

## Carter Family Songs

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### NEVER LET THE DEVIL GET THE UPPER HAND OF YOU

My tender parents brought me up,  
provided for me well  
Was in the cit of Lanson town they  
placed me in a mill  
It was there I spied a pretty fair miss on  
whom I cast my eye  
I asked her if she'd marry me and she  
believed a lie

Three weeks ago last Saturday night,  
of course it was the day  
The devil put it in my mind to take her  
life away  
I went into her sister's house at eight  
o'clock one night  
But little did the critter think on her I had  
my spite

I asked her if she'd take a walk with me  
a little way  
That she and I might have a talk about  
our wedding day  
We walked along until we came to my  
little desert place  
I grabbed a stick off of a fence and  
struck her in the face

I run my fingers through her coal-black  
hair to cover up my sins  
I drug her to the riverside and there I  
plunged her in  
I started back unto my mill, I met my  
servant, John  
He asked me why I was so pale and it  
so very warm

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Come all young men and warning take,  
unto your lovers be true  
And never let the Devil get the upper  
hand of you

### NO DEPRESSION IN HEAVEN

Out here the hearts of men are failing  
For these are latter days we know  
The great depression now is spreading  
God's words declared it would be so

I'm going where there's no depression  
To the lovely land that's free from care  
I'll leave this world of toil and trouble  
My home's in heaven, I'm going there

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

In that bright land there'll be no hunger  
No orphan children crying for bread  
No weeping widows toil and struggle  
No shrouds, no coffins, and no dead

I'm going where there's no depression  
To the lovely land that's free from care  
I'll leave this world of toil and trouble  
My home's in heaven, I'm going there

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

This dark hour of midnight nearing  
Tribulation time will come  
The storm will hurl a midnight fierce  
And sweep lost millions to their doom

I'm going where there's no depression  
To the lovely land that's free from care  
I'll leave this world of toil and trouble

## Carter Family Songs

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### NO MORE THE MOON SHINES ON LORENA

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Way down upon the old plantation  
Old massa used to own me as a slave  
He had a yeller gal he called Lorena  
And we courted where the wild  
bananas wave

For long years there we courted  
And we were as happy as one  
And my heart works for dear massa  
And the happiness of life is just begun

**-- chorus --**

No more the moon shines on Lorena  
As we stood and watched the coon  
among the corn  
And the possum playing on the wild  
bananas

And the old owl a-hooting like a horn  
[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

One day I called to see my dear Lorena  
I thought she would meet me at the  
gate  
But they took her away to old Virginny  
And left me to mourn for her fate

For years I had longed to see her  
And the thoughts of her was ever in my  
head  
One day massa read me a letter  
Telling me that Lorena was dead

**-- chorus --**

But I know that her soul has gone to  
heaven  
And there she is ever free from pain  
And to her a brighter crown is given  
And no more she will wear the darkie's  
chain

**-- chorus --**

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

### NO OTHER'S BRIDE I'LL BE

Just one year ago today, love  
I became your happy bride  
Changed a mansion for a cottage  
To dwell by the riverside

You told me I'd be happy  
But no happiness I see  
For tonight I am a widow  
In the cottage by the Sea

All alone by the seaside he left me  
And no other's bride I'll be  
For in bridal flowers he decked me  
In the cottage by the sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

From my cottage by the seaside  
I can see my mansion home  
I can see those hills and valleys  
Where with pleasure I would roam

The last time that I saw him  
Oh, how happy then were we  
But tonight I am a widow  
In the cottage by the sea

All alone by the seaside he left me  
And no other's bride I'll be  
For in bridal flowers he decked me  
In the cottage by the sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

All alone by the seaside he left me  
And no other's bride I'll be  
For in bridal flowers he decked me  
In the cottage by the sea

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### NO TELEPHONE IN HEAVEN

Now I can't wait on babies, the smiling  
merchant said  
As he stooped and gently toyed with its  
golden curly head  
I want to call up mama, came the  
answer full and free  
Would you telephone and ask her when  
she's coming back to me

-- chorus --

My child, the merchant murmured  
As he stroked the anxious brow  
No telephone connection  
Where your mother lives at now  
No telephone in heaven  
And the tears sprang in her eyes  
I thought God had everything  
With him up in the sky

Tell her that I get so lonesome that I  
don't know what to do  
And papa cries so much I guess he  
must be lonesome, too  
Tell her to come to baby, 'cause at night  
I get so 'fraid  
With no one there to kiss me when the  
lights begin to fade

-- chorus --

All through the day I wander since my  
dolly's got so tore  
Where the awful punching brother give  
it with his little sword  
They ain't no one to fix it since mama's  
gone away  
And poor little lonesome dolly's getting  
thinner every day

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

### OH, TAKE ME BACK

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Woke up this morning and I could not  
keep from crying

Woke up this morning and I could not  
keep from crying

My good gal left me  
With a troubling mind

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, just look where that evening sun  
has gone

