

The Ballad of Henry Weeks Sanderson

words and music by Alan Sanderson

F Bb
I hitched up my team and rode back east
C F
In an early snowstorm in October
F Bb
I left my wife and kids behind, But they were always on my mind
C F
I wouldn't be back home until December

F Gm
Oh, Rebecca, I'm so glad you're safe at home
C F
Heaven help me to find my way

F Bb
I rode up the canyon through the snow
C F
Falling deeper and deeper the further I go
F Bb
Every mile would take its toll, And one of my horses wouldn't pull
C F
That stubborn thing was making me slow

F Gm
Oh, Rebecca, I'm so glad our cellar's full
C F
That harvest will last a year
Dm Bb
Oh, Rebecca, keep our table spread out full
C F
God provide for you, my dear

Dm Am
I came across the frozen refugees
C F
Three hundred miles from their new home
Dm Am
Drifting snow, and too exhausted to pitch their tents
C
Out in the wilderness, alone
Dm Am
Weary fathers would give up sleep to guard their children
C
Starving husbands would give their last meal to their women
Dm Bb C
Oh - Oh - Oh

C
I heard the voices of the women and children crying
Dm Am C
And saw the faces of the men who lay there dying

F Gm
Oh, Rebecca, keep that fire burning warm
C F
I've never been so cold in all my life
Dm Bb
Oh, Rebecca, hold our children in your arms
C F
Lord, be with my angel wife

G C
I filled my wagon with survivors
D G
And several handcarts in tow
G C
And I could not believe - My horse now pulled like Hercules!
D G
To the valley we go

C D
Thank you, Lord, for these two hands
Am D7
So I can serve my fellow man

G Am
Oh, Rebecca, while this storm is raging on
D G
I'm so glad you're safe at home
Em C
Oh, Rebecca, keep that fire burning warm
D G
God protect you while I'm gone

G Am
Oh, Rebecca, I'm so glad you're safe and warm
D G
This awful wind is cold as sin
Em C
Oh, Rebecca, tell our kids I'm coming home
D G
And God be with you till we meet again