



In the beautiful hills in the midst of Roane County
There's where I have roamed for many long years
There's where my heart's been tending most ever
There's where the first steps of misfortune I made

I's about 30 years when I courted and married
Armanda Gilbreath was e'er called my wife
For some unknown reason her brother Tom stabbed me
Just 3 months later I'd taken Tom's life

I was captured and tried in the village of Spencer
Not a man in that county would speak one kind word
When the jury came in with the verdict next morning
A lifetime in prison were the words that I heard

As the train pulled out poor mother stood weeping
And sister she sat all alone with a sigh
And the last words I heard was Willie God bless you
Was Willie God bless you God bless you goodbye

In the scorching hot sands of this foundry I'm working
Just working and toiling my life all away
They'll measure my grave on the banks of old Cumberland
As soon as I've finished the rest of my days

No matter what happens to me in Roane County
No matter how long my sentence shall be
Boys when you write home from this dirty old prison
Put one of my songs in your letter for me