

## Carter Family Songs

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### HAPPY IN PRISON

I am happy in a prison  
Yes, I'm happy anywhere  
In my soul my savior's risen  
Of ten thousand he is fair  
**fair --. spared**

Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Sinners lay your burdens down  
Glory, glory, hallelujah  
For a cross receive a crown

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When the food is low and failing  
And the children bare for clothes  
I look up to father's healing  
For I know my savior knows

I am happy in a prison  
Yes, I'm happy anywhere  
In my soul my savior's risen  
Of 10,000 he is fair

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Any cost, a fire is burning  
And its coming draweth nigh  
But I'm happy, always happy  
Though in prison I must die

I am happy in a prison  
Yes, I'm happy anywhere  
In my soul my savior's risen  
Of 10,000 he is fair

### HAPPY OR LONESOME

Come back to me in my dreaming  
Come back to me once more  
Come with the love light gleaming  
As in the days of yore  
I wonder if you still love me  
And if your heart is still true  
When the spring roses are blooming  
Then I'll come back to you

Somewhere a heart is breaking  
And calling me back to you  
Memories of loved ones awaiting  
Each happy home and you  
Absence makes my heart fonder  
Is it the same with you  
Are you still happy, I wonder  
Or do you feel lonesome, too

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When the sun is sinking  
In the golden west  
And the birds and flowers  
They have gone to rest  
Come tell me that you still love me  
And that your heart is still true  
When the spring roses are blooming  
Then I'll come back to you

Somewhere a heart is breaking  
And calling me back to you  
Memories of loved ones awaiting  
Each happy home and you  
Absence makes my heart fonder  
Is it the same with you  
Are you still happy, I wonder,  
Or do you feel lonesome, too

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### HE NEVER CAME BACK

An old Jane about 49 came in to view  
the town

She registered up at Smith's Hotel as  
Miss Ada Brown

She said she was just 25 and that she  
was in love

With a young lad about 16, she called  
him her turtledove

The wedding day at last arrived, the  
birds did merrily sing

He touched her up for a hundred to go  
out and buy the ring

He never came back, no, he never  
came back

He's been gone for a year or more  
That sassy young thing better have  
that ring

When we meet on that beautiful  
shore

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I went down to a restaurant as hungry  
as a bear

And a raving thief I did, I grabbed the  
bill of fare

The waiter said, now what for you, a  
piece of steak, I said

He taken my order and bowed his head  
and slowly walked away

No, he never came back, no, he  
never came back

I waited an hour or more

His neck I will break if he has not  
that steak

When we meet on that beautiful  
shore

### HE TOOK A WHITE ROSE FROM HER HAIR

Oh Willie, my darling, come back

I will ever be faithful and true

Oh Willie, my darling come back

I'll forever be faithful to you

I remember once that he said

He loved me better than his life

He called me his darling, his wife

Then asked me to be his own bride

"Oh darling," he said, "I am sure

Your heart is made of a stone"

He took a white rose from my hair

Then left me a-standing alone

Oh Willie, my darling, come back

I will ever be faithful and true

Oh Willie, my darling come back

I'll forever be faithful to you

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

The next day poor Willie was dead

He was found in the pond near the mill

Oh the clear, precious water so fair

That floats from the banks of the hill

His blue eyes were forever closed

And dank was his golden hair

And close to his pale lips was found

The white rose which he took from my

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hair

Oh Willie, my darling, come back  
I will ever be faithful and true  
Oh Willie, my darling come back  
I'll forever be faithful to you

### THE HEART THAT WAS BROKEN FOR ME

There came from the skies in the days  
long ago  
The Lord with a message of love  
The world knew him not, he was  
treated with scorn  
This wonderful gift from above

They crowned him with thorns, he was  
beaten with straps  
He was wounded and nailed to the tree  
But the pain in his heart was the  
hardest to bear  
The heart that was broken for me

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

He came to his home, to his owners  
he'd love  
The sheep that had wandered astray  
They heard not his voice, but the friend  
of mankind  
Was halted and driven away

They crowned him with thorns, he was  
beaten with straps  
He was wounded and nailed to the tree  
But the pain in his heart was the  
hardest to bear  
The heart that was broken for me

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I will take up my cross, I will walk by his  
side  
For the pathway of beauty I see  
I will follow the Lord and abide in his  
heart  
The heart that was broken for me

They crowned him with thorns, he was  
beaten with straps  
He was wounded and nailed to the tree  
But the pain in his heart was the  
hardest to bear  
The heart that was broken for me

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### HEAVEN'S RADIO

There's a wonderful invention  
It's called the radio  
You can hear it everywhere you chance  
to go  
But the static in the air  
Sometimes makes it hard to hear  
But it's not so with Heaven's radio.