Oh, just look where that evening sun  
has gone

Gone down behind the mountain  
And it won't be back till morn

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, hand me that long distance phone  
Oh, hand me that long distance phone  
Gonna talk to my honey  
All night long

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, take me back and try me one more  
time

Oh, take me back and try me one more  
time

And if I don't do  
Then send me down the line

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

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### OLD GOSPEL SHIP

#### **Chorus:**

I'm gonna take a trip in that old gospel  
ship  
I'm going far beyond the sky  
I'm gonna shout and sing until heaven  
rings  
when I bid this world goodbye

#### **Verse 1**

I have good news to bring, and that is  
why I sing  
all my joys with you I'll share  
I'm gonna take a trip in that old gospel  
ship  
and go sailing through the air

#### **Verse 2**

I can scarcely wait, I know I won't be  
late  
I'll spend my time in prayer  
And when the ship comes in, I'll leave  
this world of sin  
and go sailing through the air

#### **Verse 3**

If you're ashamed of me, you ought not  
to be  
yes, you better have a care  
If too much fault you find, you will sure  
be left behind  
while I'm sailing through the air

1. Intro: strum a few bars
2. Chorus
3. Carter pick last two lines of chorus
4. Verse 1
5. Chorus
6. Pick last two lines of chorus
7. Verse 2
8. Chorus
9. pick last two lines of chorus
10. Verse 3
11. Chorus.....end

### ON A HILL LONE AND GRAY

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

On a hill lone and gray in a land far  
away

In a country beyond the blue sea (the  
blue sea)

Where beneath that foreign sky went a  
man forth to die

For the world and for you and for me  
Oh, it bows down my heart and the  
teardrops do start

When in memory that great hill I see  
(hill I see)

It was there on his side, Jesus suffered,  
yes, he died

To redeem a poor sinner like me

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Hark, I hear the dull blow of the  
hammer swung low

They are nailing my Lord to the tree  
With the cross he upraised while the  
many did gaze

He ascended that hill lone and gray  
Oh, it bows down my heart and the  
teardrops do start

When in memory that great hill I see  
(hill I see)

It was there on his side, Jesus suffered,  
yes, he died

To redeem a poor sinner like me

Shout aloud then, my soul, let the glad  
tidings roll

From the land to the end of the sea (of  
the sea)

When beneath that dark sky went a  
man forth to die

For the world and for you and for me

## Carter Family Songs

### ON MY WAY TO CANAAN'S LAND

I'm on my way to Canaan's land  
I'm on my way to Canaan's land  
I'm on my way to Canaan's land  
I'm on my way (Praise God) I'm on my way

If father won't go, it won't hinder me  
If father won't go, it won't hinder me  
If father won't go, it won't hinder me  
I'm on my way (Praise God) I'm on my way

If mother won't go, it won't hinder me  
If mother won't go, it won't hinder me  
If mother won't go, it won't hinder me  
I'm on my way (Praise God) I'm on my way

If sister won't go, it won't hinder me  
If sister won't go, it won't hinder me  
If sister won't go, it won't hinder me  
I'm on my way (Praise God) I'm on my way

Oh, be baptized in Jesus's name  
Oh, be baptized in Jesus's name  
Oh, be baptized in Jesus's name  
I'm on my way (Praise God) I'm on my way

I'm on my way to Canaan's land  
I'm on my way to Canaan's land  
I'm on my way to Canaan's land  
I'm on my way (Praise God) I'm on my way

### ON THE ROCK WHERE MOSES STOOD

Crying Holy unto the Lord  
Crying Holy unto the Lord  
Oh, in that day when the bells don't toll  
Crying Holy unto the Lord

-- chorus --

Crying Ho.....ly unto the Lord  
(Crying Holy unto the Lord.....Holy unto the Lord)

Crying Ho.....ly unto the Lord  
(Crying Holy unto the Lord.....Holy unto the Lord)

Oh, if I could, I surely would  
(If I could....surely would)  
Stand on the rock with God where  
Moses stood  
(Praise God, where Moses stood)

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Sinners, run unto the Lord  
Sinners, run unto the Lord  
Now please don't let this harvest pass  
And lose your soul at last

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Crying Holy unto the Lord  
Crying Holy unto the Lord  
The four and twenty elders bowing all  
around the altar  
Crying Holy unto the Lord

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

## Carter Family Songs

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### ON THE SEA OF GALILEE

Am I a soldier of the cross  
A follower of the Lamb  
And shall I fear to own His cause  
Or blush to speak His name

-- chorus --

On the sea (the sea, the sea)  
Of Galilee (of Galilee)  
My Jesus is walking on the sea  
On the sea (the sea, the sea)  
Of Galilee (of Galilee)  
My Jesus is walking on the sea

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease  
While others walk to win the prize  
And sail through bloody seas

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There shall I bathe my weary soul  
In seas of heavenly rest  
And not a wave of trouble roll  
Across my peaceful breast

-- chorus --

### ONE LITTLE WORD

The dream of love is over  
Today we said goodbye  
We parted not in anger  
Though tears came in her eyes

