

Alan Lomax - Negro Prison Blues & Songs (2006)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Murder's Home* 2. *No More, My Lawd* 3. *Old Alabama* 4. *Black Woman* 5. *Jumpin' Judy*
6. *Whoa Buck* 7. *Prettiest Train* 8. *Old Dollar Mamie* 9. *It Makes a Long Time Man Feel Bad*
10. *Rosie* 11. *Levee Camp Holler* 12. *What Makes a Work Song Leader?* 13. *Early in the Mornin'*
14. *How I Got in the Penitentiary* 15. *Tangle Eye Blues* 16. *Stackerlee* 17. *Prison Blues*
18. *Duckin' and Dodgin'* 19. *My Baby Got to Go* 20. *Penitentiary Blues* 21. *Lonesome Blues*
22. *They'll Miss Me When I'm Gone* 23. *Rock Me Mama*

These recordings were made in 1947 in the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. The singers were all Negro prisoners, who, according to the practice of Mississippi, were serving out their time by working on a huge state cotton plantation in the fertile Yazoo Delta. Only a few strands of wire separated the prison from adjoining plantations. Only the sight of an occasional armed guard or a barred window in one of the frame dormitories made one realise that this was a prison. The land produced the same crop; there was the same work for the Negroes to do on both sides of the fence. And there was no Delta Negro who was not aware of how easy it was for him to find himself on the wrong side of those few strands of barbed wire. As one of the prison work-songs ironically remarked "It aint but the one thing I done wrong, I stayed in Mississippi just a day too long ... " --- clancybrothersandtommymakem.com

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