[CHORUS]

Heaven's radio, on the other shore  
For my precious Savior always listens  
in  
It's the same old radio  
That was used a long time ago  
For my precious Savior always listens  
in.

Daniel in the lion's den  
With his prayers did surely win  
For my precious Savior always listens  
in (listens in)  
And I know without a doubt  
Honest prayers will bring you out  
For my precious Savior always listens  
in.

[CHORUS]

Well he set the Hebrews three  
From the firey furnace free  
Yes my precious savior always listens  
in  
He will rescue you today  
In that same old-fashioned way  
For my precious Savior always listens  
in.

[CHORUS]

### HELLO, CENTRAL! GIVE ME HEAVEN

-- chorus --

Hello, central, give me heaven  
For I know my mother's there  
And you'll find her with the angels  
Over on the golden stair

She'll be glad it's me a-speakin'  
Won't you call her for me please  
For I surely want to tell her  
That we're sad without her here

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Papa dear is sad and lonely  
Sobbed a tearful little child  
Since mama's gone to heaven  
Papa dear, you do not smile

I must speak to her and tell her  
That we want her to come home  
You just listen while I call her  
Call her through the telephone

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I will answer just to please her  
Yes, dear hearts, I'll soon come home  
Kiss me, mama, it's your daughter  
Kiss me through the telephone

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### HELLO, STRANGER

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

-- chorus --

Hello, stranger, put your loving hand in mine

Hello, stranger, put your loving hand in mine

You are a stranger and you're a pal of mine

Get up, rounder, let a working man lay down

Get up, rounder, let a working man lay down

You are a rounder, but you're all out and down

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Every time I ride the 6th and 4th streetcar

Every time I ride the 6th and 4th streetcar

I can see my baby peeping through the bars

She bowed her head, she waved both hands at me

She bowed her head, she waved both hands at me

I'm prison bound, I'm longing to be free

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, I'll see you when your troubles are like mine

Oh, I'll see you when your troubles are like mine

Oh, I'll see you when you haven't got a dime

Weeping like a willow, mourning like a dove

Weeping like a willow, mourning like a dove

There's a girl up the country that I really love

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Hello, stranger, put your loving hand in mine

Hello, stranger, put your loving hand in mine

You are a stranger and you're a pal of mine

HOLD FAST TO THE RIGHT

Kneel down by the side of your mother,  
my boy

You have only a moment, I know  
But stay till I give you my parting advice  
It is all that I have to bestow

-- chorus --

Hold fast to the right, hold fast to the  
right

Wherever your footsteps may roam  
And forsake not the way of salvation,  
my boy

That you learned from your mother at  
home

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

You leave us to seek your employment,  
my boy

By the world you have yet to be tied  
But in the temptations and trials you  
meet

May your heart to the savior confide

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I gave you to god in your cradle, my  
boy

And taught you the best that I knew  
And as long as His mercies permits me  
to live

I shall never stop praying for you

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

You will find in this satchel a Bible, my  
boy

It's a book of all others are built  
It will help you to live and prepare you  
to die

And will lead to the gates of the blest

-- chorus --

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### HOME BY THE SEA

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There's a lonely cottage by the seaside  
Where the water lilies strew the shore  
It was there I passed my happy  
childhood  
With a loved one that's gone before

-- chorus --

Then give me back my dear old home  
That old home by the sea  
And I never will wander far away  
From my home, my dear old cottage  
home

Oh-le-lay-ee, ee-e-e-e-ee  
Ah-lee-oh-lay-ee, ee-e-e-e-ee

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Many years have passed since there I  
wandered  
But the old cot' ne'er has been forgot  
And my heart in fancy oft returns  
To that dear old familiar spot

--chorus--

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Yes, my heart is like a humming sea  
shell  
That tells of its birth where e'er it roams  
I will sing of my cottage by the  
seashore  
Of my home, my dear old cottage home

-- chorus --

### HOME IN TENNESSEE

-- chorus --

Oh, yes, I'm going back  
To my home in Tennessee  
Back to the girl that's waiting  
In the cotton fields to see  
There's a mother and a dad  
That's waiting patiently  
And the place I'm longing for tonight  
Is my home in Tennessee

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I've sailed the skies in airplanes  
To a place called Bunker Hill  
I've dropped from the clouds in a  
parachute  
And, oh, boys, what a thrill  
I've saw shells fall in no man's land  
And dined on the great prairie  
But the place I'm longing for tonight  
Is my home in Tennessee

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I've been to 'Frisco's golden gate  
Also that of Maine  
I've been to the Rocky Mountains  
And back down again  
Been up to old New York  
Saw the Statue of Liberty  
But the place I'm longing for tonight  
Is my home in Tennessee

-- chorus --

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### THE HOMESTEAD ON THE FARM