'Twas just as fate decreed, dear  
That we should never wed  
Yet in her heart she loved me  
She married wealth instead

One little word could've changed my  
future life  
One little word could've made her my  
wife  
Too late, too late, now my fondest  
hopes are dead  
One little word, that word was never  
said

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Since schooldays we had been  
sweethearts  
She was her father's pride  
Her folks lived in a mansion  
Our cottage by its side

Though years have brought their  
changes  
The same old love tale told  
She wed to please her parents  
A man of wealth and gold

One little word could've changed my  
future life  
One little word could've made her my  
wife  
Too late, too late, now my fondest  
hopes are dead  
One little word, that word was never  
said

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### OVER THE GARDEN WALL

My love stood under a walnut tree  
Over the garden wall  
She whispered and said she'd be true  
to me  
Over the garden wall  
She has beautiful eyes and beautiful  
hair  
She's not very tall so she stood on a  
chair  
Many a time I've kissed her there  
Over the garden wall

-- chorus --

Over the garden wall  
The sweetest girl of all  
There never were yet such eyes of jet  
And you can bet I'll never forget  
The night our lips in kisses met  
Over the garden wall

There's always a will, there's always a  
way  
Over the garden wall  
There's always the night as well as the  
day  
Over the garden wall  
We hadn't much money, but weddings  
were cheap  
So while the old feller was snoring  
asleep  
With a lad and ladder she managed to  
creep  
Over the garden wall

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

-- chorus --

### PICTURE ON THE WALL

There's an old and faded picture on the  
wall  
That has been a-hanging there for  
many a year  
'Tis a picture of my mother, for I know  
there is no other  
That can take the place of mother on  
the wall

-- chorus --

On the wall (On the wall)  
On the wall (On the wall)  
How I love that dear old picture on the  
wall  
Time is swiftly passing by and I bow my  
head and cry  
'Cause I know I'll meet my mother after  
all

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Yes, the children all have gathered, all  
have gone  
And I have a little family of my own  
And I know I love them well, more than  
any tongue can tell  
But I'll hold that dear old picture on the  
wall

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Since I lost that dear old mother years  
ago  
There is none to which with troubles I  
can go  
As my guitar makes its chords I am  
praying to the Lord  
Let me hold that dear old picture on the  
wall

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### POOR LITTLE ORPHANED BOY

My mother died when I was young  
My sisters, they were sad  
They laid their hands upon my head  
And taught me how to pray

-- chorus --

So now, my mother, she's gone to rest  
In the land of purest joy  
And I wonder if she thinks of me  
Her poor little orphaned boy

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When I was only two years old  
I never shall forget  
A parting kiss she gave to me  
I sometimes feel it yet

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When I was sick, in every hour  
She watched me as I lay  
And with her kind and gentle hand  
She smoothed me tenderly

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

So now I press this world alone  
Her love with me shall stay  
And from the throne above the skies  
Her smile shall rest on me

-- chorus --

### POOR ORPHAN CHILD

I hear a low faint voice that says  
My papa and mama's dead  
And it comes from the poor orphan  
child

That must be clothed and fed  
And it comes from the poor orphan  
child

That must be clothed and fed  
And it comes from the poor orphan  
child

That must be clothed and fed

-- chorus --

Savior, lead them by the hand  
(Savior, lead them by the hand, yes,  
gently lead them by the hand)  
Savior, lead them by the hand  
(Savior, lead them by the hand, yes,  
gently lead them by the hand)  
Savior, lead them by the hand  
(Savior, lead them by the hand, yes,  
gently lead them by the hand)  
Till they all reach that glittering strand  
(Till they all reach that glittering strand)

We see so many children now, Poor  
little boys and girls

Who want that mother's loving hand, To  
smooth their golden curls

Who want that mother's loving hand, To  
smooth their golden curls

Who want that mother's loving hand, To  
smooth their golden curls

[CHORUS]

But now we see those wandering curls,  
Hang careless 'round their brow



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They say to us, my papa's dead, And  
I've no mother now

They say to us, my papa's dead, And  
I've no mother now

They say to us, my papa's dead, And  
I've no mother now

### [CHORUS]

O Savior, every orphan bless,  
Wherever they may roam

Bless every hand that lends them aid,  
And bless the orphan's home

Bless every hand that lends them aid,  
And bless the orphan's home

Bless every hand that lends them aid,  
And bless the orphan's home

### [CHORUS]

## PRISONER'S SONG

Oh, I wish I had someone to love me,  
oh, someone to call me their own.

Oh, I wish I had someone to live with,  
for I'm tired of living all alone.

Please do meet me tonight in the  
moonlight,

please do meet me tonight all alone,  
for I have a sad story I'll tell you,  
it's a story that's never been told.

I'll be carried to the new jail tomorrow,  
leaving my poor darling alone,  
with the cold prison bars all around me,  
and my head on a pillow of stone.

But I have a great ship on the ocean,  
all mounted with silver and gold,  
and before my poor darling would  
suffer  
this ship would be anchored and sold.

