

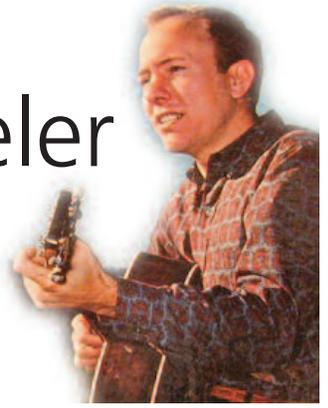
**WEST VIRGINIA
MUSIC
HALL OF FAME**



**Song
Lyrics**

This song links with the story "An Honorable Man," about a man Billy Edd admired. Why did Billy Edd admire Mr. Hudson in that story? What was there to admire about the Rev. Mr. Black in the song? Write a story or song about somebody you admire.

Billy Edd Wheeler



The Reverend Mr. Black

by Billy Edd Wheeler and Jed Peters

Spoken: He rode easy in the saddle. He was tall and lean, and at first you'd a-thought nothing but a streak of mean could make a man look so down-right strong, but one look in his eyes and you knowed you was wrong.

He was a mountain man, and I want you to know, he could preach hot hell or freezin' snow. He carried a Bible in a canvas sack and folks just called him The Reverend Mr. Black.

He was poor as a beggar, but he rode like a king. And sometimes in the evening, I'd hear him sing:

Chorus: I gotta walk that lonesome valley. I got to walk it by myself. Oh nobody else can walk it for me. I got to walk it by myself.

Spoken: If ever I could've thought this man in black was soft and had any yellow up his back, I gave that notion up the day a lumberjack came in and it wasn't to pray.

Yeah, he kicked open the meeting house door and he cussed everybody up and down the floor! Then, when things got quiet in the place, he walked up and cusses in the preacher's face!

He hit that Reverend like a kick of a mule and to my way of thinkin' it took a real fool to turn the other cheek to that lumber jack, but that's what he did, The Reverend Mr. Black.

He stood like a rock, a man among men and he let that lumberjack hit him again, and then with a voice as quiet as could be, he cut him down like a big oak tree when he said:

Chorus: You got to walk that lonesome valley. You got to walk it by yourself. Oh nobody else can walk it for you. You got to walk it by yourself.

Spoken: It's been many years since we had to part and I guess I learned his ways by heart. I can still hear his sermon's ring, down in the valley where he used to sing.

I followed him, yes, and I don't regret it, and I hope I will always be a credit to his memory 'cause I want you to understand. The Reverend Mr. Black was my old man!

Chorus: You got to walk that lonesome valley. You got to walk it by yourself. Oh nobody else can walk it for you. You got to walk it by yourself.