

JESSE JAMES (LAWS E1)

Time Ballad and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Circa 1882; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDINGS:** Bascom Lamar Lunsford 1924; Riley Keett; Vernon Dalhart; Fiddlin' John Carson; Uncle Dave Macon; Bogtrotters; **NOTES:** Jesse James, living in St. Joseph, Missouri under his pseudonym "Thomas Ward" was shot by Robert Ford on April 4, 1882. Robert Ford was a member of Jesse's gang whom Jesse regarded as a friend. Ford shot Jesse in the back while Jesse was hanging a picture. According to Randolph the song became popular throughout the Midwest almost immediately after Jesse's death. Ford himself was shot in 1892 by another member of Jesse's gang.

G C G

Jes - se James was a lad who killed ma - ny a man he robbed the Glen - dale

D G C G

train and the peo - ple they did say for ma - ny miles a - way it was robbed by

D G C G

Frank and Jes - se James Jes - se had a wife to mourn for his life three

D G C

child - ren they were brave but that dirt - y lit - tle cow - ard who shot Mis - ter

G D G

How - ard had laid poor Jes - se in his grave.

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WABASH CANNONBALL

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** 1800's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Norman and Nancy Blake; Kimble Family; Doc Watson; **NOTES:** Wabash Cannonball first appeared in print in 1904 copyrighted by William Kindt and based on "Great Rock Island Route." Meade references an earlier version by J.A. Roff in 1882. Made popular by the Carter Family in 1930's it first became a hit in 1938 for Roy Acuff (Vocalion 4466). The Wabash Cannonball Trail runs on the two lines originally established by the Wabash Railroad. The southwestern leg was built in 1855, running from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Toledo, Ohio, making it one of the oldest rail lines in northwest Ohio.

G G7

From the great At - lan - tic O - cean to the wide Pa - ci - fic

C D

shore from the green and rol - ling moun - tains to the South lands by the

G

door She's might - y tall and hand - some She's known quite well by

C D G

all She's the re - gu - lar com - bin - na - tion called the Wa - bash Can - non - ball.

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