

Batson

USA

earliest date: 1934 Lomax collection (Ballad Index)

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1. Bat - son been work - ing for Mis - ter Earle six long years to - day, and e - ver
since he been work - ing for Mis - ter Earle he ne - ver have got a pay. Cry - in', "Oh
mam - ma, I did - n't done the crime."

2. Batson was walking down Ryan Street looking down in the showcase.,
He thought he had something, something what he really need.
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
3. 'Bout the time he was looking in the showcase, here come Mr. Henry Reese,
Mr. Sheriff, police come a-walking, threwed two forty-fives in his face.
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
4. Mr. Henry Keese's deputy come a-runnin', slapped him across the face,
says, "Stick 'em up, Batson, for we constitute you under arrest."
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
5. Batson asked Mr. Henry Reese, "What you arresting me for!"
Says, "That's all right, Batson, you know all about it yourself."
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
6. Arrested poor little Batson, they took him to the county jail,
and then the people began to gather from miles and miles around.
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
7. When Batson got in the jailhouse, locked up in the place,
he took a pencil right in his hand, he marked every day he laid.
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
8. Batson told Mr. Sheriff, "Don't you know that's wrong,
you got me charged guilty unfriendly, and I know I ain't done the crime."
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
9. Batson begin to cry, tell you what he did do,
you could hear old Batson crying just like a baby child.
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
10. The day Batson cried, this are the words he said:
"You're trying me for murder, and I know I never harmed no one."
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
11. Well, the judge found him guilty, the clerk he wrote him down,
the jury men passed the sentence, poor Batson, he had to be hung.
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
12. Batson's little girl begin to wonder, Batson's little girl begin to cry,
Batson's little child begin to ask him, "Daddy, what they going to do with you?"
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
13. Batson asked the sheriff, he asked him that two, three times,
says, "All I want you to do for me, take care of my two little girls."
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."
14. Batson's little girl cry, Batson's little child cry.
That's all he asked them people, "Take care of them two little girls."
Cryin', "Oh, mama, I didn't done the crime."