Well, I wonder how the old folks are at home  
Well, I wonder if they miss me when I'm gone  
I wonder if they pray  
For the boy who went away  
And left his dear old parents all alone

You could hear the cattle lowing in the lane  
You could almost see the fields of bluegrass green  
You could almost hear them cry  
As they kissed their boy goodbye  
I wonder how the old folks are at home

### [INSTRUMENTAL BREAK TO TUNE OF HOME, SWEET HOME]

Just a village and a homestead on the farm  
And a mother's love to shield him from all harm  
A mother's love so true  
And a sweetheart brave and true  
A village and a homestead on the farm

You could hear the cattle lowing in the lane  
You could almost see the fields of bluegrass green  
You could almost hear them cry  
As they kissed their boy goodbye  
I wonder how the old folks are at home

### [INSTRUMENTAL BREAK TO TUNE

### OF HOME, SWEET HOME]

You could hear the cattle lowing in the lane  
You could almost see the fields of bluegrass green  
You could almost hear them cry  
As they kissed their boy goodbye  
I wonder how the old folks are at home

### HONEY IN THE ROCK

Oh, my brother do you know the Savior  
Who is wondrous kind and true  
He's the rock of your salvation  
There is honey in the rock for you

Oh, honey in the rock (oh, honey in the rock)

Sweet honey in the rock (sweet honey in the rock)

Oh, it tastes just like honey in the rock  
Go taste and see if the Lord is good

Oh, it tastes just like honey in the rock

### [INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Have you tasted that the Lord is gracious

Do you walk in the way that's new  
Have you drank from the living fountain  
There is honey in the rock for you

Oh, honey in the rock (oh, honey in the rock)

Sweet honey in the rock (sweet honey in the rock)

Oh, it tastes just like honey in the rock



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Go taste and see if the Lord is good  
Oh, it tastes just like honey in the rock

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, there's honey in the rock, my  
brother

There is honey in the rock for you  
Leave your sins for the blood to cover  
There is honey in the rock for you

Oh, honey in the rock (oh, honey in the  
rock)

Sweet honey in the rock (sweet honey  
in the rock)

Oh, it tastes just like honey in the rock  
Go taste and see if the Lord is good  
Oh, it tastes just like honey in the rock

### I AIN'T GOING TO WORK TOMORROW

-- chorus --

Well, I ain't going to work tomorrow  
And I may not work next day  
Well I ain't going to work tomorrow  
For it be a wet, rainy day

I'm a-going to leave this country  
I'm a-going around this world  
I'm a-going to leave this country  
For the sake of one little girl

Well, she told me that she loved me  
And it give my poor heart grief  
Now she's got her back turned on me  
And she's courting whoever she please

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Well, I lost my money in gambling  
And I lost my name, you see  
I am nobody's darling  
And nobody cares for me

-- chorus --

Don't you hear my banjo ringing  
Don't you hear this mournful sound  
Don't you hear those pretty girls  
laughing  
Standing on the cold, cold ground

I'll hang my head in sorrow  
I'll hang my head and cry  
I'll hang my head in sorrow  
As my darling passes by

--chorus--

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

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### I CANNOT BE YOUR SWEETHEART

Last night I told my heart's love  
All under the pale blue sky  
Eagerly waiting an answer  
I plainly could see in her eye

I love you, sweetheart, I love you  
And ask you to be my bride  
Her face turned pale and she trembled  
And sadly to me replied

-- chorus --

I cannot be your sweetheart  
I cannot stay by your side  
There's one who's waiting off yonder  
Who's claiming me his bride

My heart is almost broken  
Your vows only add to my pain  
I love you, sweetheart, I love you  
Though we may never meet again

We said goodbye in the moonlight  
My heart was turned to a stone  
One peaceful hour I was made happy  
But now I am sad and lone

Amidst my sorrows forever  
Though she may go far away  
Wherever she goes I'll love her  
And still I can hear her say

-- chorus --

### I FOUND YOU AMONG THE ROSES

Once again dear, it's rose time, it's  
June time

All the flowers they bloom as of yore  
And the robin's sweet song is singin'  
As I walked here to greet you once  
more

A year has passed dear since we came  
here

This old love of ours to renew  
And I found you among the roses  
The day I come back to you.

[CHORUS]

I found you among the roses  
The day I come back to you  
All my gladness was ther ein the  
garden so fair  
'Twas the happiest moment I knew  
Your lips were the color of roses  
I craved them as flowers crave the dew  
It was out here in your rose garden  
Where I found you.

I can 'member the kiss that you gave  
me

For your cheeks were like the rosebuds  
red

Was the kiss dear that meant to fore  
me

For all the harsh words I have said  
Red roses a-blooming around me

I love everyone of them too

For it was out here in your rose garden  
Where I found you.

