

Iron Horse

"Old Elijah"

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Elijah Owen Johnson rode with Jackson in the war
He served his time in Caroline up the east Virginia
shore
He'd seen enough of that rebel blood to drive any man
insane
Somebody mentioned Yankee, he'd just spit and cuss
the name

They called him old Elijah from the day that he was
born
And he worked the wheel at the grinding mill sacking
Carolina corn
And his woman died with a stillborn child and left him
there to raise
His only livin' daughter with a sweet angelic face

And he swore he would love her, and he swore that he
would kill
Any man who threatened danger to his angel, Sara Jill

One night as he lay sleepin' he heard footsteps in the
rain
And he saw a shadow movin' in the dim light of a flame
And he swore it was the uniform of a union man he
dread
So he fired out in his anger from his window as he said
Your union killed my brothers when they took their
rebel stand
Now I'm gonna spill your Yankee blood here on my
southern land
And When the gun laid silent and when all the words
were said
He ran to hide his daughter, but he found an empty
bed

And he swore that he would love her, and he swore that
he would kill
Any man that threatened danger to his angel, Sara Jill

He ran up toward the mill side where he'd seen the
shadow go

And he found the lamp still burning in there in the
ember glow
Lay a bloody woolen overcoat and a petticoat of lace
and a lifeless little body with a sweet angelic face

The preacher and the family sadly bowed their heads
to pray
And with solomn words they sought the Lord Beside a
double grave
Cause they found Elijah lying by her body in the dawn
His finger on the trigger of the pistol he had drawn

Cause he swore that he would love her, and he swore
that he would kill
Any man that threatened danger to his angel, Sara Jill

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