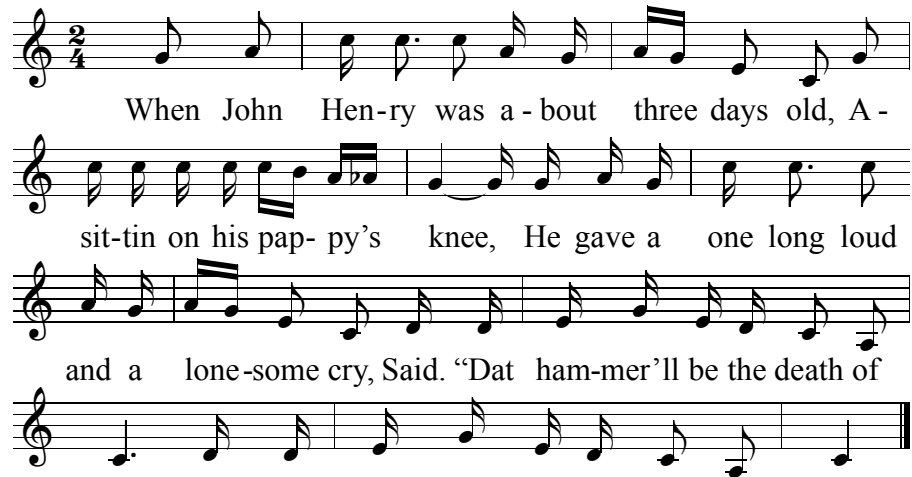


John Henry



When John Hen-ry was a - bout three days old, A -
sit-tin on his pap- py's knee, He gave a one long loud
and a lone-some cry, Said, "Dat ham-mer'll be the death of
me!" Said, "Dat ham-mer'll be the death of me!"

- 2 Now John Henry said to his Captain one day,
"A man ain't nothin' but a man,
But before I'll be governed by an ole steam drill,
I'll die with my hammer in my hand."
- 3 John Henry said to his shaker,
"Shaker, why don't you sing?
I'm throwin' thirty pounds from my hips on down.
Just listen to that cold steel ring."
- 4 The man that invented the steam drill
Thought he was mighty fine,
But John Henry made fifteen feet;
The steam drill only made nine.
- 5 John Henry hammered in the mountain.
His hammer was striking fire.
But he worked so hard, he broke his poor heart.
He laid down his hammer and he died.
- 6 Well, every Monday morning
When the bluebirds begin to sing.
You can hear John Henry a mile or more.
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring.

John Henry

Work Song

1

When John Henry
was about three days old,
A-sittin' on his pappy's knee,
He gave a one long loud
and a lonesome cry,

Said, "Dat hammer'll be
the death of me!"

2

Now John Henry said
to his Captain one day,
"A man ain't nothin' but a man,
But before I'll be governed
by an ole steam drill,
I'll die
with my hammer in my hand."

3

John Henry said
to his shaker¹,
"Shaker, why don't you sing?
I'm throwin' thirty pounds
from my hips on down.
Just listen to that cold steel ring."

4

The man that invented
the steam drill
Thought he was mighty fine,
But John Henry made fifteen feet²;
The steam drill only made nine.

Arbeitslied

Als John Henry
ungefähr drei Tage alt war,
sitzend auf seines Papis Knie,
tat er einen langen lauten
und [einen] einzigen

(wörtl. einsamen) Schrei,
sagte, „Jener Hammer wird sein
mein Tod!“

Nun sagte John Henry
eines Tages zu seinem Vorarbeiter,
„Ein Mann ist nichts als ein Mann,
aber ehe ich mich bestimmen lasse
von einem lumpigen Presslufthammer,
sterbe ich
mit meinem Hammer in der Hand.“

John Henry sagte
zu seinem *Shaker*,
„*Shaker*, warum singst du nicht?
Ich schwinge dreißig Pfund
aus der Hüfte,
hör nur, wie der kalte Stahl tönt.“

Der Mensch, der erfunden hat
den Presslufthammer,
dachte, er sei mächtig schlau,
aber John Henry schaffte 15 Fuß;
der Presslufthammer schaffte
nur neun.

5

John Henry hammered
in the mountain.
His hammer was striking fire.
But he worked so hard,
he broke his poor heart.
He laid down his hammer
and he died.

John Henry hämmerte
im Berg.
Sein Hammer schlug Feuer.
Aber er arbeitete so hart,
(dass) sein armes Herz brach.
Er legte seinen Hammer nieder
und [er] starb.

6

Well, every Monday morning
When the bluebirds³
begin to sing.
You can hear John Henry
a mile or more.
You can hear
John Henry's hammer ring.

Nun, jeden Montagmorgen,
wenn die *Bluebirds*
zu singen beginnen,
kann man John Henry hören
eine Meile (weit) oder mehr.
Kann man hören,
wie John Henrys Hammer tönt.

¹ *Shaker*; Arbeiter mit der Aufgabe, das stählerne Bohreisen zu halten und zu drehen

¹ 1 Fuß = 0,3048 m

² *Bluebird*, eine dem Rotkehlchen verwandte Drossel