Oh, if I had the wings of a swallow,  
over these prison walls I would fly,  
I would fly to the arms of my poor  
darling,  
and there I'd be willing for to die.

+ repeat verse 2

## Carter Family Songs

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### RAILROADING ON THE GREAT DIVIDE

(Not recorder by the OCF, but written by Sara after they broke up)

Nineteen and sixteen I started to roam  
Out in the west, no money, no home  
I went drifting along with the tide  
I landed on the great divide

**-- chorus --**

Railroading on the great divide  
Nothing around me but Rockies and sky  
There you'll find me as years go by  
Railroading on the great divide

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

As any old-timer from old Cheyenne  
Railroading Wyoming, the best in the land  
The long steel rails, the short crossties  
I laid across the great divide

**-- chorus --**

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

As I looked out across the breeze  
Number three coming, the fastest on wheels  
Through old Laramie she glides with pride  
And rolls across the great divide

**-- chorus --**

### RAMBLING BOY

I was rich, but a rambling boy  
Through many a city I did enjoy  
And there I married me a pretty little wife  
And I loved her dearer than I loved my life

She was pretty, both neat and gay  
She caused me to rob the road highway  
I robbed it, yes, I do declare  
I made myself ten thousand there

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Plenty dry goods for to carry me through  
My pistols, swords are mighty. Too  
My forty-four, she never fails  
My true love comes for to go my bail

My mother says she has no home  
My sister says she's all alone  
My wife, she's left with dandies fair  
With a broken heart and a baby fair

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Now when I die, don't bury me at all  
Just place me away in alcohol  
My forty-four laying by my feet  
Please tell them I am just asleep

## Carter Family Songs

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### RECKLESS MOTORMAN

Yonder stands the reckless motorman  
Who says his age is twentyone  
Standing by his mainline motor  
Saying, "Folks, what have I done?"

"Is it true I've killed my brakeman  
Is it true that he is dying  
Oh, I tried to stop my motor  
But I could not stop in time"

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

See the cars stacked up on him  
See him raise his weary head  
See his sister standing by him  
Crying, "Brother, are you dead?"

"Sister, sister, I am dying  
Soon I'll be on yonder shore  
Soon I'll have a home in heaven  
There'll be no braking anymore"

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

"Go and tell my youngest brother  
Take these words true an end  
To never start a day a-braking  
For his life is sure to end"

"Go tell my father, who is weigh man  
What he weighs, to weigh it fair  
There'll be no scales up in heaven  
To that meeting in the air"

### RIVER OF JORDAN

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I'm going down to the river of Jordan,  
Oh, yes  
I'm going down to the river of Jordan  
Some of these days (hallelujah)  
I'm going down to the river of Jordan  
I'm going down to the river of Jordan  
Some of these days

I'm going to eat at the welcome table,  
Oh, yes  
I'm going to eat at the welcome table  
Some of these days (hallelujah)  
I'm going to eat at the welcome table  
I'm going to eat at the welcome table  
Some of these days

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I'm going to sing in the heavenly choir,  
Oh, yes  
I'm going to sing in the heavenly choir  
Some of these days (hallelujah)  
I'm going to sing in the heavenly choir  
I'm going to sing in the heavenly choir  
Some of these days

I'm going to put on the silvery slippers,  
Oh, yes  
I'm going to put on the silvery slippers  
Some of these days (hallelujah)  
I'm going to put on the silvery slippers  
I'm going to put on the silvery slippers  
Some of these days

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I'm going to sit down by my Jesus, Oh,  
yes  
I'm going to sit down by my Jesus  
Some of these days (hallelujah)  
I'm going to sit down by my Jesus  
I'm going to sit down by my Jesus  
Some of these days

## Carter Family Songs

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### ROOM IN HEAVEN FOR ME

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]  
Beyond the sea where fades such  
glorious dreams  
Where things are ours that eyes have  
never seen  
The soul's sweet home is blissful ever  
more  
Will there be room or me on that bright  
shore

There's room.....Yes, room  
(room for you and me.....room for you  
and me)  
There's room.....For all  
(room for me....room enough for all)  
There's room.....For all  
(yes, there's room for me....room  
enough for all)  
Yes, there's room.....for.....me  
(room enough in heaven, yes, room)

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

That wondrous city far beyond confine  
Where all is joy and peace so pure  
divine  
In visions I it's glittering streets can see  
And wonder if there's room in heaven  
for me

-- chorus --

I long to soar away and be at rest  
And there to lean upon my Savior's  
breast  
Oh, won't that be a glorious victory

To find that there is room in heaven for  
me

-- chorus --

### SAD AND LONESOME DAY

Oh today has been a lonesome day  
Today has been a lonesome day  
Today has been a lonesome day  
And it seems tomorrow'll be the same  
old way

Oh they carried my mother to the  
burying ground  
They carried my mother to the burying  
ground  
They carried my mother to the burying  
ground  
And watched the pallbearers let her  
down

