

Freight Train

The Canadian Sweethearts
non-traditional version

Elizabeth Cotton

Briskly

C **G⁷** **C** **C**
|||| |||| |||| ||||

C **G⁷**
Freight train freight train going so fast

C
Freight train freight train going so fast

E⁷ **F** **C** **G⁷** **C**
I don't care what train I'm on, as long as it keeps rolling on

C **G⁷**
Don't know where I'm headed for,

C
Makes no difference anymore

E⁷ **F**
I don't care what train I'm on,

C **G⁷** **C**
As long as it keeps rolling on

C **G⁷**
Now when my baby left my side,

C
Something deep inside me died

E⁷ **F**
Gotta keep a-moving on,

C **G⁷** **C**
'Til all memory of her is gone

C **G⁷**
Freight train, freight train, goin' round the bend

C
Freight train, freight train, comin' back again

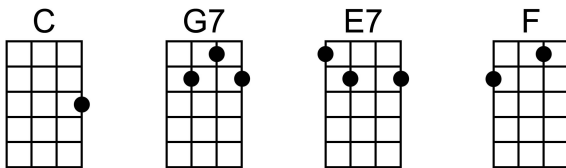
E⁷ **F**
One of these days turn that train around

C **G⁷** **C**
And go back to my home town

C **G⁷**
 One more place I'd like to be,
C
 One more place I'd like to see
E⁷ **F**
 To watch them Blue Ridge Mountains climb,
C **G⁷** **C**
 When I ride old Number Nine

C **G⁷**
 When I die Lord, bury me deep,
C
 Down at the end of old Chestnut Street
E⁷ **F**
 Where I can hear old Number Nine,
C **G⁷** **C**
 As she comes down the line.

C **G⁷**
 Freight train freight train going so fast
C
 Freight train freight train going so fast
E⁷ **F** **C** **G⁷** **C**
 I don't care what train I'm on, as long as it keeps rolling on
E⁷ **F** **C** **G⁷** **C** **G⁷** **C**
 I don't care what train I'm on, as long as it keeps rolling on // /
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This song has a wonderful tie in to the family of Pete Seeger. Ms. Cotton, a self taught guitarist who played the guitar left-handed and strung right handed, wrote the song in the early 1900's in her early teens. She was married in 1910 at the age of 17. The church she attended frowned on the secular music of the day, and she didn't play guitar again for most of her adult life. In the 1950's she left her husband and moved to New York to live with her daughter. She took a job in a department store where she had a chance meeting with the half siblings of Pete Seeger, and eventually went to work for them as a housekeeper. She was reconnected to instruments (all of the Seeger's were/are accomplished musicians/composers), was recorded by Mike Seeger in the late 1950's, and the rest is history. She continued playing and recording well into her 80's, received a Grammy in 1984, and passed away in 1987 at the age of 94.