[CHORUS] (2x)

## Carter Family Songs

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### I HAVE AN AGED MOTHER

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Last night while I lay sleeping  
Last night while in a dream  
I saw my dear old mother  
Down by a rippling stream

-- chorus-1 --

Don't ask me why I'm weeping  
Don't ask me why I pray  
For I've an aged mother  
10,000 miles away

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

A letter here from sister dear  
Come home, we're all alone  
Dear mother's slowly fading  
She can't be with us long

-- chorus-1 --

Well, ah-le-ho, le-ho-lay  
Well, ah-le-ho, le-ho-lay  
Out in the cold world  
A long ways from home

I'm drawing near the old home  
Dear sister's at the gate  
She's leading me through the doorway  
Oh, brother, you've come too late

Oh, lead me to the casket  
Throw back the linen so fine  
That I may kiss her pale white lips  
For I know they'll never kiss mine

I see the pale moon shining  
On mother's white tombstone  
The rosebuds 'round them twining  
Are just like me--alone

Well, ah-le-ho, le-ho-lay, Well,  
ah-le-ho, le-ho-lay  
Out in the cold world, Left all  
Alone

### I HAVE NO LOVING MOTHER NOW

I have no loving mother now  
I have no loving mother now  
I have no loving mother now  
And I can't stay here by myself

The angels came and took her home  
The angels came and took her home  
The angels came and took her home  
And I can't stay here by myself

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I have no loving father now  
I have no loving father now  
I have no loving father now  
And I can't stay here by myself

The angels came and took him home  
The angels came and took him home  
The angels came and took him home  
And I can't stay here by myself

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Someday I'll join them over there  
Someday I'll join them over there  
Someday I'll join them over there  
For I can't stay here by myself

## Carter Family Songs

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### I HAVE NO ONE TO LOVE ME BUT THE SAILOR ON THE DEEP BLUE SEA

It was on last Sunday evening  
Just about the hour of three  
When my darling started leaving  
To sail on that deep blue sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

He promised to write a letter  
He promised to write to me  
And I haven't heard from my darling  
Who sails on that deep blue sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

My mother is dead and buried  
My papa's forsaken me  
And I have no one to love me  
But the sailor on the deep blue sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, Captain, can you tell me  
Can you tell me where he may be  
Oh, yes, my little maiden  
He's drowned in the deep blue sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Farewell to friends and relations  
It's the last you'll see of me  
I'm going to end my trouble  
By drowning in the deep blue sea

### I LOVED YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNEW

Our hands are clasped, alas, forever  
Perhaps we'll never meet again  
I love you like I love no other  
This parting fills my heart with pain

-- chorus --

As through this weary world I wander  
My thoughts alone will be of you  
In memory will I see you ever  
I loved you better than you knew

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

You ask and freely I'll forgive you  
The happy past I must forget  
And while I wander alone in silence  
I hope that you'll be happy yet

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Perhaps when I am gone forever  
You'll sometimes sit and think of me  
And wonder if I'm dead or living  
Perhaps I'll think the same of you

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### I NEVER LOVED BUT ONE

Onward to the eastern skies,  
With mooring efforts kissed the sea  
I sigh and think of those blue eyes  
That have hope and love for me

For they, o they have stole away  
The heart that truly once was mine  
Like some lone bird without a mate  
My weary heart is desolate

I look around but cannot trace  
One welcome word or smiling face  
In gazing crowds I am alone,  
Because I never loved but one

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Come up closer to me now,  
Your chestnut hair is touched with snow  
But still it is the same dear face,  
I loved so well long years ago

The same as on that winter night,  
You bent to me and kissed my brow  
Happy hours of trusting love,  
Oh well, they're all over now

And I must sail the whitening foam,  
Till I can see a foreign home  
Till I forget that fair sweet face,  
I ne'er can find a resting place

I look around but cannot trace  
One welcome word or smiling face  
In gazing crowds I am alone  
Because I never loved but one

### I NEVER WILL MARRY

One morning as I rambled all down the  
seashore

The wind it did whistle and the waters  
did roar

I heard a fair damsel make a pitiful  
sound

It sounded so lonesome in the waters  
around

I never will marry or be no man's wife

I expect to live single all the days of my  
life

The shells in the ocean shall be my  
deathbed

The fish in deep water swim over my  
head

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

She plunged her fair body in the ocean  
so deep

She closed her blue eyes in the waters  
to sleep

My love's gone and left me, the one I  
adore

She's gone where I never will see her  
any more

I never will marry or be no man's wife

I expect to live single all the days of my  
life

The shells in the ocean shall be my  
deathbed

The fish in deep water swim over my  
head

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### I WOULDN'T MIND DYING

By and by we're going to see the king  
By and by we're going to see the king  
By and by we're going to see the king  
Well, I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