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Did you ever hear a church bell tone  
Did you ever hear a church bell tone  
Did you ever hear a church bell tone  
You may know by that she's dead and  
gone

Oh dig my grave with a silver spade  
Oh dig my grave with a silver spade  
Oh dig my grave with a silver spade  
And mark the place where I must lay

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There's one kind favor I ask of you

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There's one kind favor I ask of you  
There's one kind favor I ask of you  
That's to see that my grave is kept  
green

To tell that he was dead  
The letter that he gave to her  
These words it sadly read

-- chorus --

### SAILOR BOY

'Twas on one dark and stormy night  
The snow was on the ground  
The sailor boy was at his post  
His ship was outward bound

His sweetheart standing by his side  
She mourned a bitter tear  
Though as he pressed her to his side  
He whispered in her ear

-- chorus --

Farewell, my own true love  
This parting gives me pain  
And you will be my guiding star  
Till I return again

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

And then I think of you, my love  
While storms are raging high  
Then oh, sweetheart, remember me  
Your faithful sailor boy

'Twas sad to say the ship returned  
Without the sailor boy  
For he had died while on the sea  
His flag was held most high

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

And as his shipmate steps on shore

### Sailor On The Deep Blue Sea

He promised to write me a letter,  
He promised to write to me;  
But I haven't heard from my darling,  
Who is sailing on the deep blue sea.

"Oh, captain, can you tell me,  
Can you tell me where he may be?"  
"Oh yes, my pretty maiden,  
He is drowned in the deep blue sea."

Farewell to friends and relations .  
This is the last you'll see of me,  
For I'm going to end my troubles  
By drowning in the deep blue sea.

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### SAINT REGIS GIRL

In a pine-shaded grave by the river  
Where the nightingales sing sad and low  
All alone lies the St. Regis maiden  
Who did sing this sad song years ago

Never more will my heart fill with gladness  
As I stroll through the forest again  
For to prison they've taken my lover  
That's why my poor heart's full of pain

When in prison you're dying from sorrow  
I hope you'll recall those past days  
That together we spent in this valley  
And the vows that we shared on its quay

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, if I could but burn down that prison  
To steal you away for a while  
They could carry me off to the gallows  
And I'd go to my doom with a smile

When the moon is high in the heavens  
And the mountains do gleam in its light  
How often I'll dream of you, sweetheart  
As I mourn there alone in the night

There will be a green grave in the forest  
And people, when passing that way  
Will think of the St. Regis maiden  
As she lies there alone in the clay

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

A shadow has crossed o'er the valley  
Where onced only sunshine did reign  
But wherever life's pathway may lead me  
I shall ever remember our dream

In the future someday I will meet you

On the bright shore so far from this world

And there before God I will greet you  
That's the dream of the St. Regis girl

### THE SCHOOL HOUSE ON THE HILL

Fond memory paints its scenes of other years  
Bring me their memory still  
And bright amid those joyous scenes of years  
The schoolhouse on the hill

-- chorus --

Oh, the schoolhouse that stands upon the hill

I never, never can forget

Dear happy days are gathered 'round me still

I never, no never can forget

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There hangs the swing upon the maple tree

Where you and I once swung

There flows the spring, forever flowing free

As when we both were young

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

There climbs the vines and there the berries grow

Which once would rise so high

And there the ripe nuts glistened in the grove

Of rich October skies

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### SEE THAT MY GRAVE IS KEPT GREEN

When I am dead and gone from you,  
darling  
When I am laid away in my grave  
When my spirit has gone to heaven  
above  
To him whom my soul will save

-- chorus 1 --

Oh, the day will come to you, darling  
When no more on earth I'll be seen  
There's one little wish, darling, grant  
me  
See that my grave is kept green

-- chorus 2 --

When from this world I go  
Leaving forever the scene  
While others are dead, oh, will you then  
See that my grave is kept green

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, the hour of joy is passing  
But, alas, how soon it will fade  
Your glances of love are meeting my  
own  
And sunlight will turn to shade

-- chorus 1 & 2 --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I shall never be happy again, my love  
Never be happy again  
For girls in their teens don't know what  
love means

I shall never be happy again

-- chorus 2 --

### SINGLE GIRL, MARRIED GIRL

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Single girl, single girl, she's going  
dressed fine  
Oh, she's going dressed fine  
Married girl, married girl, she wears just  
any kind  
Oh, she wears just any kind

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Single girl, single girl, she goes to the  
store and buys  
Oh, she goes to the store and buys  
Married girl, married girl, she rocks the  
cradle and cries  
Oh, she rocks the cradle and cries

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Single girl, single girl, she's going  
where she please  
Oh, she's going where she please  
Married girl, married girl, baby on her  
knees  
Oh, baby on her knees

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

## Carter Family Songs

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### SINKING IN THE LONESOME SEA

There was a little ship and it sailed  
upon the sea  
And she went by the name of the Merry  
Golden Tree

As she sailed upon the low and  
lonesome low  
As she sailed upon the lonesome sea

There was a little sailor unto his captain  
said  
Oh, Captain, Captain, what'll you give  
to me

