

## Ride This Train (Part 7)

Johnny Cash

Ride this train to Dyess Arkansas see this cottonland  
Some of us are so poor now you'd have to sell 'em a sack of fer  
tilizer  
To raise an umbrella  
They grade the cotton according to the length and strength of t  
he fibre  
And they been raisin' a lot of fair to middlin' grade here whic  
h ain't good  
But there was a time  
Yeah there was a time when the cotton grew tall  
Not far from here I had the finest plantation you ever saw  
About 600 acres of the finest cottonland in the country  
Now I believe this was about 1855 and I had a bumper crop that  
year  
I had the best bunch of slaves you ever saw and I treated 'em r  
ight  
Well a lot of em even stayed with me after the war  
But gettin' back to what I was gonna tell you  
See I have a rule that all the slaves got to be back in out of  
the fields  
And accounted for by sundown every day  
And one day when they came in there was one short  
Well I found out right away that it was old uncle Moses that wa  
s missin'  
And figured that somethin' might have happened to him old as he  
was  
So I went out into the cottonfield to look for him  
Well uncle Moses was way down at the end of the road sittin' on  
his cottonsack  
Well I walked up and said Uncle Moses don't you know the rule  
That you're supposed to be punished if you're not back in and a  
ccounted for by dark  
And he said Boss Jack I know that sir  
But I was pickin' along on my road  
And all of a sudden somethin' seemed to come over me  
And the finest words started comin' through my head and the fin  
est music  
So I memorized them words and that music till I had it all in  
my head  
Now that I got the song all through I guess Boss Jack  
I was ready to take my punishment  
Well I didn't hardly know what to say  
But I asked Uncle Moses to sing that song for me  
And he stood up there and for the first time he sang Swing Low  
Sweet Chariot  
Well after that I kinda laid old Uncle Moses off and let him pe  
ddle around the house  
And every night at dark you could hear him sing

And he sang another song once in a while that made me feel awfu  
l proud