

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## James Ervin

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I am a bold Republican, James Ervin is my name;  
I enlisted in the train,  
And for to exercise on Sunday did not with me agree,  
And that's the time, my brave boys, I took my liberty.

I had an only sweetheart, Jane Wilson was her name.  
She said if I'd desert all for to let her know;  
She'd dress me in her own clothes that I might go to and fro.  
The weather being dark and rainy, which well favored me,  
And that's the time, my brave boys, I took my liberty.

I traveled all that night and part of the next day;  
I came to Telaport and lay down on some hay.  
I had not laid there long before I rose again;  
I spied five of the train.

We had a bloody combat; at length I beat them all;  
Those bloody rascals for quarters they did call.  
"Spare my life. bold Ervin, we will pray by thee  
And swear by all that you fought for your liberty".

I went on down to sweet Galley  
And worked at my shoemaking trade a half a year,  
But carelicks, fareiicks, drawing near,  
It's ten to one, my brave boys, if I keep m)r liberty.

They lodged me in the guardhouse. my case for to deplore  
I leaped out at the window and knocked two of them down;  
The light horse and the guardsmen, they quickly followed me,  
But I was received by a friend, and so I kept my liberty.

I can whip any kingsman or Orangeman that does before me go;  
I can make them fly before me like an arrow from a bow.

From Gardner

SUNG in August, 1935 by Mr. E. W. Harns, Greenville,  
who learned the song in Kalamazoo County Michigan  
some time before the Civil War.

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From Gardner

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