John Hardy

Leon Bibb

Well, John Hardy was a vicious little man He carried two guns every day He shot down a man on the West Virginia line I see John Hardy gettin' away, poor boy See John Hardy gettin' awayWell, John Hardy went up to that free stone bridge Where there, he thought he was free A dare the man, who called nobody his own Said, "Johnny come and go with me", poor boy Johnny come and go with meJohn Hardy had a pretty little wife back home The dress that she wore was blue She come to the jail house with a loud shout Said, "Johnny, I've been true to you", poor boy "Johnny, I've been true to you", she saidJohn Hardy sent out to the East Coast Sent for his folks to come and go his bail But there was no bail allowed for the murderin' man They sent John Hardy back to jail, poor boy Sent John Hardy back to jail, back nowWho's going to shoe your pretty little feet Who's gonna glove your hand Who's gonna kiss your rosy red cheeks It's gonna be that steel drivin' man, poor boy "Be that steel drivin' man", she saidNow sittin' alone there in his cell Now tears are rolling down his eyes He's been the death of many, a poor man And now, he is ready to die, poor boy Now he is ready to dieSingin' "I've been to the east, I've been to the west" I've seen this whole wide world around

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I've been to the river and I've been baptized

Take me to my hanging in the ground, poor boy

"Take me to my hanging in the ground", she saidI [Incomprehensible] poor boy, poor boy