

Ralph Stanley

"Engine 143"

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Along came the F-15 the swiftest on the line
Running over the C and O road just twenty minutes
behind
Running into Sou'ville headquarters on the line
Receiving their strict orders from a station just behind

Georgie's mother came to him with a bucket on her
arm
Saying, "My darling son, be careful how you run
Many a man has lost his life by trying to make lost time
But if you run your engine right, you'll get there just on
time?"

Up the road he darted against the rocks he crushed
Upside down the engine turned and Georgie's breast
did smash
His head was against the firebox door the flames were
rolling high
I'm glad I was born to be an engineer on the C and O
road to die

The doctor said to Georgie, "My darling son be still
Your life may yet be saved if it is God's blessed will?
"Oh no?", said George, "That will not do I want to die so
free
I want to die for the engine I love one hundred and
forty three?"

The doctor said to Georgie, "Your life cannot be
saved?
Murdered upon a railroad and laid in a lonesome grave
His face was covered up with blood his eyes you could
not see
The very last words poor Georgie said was, "Nearer my
God to thee?"

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