gathering  
That John F Morgan might get his reprieve  
The people started yelling toward the sheriff  
Afraid they'd miss for all they come to see  
But Jay O Sean the sheriff of Jackson County  
Afraid that such a thing could have been done  
Said I said there was gonna be a hangin' and I still mean it there's a gonna be one  
They led John Morgan from the Ripley jailhouse  
And he rode through the happy laughin' crowd  
But when John Morgan stepped upon the scaffold  
They grew quiet when he tip his hat and bowed  
They listened to the preacher say the last words  
They fixed the noose and tied John Morgan's hand  
The signal came and someone sprang the dead's trap  
And sent John Morgan to another land  
The last public hanging in old West Virginia a true story written in this song  
On the sixteen of December in fifteen ninety seven  
John F Morgan paid the price of doing wrong