Wouldn't mind dying, got to go by  
myself  
Wouldn't mind dying, got to go by  
myself  
Wouldn't mind dying, got to go by  
myself  
Well, I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

After death we're going to stand the  
test  
After death we're going to stand the  
test  
After death we're going to stand the  
test  
Well, I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy is His Name  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy is His Name  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy is His Name  
And I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

Wouldn't mind dying, got to stay dead  
so long  
Wouldn't mind dying, got to stay dead  
so long  
Wouldn't mind dying, got to stay dead  
so long

And I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

Ezekiel saw the wheel, a wheel within a  
wheel  
Ezekiel saw the wheel, a wheel within a  
wheel  
Ezekiel saw the wheel, a wheel within a  
wheel  
Well, I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

By and by we're going to see the king  
By and by we're going to see the king  
By and by we're going to see the king  
Well, I wouldn't mind dying if dying was  
all

### IF ONE WON'T ANOTHER ONE WILL

I went one Sunday evening my true  
love for to see  
I asked her to marry and she would not  
answer me

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

The night is almost spent, it is near the  
break of day  
I'm waiting for an answer, oh, what will  
you say

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Kind sir, if I must tell you, I'd choose the  
single life  
I never thought it suited for me to be  
your wife

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[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Take this for an answer and for yourself  
provide

I have another lover and you must be  
denied

[INSTRUMENTL BREAK]

In the course of six weeks later this  
lady's mind did change

She wrote me a letter, kind sir, I feel  
ashamed

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I feel as though I slighted you, I cannot  
hear you mourn

So here is my heart, come take it and  
claim it as your own

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I wrote her back an answer and sent it  
back in speed

I own that once I did love you, I loved  
you dear indeed

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

But then my mind has changed me, I  
seek another way

Upon some pretty fair maiden my heart  
will have its sway

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Upon some pretty fair maiden my heart  
shall have its fill

This world is wide and lonely, if one  
won't another one will

I'LL BE ALL SMILES  
TONIGHT

I'll deck my brow with roses  
The loved ones may be there

And gems that others give me  
Will shine within my hair  
And even those who know me  
Will think my heart is light  
Though my heart may break tomorrow  
I'll be all smiles tonight

-- chorus --

I'll be all smiles tonight, love  
I'll be all smiles tonight  
Though my heart may break tomorrow  
I'll be all smiles tonight

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, when the dance commences  
Oh, how I will rejoice  
I'll sing the song you taught me  
Without a falling voice  
When the flattering ones come around  
me  
They'll think my heart is light  
Though my heart may break tomorrow  
I'll be all smiles tonight

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

And when the room he enters  
With a bride upon his arm  
I stood and gazed upon him  
As though he was a charm  
And onced he smiled upon her  
And onced he smiled on me  
They know not what I suffered  
They found no change in me

-- chorus --

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### I'LL BE HOME SOMEDAY

I was standing by the bedside of a  
neighbor  
Who was just about to cross the  
swelling tide  
I asked if he would do me a favor  
Just take a message to the other side

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

If you see my savior, tell him that you  
saw me  
When you saw me I was on my way  
You may meet some old friends who  
may ask about me  
Just tell them I'll be home someday

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Now you have to take this journey on  
without me  
It's a debt that sooner or later must be  
paid  
If you see my savior, don't forget to tell  
him  
Don't forget to tell him what I say

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

You may chance to see my father or my  
mother  
Or some friends who have gone before  
You may chance to see my sister or my  
brother  
But try and see my savior first of all

### I'LL NEVER FORSAKE YOU

I am so happy  
That you love no other but me  
All of my life  
I've tried to win your love you see  
And I still wonder  
If you will be happy with me  
When we are married  
And taken you my wife to be.

I have waited  
So long for the words you've just said  
I always thought  
That you loved another instead  
But you have told me  
With your own sweet lips so red  
And I am waiting  
For the day when we shall be wed.

If you would ever  
Forsake me my love I would pray  
"Take me, my Maker  
Up in Heaven where white angels stay  
'Cause I would never  
Go on living without you this way  
If we would part  
I'd rather you'd take me today.

"No, no, I'll never  
Forsake you, I'll always be true  
And we'll be happy  
Together because I love you  
And when I think of us parting  
Sweetheart it runs through my head  
If we can't be happy together  
My love, I'd rather be dead.



