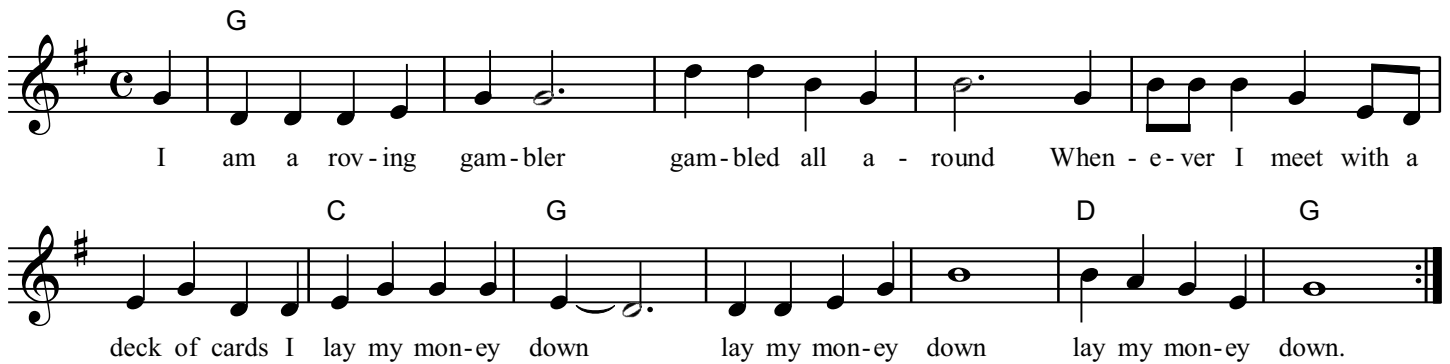


# ROVING GAMBLER [LAWS H 4]

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** 1886; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Kelly Harrell-1925; Vernon Dalhart- 1925; Wade Mainer; Hedy West; Mac Wiseman; Stanley Brothers; **OTHER NAMES:** Gambling Man; **NOTES:** The Roving Gambler is related to and possibly originated from Roving Irishman (1854). It's the melody for *Gambler's Dying Words*, *Mary Phagan* and the gospel song *Little Black Train*. In some versions the last line is repeated twice.



I am a roving gambler gambled all around When - e - ver I meet with a  
deck of cards I lay my mon-ey down lay my mon-ey down lay my mon-ey down.

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**G**  
I am a roving gambler, gambled all around  
**C** **G**  
Whenever I meet with a deck of cards I lay my money down  
**D** **G**  
Lay my money down, lay my money down.

I had not been in Frisco many more weeks than three  
I met up with a pretty little gal, she fell in love with me  
Fell in love with me, fell in love with me.

She took me in her parlor, cooled me with her fan  
Whispered low in her momma's ear, I love this gamblin man...

Oh daughter oh dear daughter how can you treat me so  
Leave your dear old momma, and with a gambler go...

My mother oh my mother you can not understand  
If you ever see me a comin back, I'll be with a gamblin man...

I left her there in Frisco and I wound up in Maine  
I met up with a gamblin man, got in a poker game...

We put our money in the pot and dealt the cards around  
I saw him deal from the bottom of the deck, and I shot that gambler down...

Well, now I'm in the jailhouse got a number for my name  
Jailer said as he locked the door, you've gambled your last game...