If I sink her in the low and lonesome  
low  
If I sink her in the lonesome sea

500 Dollars I'll give unto thee  
And my oldest daughter I'll wed unto  
thee

If you'll sink her in the low and  
lonesome low  
If you'll sink her in the lonesome sea

He bowed his head and away swam he  
Till he come to the ship called the  
Turkish Reveille

And she sanken in the low and  
lonesome low  
She sanken in the lonesome sea

If it wasn't for the love of your daughter  
and your men

I would do unto you as I did unto them

I would sink you in the low and  
lonesome low

I would sink you in the lonesome sea

### SLEEP, BABY, SLEEP

Sleep, baby, sleeping, close your proud  
eyes

Listen to your mother dear sing sweet  
lullabies

Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee  
Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee-oh, a-lay-ee-hee  
Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee  
Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee-oh, a-lay-ee-hee

Sleep, baby, sleeping, angels watch  
over you

Listen to your mother dear while she  
sings to you

Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee  
Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee-oh, a-lay-ee-hee  
Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee  
Ay-lee-oh-ah-lay-ee,

Ay-lee-oh-ah-lay-ee  
Ay-lee-oh-lay-ee-oh, a-lay-ee-hee



## Carter Family Songs

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### SOLDIER'S SWEETHEART

Once I had a sweetheart  
A sweetheart brave and true  
His hair was dark and curly  
His loving eyes were blue

He told me that he loved me  
And he often proved it so  
And he often came to see me  
When the evening sun was low

But they took him away  
To this awful German war  
And when he came to say goodbye  
My heart did overflow

He said, goodbye, little darling  
To France I must go

He takes a golden finger ring  
And he placed it on my hand  
Said, remember me, little darling  
When I'm in no man's land

He promised he would write to me  
That promise he kept true  
And when I read this letter from him  
I pray the war is through

The second letter I got from him  
The war was just ahead  
The third one, wrote by his Captain  
My darling dear was dead

I'll keep all his letters  
I'll keep his gold ring, too  
And I'll always live a single life  
For the soldier who was so true

### SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF ME

When first I heard of the people who  
claim  
This old-time religion was real  
I says I'll go down, take a look at the  
crowd

It's just the weak-minded, I feel

-- chorus --

But something got a hold of me  
Yes, something got a hold of me  
I went there to fight, but on that night  
There's something got a hold of me

I walked right down, peeped in at the  
door

And the Devil says, don't you go in  
I says I'll go in, for that will not hurt  
And sit as far back as I can

-- chorus --

About that time he got up to preach  
And he looked right down upon me  
He told everybody how mean I had  
been

Don't think he thought much of me

-- chorus --

They sing and shout and they all clasp  
their hands

And they all got down on their knees  
When the fire fell from heaven it fell  
upon me  
And then I fell to the floor

-- chorus --

So now I've learnt and no need to  
doubt

That the old-time religion is real  
I have a spirit I'll never forget  
That something got a hold of me

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### SOW 'EM ON THE MOUNTAIN

-- chorus --

Sow 'em on the mountain, reap 'em in the valley

Sow 'em on the mountain, reap 'em in the valley

Sow 'em on the mountain, reap 'em in the valley

You gonna reap just what you sow

If you've been a gambler, better quit your gamblin'

If you've been a gambler, better quit your gamblin'

If you've been a gambler, better quit your gamblin'

'Cause you gonna reap just what you sow

-- chorus --

If you been a tattler, you better quit your tattling

If you been a tattler, you better quit your tattling

If you been a tattler, you better quit your tattling

'Cause you gonna reap just what you sow

-- chorus --

If you been a liar, you better you quit your lying

If you been a liar, you better you quit your lying

If you been a liar, you better you quit your lying

'Cause you gonna reap just what you sow

-- chorus --

### SPARKLING BLUE EYES

There's a ramshackle shack down in old Caroline

That's calling me back to that girl of mine

Those two blue eyes that I long to see  
She's the girl of my dreams and will always be

Those two blue eyes that sparkle with love

Sent down to me from heaven above  
If I had the wings of a beautiful dove  
I'd fly away to the one I love

When the whippoorwills call on a hill far away

I'll sing love songs and she will say

My love for you will never die

We bid farewell with a sad goodbye

### THE SPIRIT OF LOVE WATCHES OVER ME

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Thou art gone from my gaze like a beautiful dream

And I seek there in vain by the meadow and stream

Oft I breathe out your name to the winds floating by

But the sweet voice is mute to my cry

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

In the stillness of night when the stars

## Carter Family Songs

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mightily shine  
My heart fondly holds a communion  
with thine  
For I feel thou art near and where e'er I  
may be  
That the spirit of love watches me

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oft the birds in the bower now  
companion I make  
Every simple wildflower I prize for the  
sake  
Deep woods and dark clouds can now  
pleasure impart  
For the solitude suits my poor heart

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Thou art gone from my gaze, yet I will  
not repine  
E'er long we shall meet in a home that  
is thine  
For I feel thou art near and where e'er I  
may be  
That the spirit of love watches me