## Carter Family Songs

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### I'M THINKING TONIGHT OF MY BLUE EYES

Would have been better for us both had  
we never  
In this wide and wicked world had  
never met  
For the pleasure we've both seen  
together  
I am sure, love, I'll never forget

-- chorus --

Oh, I'm thinking tonight of my blue eyes  
Who is sailing far over the sea  
Oh, I'm thinking tonight of my blue eyes  
And I wonder if he ever thinks of me

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, you told me once, dear, that you  
loved me  
You said that we never would part  
But a link in the chain has been broken  
Leaves me with a sad and aching heart

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When the cold, cold grave shall  
enclose me  
Will you come, dear, and shed just one  
tear  
And say to the strangers around you  
A poor heart you have broken lies here

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

### I'M WORKING ON A BUILDING

-- chorus --

I'm working on a building  
I'm working on a building  
I'm working on a building  
For my lord, for my lord  
It's a holy ghost building  
It's a holy ghost building  
It's a holy ghost building  
For my lord, for my lord

If I was a liar

I tell you what I would do  
I would quit my lying  
And work on the building too

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

If I was a drunkard  
I'll tell you what I would do,  
I would quit my drinking  
And work on the building too

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

If I was a preacher  
Tell you what I would do,  
I would keep on preaching  
And work on the building too

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

---

### IN A LITTLE VILLAGE CHURCHYARD

In a little village churchyard  
There I see a grassy mound  
There my sweetheart lies a-sleeping  
In the cold and silent ground

Gently waves the weeping willow  
Birds, they warble sweet and low  
And there's no one left to love me  
Since my sweetheart had to go

-- chorus --

In that little village churchyard  
There I stray with a broken heart  
There is no one left to love me  
Since the day we had to part

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

That sad day will I remember  
When she called me to her side  
How I watched her spirit fading  
And the tears did blind my sight

Then she said, goodbye, my darling  
Dry those teardrops from your eyes  
Promise me, my little darling  
That you'll meet me up on high

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oft I've wandered to the graveyard  
Flowers to plant with tender care  
O'er the grave of my dear darling  
Darkness finds me weeping there

### In The Highways

In the highways, in the hedges.  
In the highways, in the hedges  
In the highways, in the hedges  
I'll be somewhere working for my Lord

-- Chorus --

I'll be somewhere working  
I'll be somewhere working  
I'll be somewhere working for my Lord  
I'll be somewhere working  
I'll be somewhere working  
I'll be somewhere working for my Lord

If He calls me I will answer  
If He calls me I will answer  
If He calls me I will answer  
I'll be somewhere working for my Lord

-- Chorus --

Repeat first verse

### IN THE SHADOW OF CLINCH MOUNTAIN

Oh, I grew up on the side of Clinch  
Mountain  
'Mid the beauty and the wonders of the  
woods

Where sweet songs from the bright,  
sunny fountain

And the warbles of the birds I  
understood

Then I asked how this green, lofty  
mountain

## Carter Family Songs

---

In the cavern of the lonely desert stood  
Said the songs of the bright, sunny  
fountain

We are given by the waters of His love

-- chorus --

When I've sung my last song in the  
evening

And the sun sets in the golden west

All the scenes of this world I'll be  
leaving

In the shadow of Clinch Mountain I will  
rest

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Through the gates I have passed now  
from childhood

O'er the railways to the valley of the  
west

Singing songs of the Clinch Mountain  
wildwood

Songs neighbors sang and birds still  
sang the best

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Long ago stood the oaks and the  
cedars

Singing sweetly in a whisper of the past

Stand they not now, those great  
towering leaders

Nor the fountain where their crystal  
gleams are cast

-- chorus --

## IN THE SHADOW OF THE PINES

We had wandered in the shadow of the  
pines

The moon looked down on you and me  
And a darkness stole across the  
summer sky

And a shadow came between my love  
and me

-- chorus --

Oh, darling, come love me as before

Come back to leave me nevermore

At that spot I'm sad and lonely

And the sun no longer shines

Come and meet me in the shadow of  
the pines

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, you went away and left me and my  
tears I could not hide

You went away and not a word was  
said

While my throbbing heart was breaking  
underneath its load of pride

And the pine trees sobbed in pity o'er  
my head

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

All our future is o'ershadowed by the  
darkness of despair

And acrost life's path the sun no longer  
shines

Oh, I'd give this whole world gladly  
once again to meet her there

And reunite in the shadow of the pines

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

---

### IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH

As I sit alone tonight in the stillness of the night

I picture happy scenes of long ago  
Of a maiden fair and bright who is  
seeping there tonight

In the valley of the Shenandoah Ridge

-- CHORUS --

It was in the month of June when the  
roses were in bloom

When I held her in my arms and softly  
said

"Darling, in the coming spring I'll be  
coming back again

To the valley of the Shenandoah Ridge"

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When I left her all alone in her  
Shenandoah home

She promised she'd be waiting there  
for me

But the angels came along and took  
her from our home

From the valley of the Shenandoah  
Ridge

It was in the month of June when the  
roses were in bloom

When I held her in my arms and softly  
said

"Darling, in the coming spring I'll be  
coming back again

To the valley of the Shenandoah Ridge"

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When the evening shadows fall, in  
memory I recall

The pledge when I gave to her a ring  
"Darling in the coming spring I'll be  
coming back again

To the valley of the Shenandoah Ridge"

It was in the month of June when the  
roses were in bloom

When I held her in my arms and softly  
said

"Darling, in the coming spring I'll be  
coming back again

To the valley of the Shenandoah Ridge"

### IT IS BETTER FURTHER ON

As we travel through the desert

Storms beset us by the way

But beyond the river Jordan

Lies a field of endless day

[CHORUS]

Further on still go further

Count the milestones one by one

Jesus will forsake you never

It is better further on

Oh my brother are you weary

Of the roughness of the way?

