

CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC

Not for mother's mercy and not for lover's kiss
I've seen my share of Tennessee, and now I'm headed West
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way
I give my word to Caroline, I won't be long away

CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC

Many a train I've traveled, many a day I've cursed
I've not forgot the vow I made, the many sweet lines rehearsed
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way
I'll fly back home to Caroline, make her my wife that day

GCGC | AmAmGC | CCGC | AmGFC

**You're the first thing on my mind, the last breath that I take
And in my darkest hour you're the light that breaks the day
But I always had my reason and you're my reason why
I'm riding on through all the tears of you dancing in my mind**

CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC

Hard work and honest living make fast a rich man poor
The pleasures I've known, my hand have made, but God, I pray for yours
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way
I gave my word to Caroline, but I've grown old and grey

GCGC | AmAmGC | CCGC | AmGFC

**You're the first thing on my mind, the last breath that I take
And in my darkest hour you're the light that breaks the day
But I always had my reason and you're my reason why
I'm riding on through all the tears of you dancing in my mind**

CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC

I've learned to love the morning, the mist, the sun, the dew
My dreams have come full circle now, I'm coming home for you
If 'er good fate and fortune should stop and pass my way
I'd fly back home to Caroline, where waits in a lonesome grave

CFFC | CAmGC

For now good fate and fortune have long since passed me by
Lay me down with the woman I love, and leave no tear behind

Old Chorus: **GCGC | AmCGC | CCGC | AmGFC**