### STERN OLD BACHELOR

I am a stern old bachelor, my age is 44  
I do declare I'll never live with women  
anymore  
I have a stove that's worth 10 cents, a  
table worth 15  
I cook my gruel in oyster cans and keep  
my things so clean

-- chorus --

Oh, little sod shanty  
Little sod shanty give to me  
For I'm a stern old bachelor  
From matrimony free

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When I come home at night, I smile and  
walk right in  
I never hear a voice shout out, I say,  
where have you been  
On a cold and stormy night, in my cozy  
little shack  
I sing my songs and think my thoughts  
with no one to talk back

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I go to bed whene'er I please and get  
up just the same  
I change my socks three times a year  
with no one to complain  
At night when I'm in peaceful sleep my  
snores can do no harm  
I never have to walk the floor with a  
baby in my arms

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

And when I die and go heaven as all  
good bachelors do  
I will not have to grieve for fear my wife  
will get there, too

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### THE STORMS ARE ON THE OCEAN

I'm going away to leave you, love  
I'm going away for a while  
But I'll return to you some time  
If I go ten thousand miles

-- chorus --

The storms are on the ocean  
The heavens may cease to be  
This world may lose its motion, love  
If I prove false to thee

Oh, who will dress your pretty little feet  
Oh, who will glove your hand  
Who will kiss your rosy red cheeks  
When I'm in the far off land

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, papa will dress my pretty little feet  
And mama will glove my hand  
You can kiss my rosy red cheeks  
When you return again

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, have you seen those lonesome  
doves  
Flying from pine to pine  
A-mourning for their own true loves  
Just like I mourn for mine

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

I'll never go back on the ocean, love  
I'll never go back on the sea  
I'll never go back on the blue-eyed girl  
Till she goes back on me

-- chorus --

### THE SUN OF THE SOUL

When the sun of your life has gone  
down  
And the clouds in the west turn to gold  
Endless death will to you then have  
come

If the light has gone out in your soul

-- chorus --

Oh, just think how in death you would  
feel

With the light growing dim in your soul  
Oh, how lonely it will be, oh, how still  
If the light has gone out in your soul

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When you come to the end of the way  
And life's story for you has been told  
Oh, how sad all to you will appear  
If the light has gone out in your soul

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

When the chilly winds of death around  
you steal  
And the sweat upon your brow is damp  
and cold  
What a dread in your life you would feel  
If the light has gone out in your soul

## Carter Family Songs

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When before the judgement bier you  
shall stand  
And your deeds of you have been  
trolled

Good and evil appears, oh, what then  
If the light has gone out in your soul

-- chorus --

### SUNSHINE IN THE SHADOWS

When our hearts are bowed in sorrow  
And it seems all help is gone  
Jesus whispers do not falter  
I will leave you not alone

Then somehow amidst my trials  
How it is I cannot see  
Then I hear a voice from heaven  
Gently saying follow me

-- chorus --

There is sunshine in the shadows  
There is sunshine in the rain  
There is sunshine in our sorrows  
Though our hearts are filled with pain

There is sunshine when we're  
burdened

There is sunshine when we pray  
There is sunshine, heavenly sunshine  
Blessed sunshine all the way

Sometimes my friends forsake me  
And I'm tempted to despair  
Then I think of my dear savior  
Who lay his head, his head nowhere

Oh, it pays to follow Jesus

Just to learn of him each day  
And I'll guarantee you, my brother  
You'll have sunshine all the way

-- chorus --

### SWEET AS THE FLOWERS IN MAY TIME

-- chorus --

Sweet as the flowers in May time  
Sweet as the dew on the rose  
I would rather be somebody's darling  
As a poor girl who nobody knows

Oh, mama scolds me for flirting  
What is as a poor girl to do  
Oh, this world would be sad without a  
lover  
And this world would be sad without  
you

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, I wish I had someone to love me  
Someone just to call me their own  
Be the rule over somebody's kitchen  
Or the queen over somebody's home

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

Oh, what is the use of us parting  
Wherever there's a will, there's a way  
Tomorrow the sun may be shining  
Although it is cloudy today

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### SWEET FERN

Springtime is coming, sweet lonesome  
bird  
Your echo in the woodland I hear  
Down in the meadow so lonesome  
you're singing  
While the moonlight is shining so clear

-- chorus 1--

But I know he's away in a far distant  
land  
A land that is over the sea  
Go fly to him singing your sweet little  
song  
And tell him to come back to me

-- chorus 2 --

Sweet Fern (Sweet Fern) Sweet Fern  
(Sweet Fern)  
Oh, tell me, is my darling still true  
Sweet Fern (Sweet Fern) Sweet Fern  
(Sweet Fern)  
I'll be just as happy as you

-- chorus 3 --

Well, a-lee-oh-lay-ee  
Well, a-lee-ho-lee-oh-lay-ee  
Yeah, lee-oh-lay-ee-hee-oh  
Lee-oh-lay-ee

