

## The Rovin' Gambler

American folksong text [Am]

As set by *John Jacob Niles* (1892–1980) [Am]

**I**      **am**      **a**      **rovin'**      **gambler,**  
[a:ɪ      æm      ʌ      'ɹo:ʊv.ɪn      'gæmb.lə]

**I've**      **been**      **in**      **many**      **a**      **town.**  
[a:ɪv      bi:n      ɪn      'meni      ʌ      ta:ʊn]

Where-e'er I see a pack of cards,  
I lay my money down.  
With a click clack oh and a high Johnny ho,  
I lay my money down.

I hadn't been a packet man  
Many more weeks than three,  
When I fell in love with the St. Louis girl  
And she in love with me.  
With a click clack oh and a high Johnny ho,  
And she in love with me.

We went in the back parlor,  
She cooled me with her fan,  
And she whispered soft in her mother's ear,  
"I love my gamblin' man,  
With a click clack oh and a high Johnny ho,  
I love my gamblin' man."

"Oh daughter dear, dear daughter,  
How could you do me so,  
To leave your dear old mother,  
And with this gambler go?..."

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The entire text to this title with the complete  
IPA transcription is available for download.

*Thank you!*