Does your strength begin to fail you

And your vigor to decay?

[CHORUS]

At my grave oh still be singing

Though you weep for one that's gone

## Carter Family Songs

---

Sing it as we once did sing it  
It is better further on.

[CHORUS]

### IT'LL AGGRAVATE YOUR SOUL

Come all of you people take warning  
from me

Don't take no girl to Tennessee  
For if you get married and don't agree  
It'll aggravate your soul

We left Maces early in the night  
Expect to get married before  
daylight  
So many things happened to hinder  
our flight  
It aggravated my soul

Arrived at The Bristol at 11 o'clock  
The parson was there right on the spot  
We found that the license had been  
forgot  
It aggravated my soul

We went for the license in an  
automobile  
Run so fast couldn't see the wheel  
No on can explain how bad I did  
feel  
It aggravated my soul  
We stayed all night at The Bristol  
Hotel

Just to make folks think we were swell  
Next morning they put it in the Bristol  
Herald

It aggravated my soul

And when the new style books  
comin' around  
She begin's to get ready to go to  
town  
You know right then she's milliner  
shop bound  
It'll aggravate your soul

She wants a new coat and a hobble  
skirt  
And you can't get in for the youngun's  
and dirt  
And when she gets out, oh how she will  
flirt  
It'll aggravate your soul

And when the person gather round  
your head  
You'll think of what your dear old  
mother said  
With a pain in you back and heart  
and head  
It'll aggravate your soul

Now young men take warning from me  
Don't take no girl to Tennessee  
For if you get married and don't agree  
It'll aggravate your soul

## Carter Family Songs

---

### IT'S A LONG HARD ROAD TO TRAVEL ALONE

I always thought that I'd like to roam  
One day I started alone  
Out in this old wide wicked world  
Away from friends and home

It's a long, hard road to travel alone  
And when the day is gone  
No place to pillow my head for the night

Only on a cold, cold stone

I've traveled around from town to town  
Now it's time that I settled down  
I've had my fill of rambling around  
And now I am homeward bound

One day a letter came to me  
And this is what it read  
"Come home my boy to the old  
homestead  
Your father and mother is dead."

It's a long, hard road to travel alone  
And when the day is gone  
No place to pillow my head for the night

Only on a cold, cold stone

It's been a long road to travel alone  
I wish I had never roamed  
I thought I'd soon see my mother and  
dad  
But now I am left alone.

### JEALOUS HEARTED ME

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Takes a rocking chair to rock  
Takes a rubber ball to roll  
Takes the man I love  
To satisfy my soul

-- chorus --

Because I'm jealous  
Jealous hearted me  
I said I'm jealous  
Jealous as I can be

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Got a stove in the kitchen  
And it bakes nice and brown  
But I need a papa  
To turn the damper down

--chorus--

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

You can have my money  
You can have my home  
But for goodness sakes, women  
Let my man alone

--chorus--

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Gonna buy me a bulldog  
To watch while I sleep  
To watch that man of mine  
On his midnight creep

--chorus--

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

## Carter Family Songs

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### JIM BLAKE'S MESSAGE

"Jim Blake, your wife is dying"  
Went over the wires tonight  
The message was brought to the depot  
By a lad all trembling with fright  
He entered the office crying  
His face was terribly white  
And this message to dad and his  
engine  
"Mother is dying tonight"

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

In something less than an hour, Jim's  
answer back to me flew  
"Tell wife I'll be there at midnight, I'm  
praying for her, too"  
"I left my son in the office", Said the  
message to Jim's wife  
I found the dying woman, Was scarce  
of breath and life

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

For hill and dale and valley, Thunders a  
heavy train  
Its engine is sobbing and throbbing,  
And under a terrible strain  
But Jim hangs on to his throttle,  
Guiding her crazy flight  
And his voice cries out in the darkness,  
"Godspeed the express tonight"

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I telephoned the doctor, "How is Jim's  
wife?" I asked

"About the hour of midnight, Is long as  
she can last"

In something less than an hour, The  
train will be along  
But here, I have a message, Oh God,  
there is something wrong

