# John Henry

Traditional circa 1850’s

****

**INTRO: / 1 2 3 4 / 1 2 3**

Well John **[F]** Henry was a little **[F]** baby

**[F]** Sittin' on his daddy’s **[C7]** knee

He picked **[F]** up a hammer and a **[Bb]** little piece of steel

And cried **[F]** “Hammer's gonna **[Bb]** be the death of **[F]** me, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

**[F]** Hammer's gonna **[C7]** be the death of **[F]** me"

Well John **[F]** Henry was a little baby

**[F]** Sittin' on his daddy’s **[C7]** knee

He picked **[F]** up a hammer and a **[Bb]** little piece of steel

And cried **[F]** “Hammer's gonna **[Bb]** be the death of **[F]** me, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

**[F]** Hammer's gonna **[C7]** be the death of **[F]** me"

Now the **[F]** Captain he said to John Henry

"I'm gonna **[F]** bring that steam drill a-**[C7]**round

I'm gonna **[F]** bring that steam drill out **[Bb]** on these tracks

I'm gonna **[F]** knock that **[Bb]** steel on **[F]** down, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

I’m gonna **[F]** knock that **[C7]** steel on **[F]** down"

John **[F]** Henry told his Captain

"Lord, a **[F]** man ain't nothin' but a **[C7]** man

Well **[F]** ‘fore I let that **[Bb]** steam drill beat me down

I'm gonna **[F]** die with a **[Bb]** hammer in my **[F]** hand, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

**[F]** Die with a **[C7]** hammer in my **[F]** hand"

John **[F]** Henry drivin’ on the right side

That **[F]** steam drill drivin’ on the **[C7]** left

Says **[F]** “ ‘Fore I let your steam **[Bb]** drill beat me down

Gonna **[F]** hammer my-**[Bb]**self to **[F]** death, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

I’ll **[F]** hammer my fool **[C7]** self to **[F]** death”

Well the **[F]** Captain said “John Henry

What **[F]** is that storm I **[C7]** hear?"

John **[F]** Henry said “That ain’t no **[Bb]** storm, Captain

That’s **[F]** just my **[Bb]** hammer in the **[F]** air, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

That’s **[F]** just my **[C7]** hammer in the **[F]** air"

John **[F]** Henry said to his shaker

**[F]** "Shaker, why don't you **[C7]** sing?

'Cause I'm **[F]** swingin' 30 pounds from my **[Bb]** hips on down

Yeah **[F]** listen to my **[Bb]** cold steel **[F]** ring, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

**[F]** Listen to my **[C7]** cold steel **[F]** ring"

**INSTRUMENTAL:**

John **[F]** Henry said to his **[F]** shaker

**[F]** "Shaker, why don't you **[C7]** sing?

'Cause I'm **[F]** swingin' 30 pounds from my **[Bb]** hips on down

Yeah **[F]** listen to my **[Bb]** cold steel **[F]** ring, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

**[F]** Listen to my **[C7]** cold steel **[F]** ring"

That John **[F]** Henry, he hammered in the mountains

His **[F]** hammer was striking **[C7]** fire

But he **[F]** worked so hard, it **[Bb]** broke his heart

And John **[F]** Henry **[Bb]** laid down his hammer and **[F]** died, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

John **[F]** Henry laid **[C7]** down his hammer and **[F]** died

Well now **[F]** John Henry he had him a woman

Her **[F]** name were Polly **[C7]** Ann

She walked **[F]** down to those tracks, picked up **[Bb]** John Henry’s hammer

And **[F]** Polly drove **[Bb]** steel like a **[F]** man, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

**[F]** Polly drove that **[C7]** steel like a **[F]** man

Well **[F]** every, every Monday morning

When the **[F]** bluebird, he begin to **[C7]** sing

You can **[F]** hear John Henry from a **[Bb]** mile or more

You can **[F]** hear John **[Bb]** Henry's hammer **[F]** ring, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

You can **[F]** hear John **[C7]** Henry's hammer **[F]** ring **[F]**

I say you can **[F]** hear John **[Bb]** Henry's hammer **[F]** ring, Lord **[Dm]** Lord

You can **[F]** hear John **[C7]** Henry's hammer **[F]** ring **[F]↓**

****

[www.bytownukulele.ca](http://www.bytownukulele.ca)