

Hills of Roane County

M: G; F: C or D, capo 5 or 7
CD 1-Track 70

Traditional

1. In the beau-ti-ful hills, _____ way back in Roane Coun-ty, _____
2. I was just thir-ty years _____ when I court-ed and mar-ried, _____

TAB

8
_There's where I roamed _____ for man-y long years, _
_ A - man - da Gil - braith, _____ I then called my wife, _

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_____ There's where my heart's _____ been tend-ing most
_____ Her broth-er stabbed me _____ for some un-known

22
ev-er, _____ That's where the first step of mis-for-tune I made. _____
rea-son, _____ Just three months lat-er I'd tak-en Tom's life. _____

3. For twenty five years this whole world I rambled,
I went to old England to France and to Spain,
But I thought of my home way back in Roane County,
I boarded a steamer and came back again.

4. I was captured and tried in the village of Kingston,
Not a man in the county would speak one kind word,
When the jury came in with the verdict next morning,
“A lifetime in prison” was the words that I heard.

5. When the train pulled out, poor Mother stood weeping,
And sister she sat, alone with a sigh,
And the last words I heard was, “Willie God bless you,”
Was, “Willie God bless you, God bless you, good bye.”

6. Sweet Martha was grave but Corey was better,
There’s better and worse, although you can see,
Boys when you write home from the prison in Nashville,
Place one of my songs in your letter for me.

7. In the scorching hot sand of the foundry I’m working,
Toiling and working my poor life away.
They’ll measure my grave on the banks of old Cumberland,
Just as soon as I’ve finished the rest of my days.

8. No matter what happens to me in Roane County,
No matter how long my sentence may be,
I’ll love my home way back in Roane County,
It’s a’ way back down in East Tennessee.