

# Woody Guthrie, John Henry

John Henry when he was a baby  
settin' on his mammy's knee  
picked up an hammer in his little right hand  
Said "Hammer be the death of me me me,  
hammer be the death of me!"

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

"Well", the captain said to John Henry  
"I'm gonna bring my steam drill around  
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  
gonna bring my 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 you miss your six feet of steel  
It'll be your buryin' day day day  
It'll be your buryin' day!"

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 Anne  
John Henry took sick and was laid up in bed  
While Polly handled steel like a man man man  
Polly handled steel like a man.

They took John Henry to the graveyard  
laid him down in the sand  
Every locomotive comin' a-rolling by by by  
hollered "there lies a steel-drivin' man man man  
there lies a steel-drivin' man!"