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

The message reads "Disaster", The  
train is in the ditch  
The engineer is dying, Derailed by an  
open switch  
And there's another message, To Jim's  
wife it is addressed  
"I'll meet her at midnight in heaven,  
Don't wait for the fast express"

## Carter Family Songs

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### JIMMY BROWN THE NEWSBOY

I'm very cold and hungry, sir  
My clothes are worn and thin  
I wander about from place to place  
My daily bread to win

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

But never mind, sir, how I look  
Don't swear at me or frown  
I sell the morning papers, sir  
My name is Jimmy Brown

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I sell the morning papers, sir  
My name is Jimmy Brown  
Most everybody knows  
I am the newsboy of the town

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

My father was a drunkard, sir  
I've heard my mother say  
But I am helping mother out  
By journeying on the way

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I sell the morning papers, sir  
My name is Jimmy Brown  
Most everybody knows  
I am the newsboy of the town]

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

### JOHN HARDY WAS A DESPERATE LITTLE MAN

John Hardy was a desperate little man  
He carried two guns every day  
He shot a man on the West Virginia line  
And you ought to see John Hardy  
getting away

John Hardy got to the east stone bridge  
He thought that he would be free  
And up stepped a man and took him by  
the arm  
Saying Johnny, walk along with me

He sent for his poppy and his mommy  
too  
To come and go his bail  
But money won't go on a murdering  
case  
And they locked John Hardy back in jail

John Hardy had a pretty little girl  
The dress that she wore was blue  
As she came skipping through the old  
jail hall  
Saying Poppy, I been true to you

John Hardy had another little girl  
The dress that she wore was red  
She followed John Hardy to his  
hanging ground  
Saying Poppy, I would rather be dead

"I've been to the east and I've been to  
the west  
I've been this wide world around  
I've been to the river and I've been  
baptized  
And it's now I'm on my hanging ground"

John Hardy walked out on his scaffold  
high  
With his loving little wife by his side  
And the last words she heard poor  
John-O say  
"I'll meet you in that sweet bye and bye"



## Carter Family Songs

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### JUST A FEW MORE DAYS

Not so long ago one morning  
Mother called me to her bed  
Then she threw her arms around me  
Listen to the words she said

Darling, I am going to leave you  
But you'll not be left alone  
Jesus will protect and shield you  
After he has carried me home

-- chorus --

Just a few more days of sorrow  
Just a few more days of pain  
Just a few more days of  
cloudiness

Just a few more days of rain  
Then I'm going to live with Jesus  
He has got a home prepared  
Then I'll join the holy angels  
Mother will be waiting there

Sometimes I am sorely tempted  
Sometimes I am sorely tired  
But to overcome I'm trying  
Taking Jesus as my guide

Oh, sometimes the path seems rugged  
But it only makes me pray  
And I know if I keep trying  
I'll see my mother some sweet day

-- chorus --

### JUST ANOTHER BROKEN HEART

They stood on the beach one evening  
Out in the moonlight fair  
'Twas a boy in the pride of manhood  
And a girl in beauty rare

I never thought that you loved me  
An innocent look of surprise  
Crept out from beneath her lashes  
And into those deep brown eyes

Oh, sir, I was only a-flirting

Only a-playing a part  
Just another boy's life ruined  
Just another broken heart

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Sir, I'm to be married this winter  
Farewell, and she gave me her hand  
And drawing a robe around her  
She left me alone on the sand

She goes with a crowd, I'll pass her  
Always bitter and cold

Just another boy grown weary  
Just another boy grown old

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There's a rose grows in your garden  
White rose is the emblem of peace  
And when I am dead, little darling  
Plant that rose at my head and my feet

Oh, sir, I was only a-flirting

Only a-playing a part  
Just another boy's life ruined  
Just another broken heart

## Carter Family Songs

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### KEEP ON THE FIRING LINE

If you're in the battle for the Lord and  
right

Just keep on the firing line

If you win the battle, surely you must  
fight

So keep on the firing line

Brother, keep on the firing line

Keep on the firing line

Time is getting short, Jesus coming  
soon

Brother, keep on the firing line

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There are many dangers everyone  
must face

If you die fighting, there is no disgrace

With the Lord for cowards you will find  
no place

So keep on the firing line

Brother, keep on the firing line

Keep on the firing line

Time is getting short, Jesus coming  
soon

Brother, keep on the firing line

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

God can only use the soldiers he can  
trust

To keep on the firing line

If you wear the crown, bear the cross  
you must

So keep on the firing line

Brother, keep on the firing line

Keep on the firing line

Time is getting short, Jesus coming  
soon

Brother, keep on the firing line

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Brother, keep on the firing line

Keep on the firing line

Time is getting short, Jesus coming  
soon

Brother, keep on the firing line