Oh, tell me, sweet Fern, is he thinking  
of me  
And the promise he made long ago  
He said he'd return from over the sea  
Oh, why do the earth roll so slow

-- chorus 1 --

[Instrumental Break]

-- chorus 3 --

Upon my finger he placed a small ring  
On the day he was leaving his home  
I promised I'd be his own dear little girl  
And love him wherever he'd roam

-- chorus 1 & 2 & 3--

### SWEET HEAVEN IN MY VIEW

-- chorus --

Got sweet heaven in my view,  
hallelujah  
On my journey I press on, praise the  
Lord  
For I'm bound for that holy city  
Got sweet heaven in my view

Oh, my mother, she died and left me  
I'm alone in this world, I'm alone  
And my father, he won't own me  
Got to find me another home

-- chorus --

Oh, you need not talk about me  
Just because I am crippled and blind  
For I've got my ticket purchased  
I've reach heaven just on time

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

And when I get to heaven  
Take a seat and set right down  
Looking up to my heavenly father  
Looking for a robe and a crown

-- chorus --

## Carter Family Songs

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### TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME

We parted by the riverside  
The moon looked down on you and me  
The stars put on a look of pride  
The river murmured to the sea  
The dew drops kissed the blushing  
rose  
The mournful winds did sigh  
That sad word was goodbye

-- chorus --

Oh, tell me that you love me yet  
For, oh, this parting gives me pain  
Please tell me that you'll not forget  
For we may never meet again

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

We parted by the riverside  
Though I have roamed in distant climes  
My heart has not forgot its pride  
For I have loved you all the time  
And I am faithful to you still  
As long as you are true  
Let fate bring to me what it will  
For I love you, only you

-- chorus --

[INSTRUMENTAL BREAK]

-- chorus --

### THE LAST LETTER

Why do you treat me as if I were only a  
friend  
What have I done that has made you  
so bitter and cold  
Sometimes I wonder if you'll be  
contented again  
Will you be happy when we are  
withered and old

I cannot offer you diamonds and  
mansions so fine  
I cannot offer you clothes that your  
young body craves  
But if you'll only say that you'll forever  
be mine Think of the heartaches, the  
pain and suffering you'll save

While I am writing this letter I think of  
the past And of the promises that you  
have broken so free  
But to this old world, I'll soon bid my  
farewell at last  
I will be gone when you read this last  
letter from me

## Carter Family Songs

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### THE LAST MOVE FOR ME

I've been traveling for Jesus so much of  
my life  
Been traveling o'er land on sea  
But I'm planning on taking a trip to the  
sky  
That will be the last move for me

[CHORUS]

When I move to the sky up in Heaven  
so high  
What a wonderful time that will be  
I'm ready to go washed in Calvary's  
flow  
That will be the last move for me.

I've seen wonderful sights as I traveled  
afar  
How little, how empty they seem  
When I make my last move to that city  
of gold  
That will be the last move for me

[CHORUS]

Here I'm bothered with packing each  
time that I move  
And carry a load in each hand  
But I'll not need one thing that I've used  
in this world  
When I move to that heavenly land.

[CHORUS]

Everything that I need will be furnished  
up there  
Not even my song books I'll bring  
Or the precious old Bible that showed  
me the way  
I'll not need when I stand by my King.

[CHORUS]

### THE LITTLE GYPSY GIRL

Into: Carter pick verse

once I was a gypsy girl but now I'm a rich  
mans bride  
with servants to wait on me while in my  
carriage ride

while in my carriage ride, while in my carriage  
ride  
with servants to wait on me while in my  
carriage ride

Carter pick verse

As I was a-walking upon a London street  
A handsome young squire was the first I  
chanced to meet  
He view-ed my pretty brown cheeks, and he  
lik-ed them very well  
He said, "My little gypsy girl, will you my  
fortune tell?"  
will you my fortune tell, will you my fortune  
tell  
He said my little gypsy girl will you my fortune  
tell

Carter pick verse

Oh yes sir, oh kind sir, please give to me your  
hand  
It's you that have fine fortune, both houses  
and good land  
The fairer girls are dainty, but you must cast  
them by  
For I am the gypsy girl who is to be your  
bride  
who is to be your bride, who is to be your  
bride  
I am the gypsy girl who is to be your bride

Carter pick verse

He took me to his castle, there were carpets  
on the floor  
And servants there a-waiting for to open ev'ry  
door  
There were ladies there of honor and the  
music it did play  
And all were there to celebrate the gypsy's  
wedding day.  
to celebrate the wedding day, to celebrate  
the wedding day  
and all were the to celebrate the gypsy's  
wedding day

Carter pick verse

So it's farewell to the gypsy life, to campin' on  
the green  
No more with my brothers and my sisters will  
I be seen  
Oh, once I was a gypsy girl but now I'm a  
squire's bride  
With servants for to wait on me and in my  
carriage ride.  
while in my carriage ride, while in my  
carriage ride  
with servants to wait on me and in my  
carriage ride Carter pick verse....end