

Lyrics and Life
Appendix of Lyrics and Biographical Links

Memphis Minnie

Background Information:

http://www.cmt.com/artists/az/memphis_minnie/bio.jhtml

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memphis_Minnie

Song:

When the Levee Breaks

If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break
If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break
And the water gonna come in, have no place to stay

Well all last night I sat on the levee and moan
Well all last night I sat on the levee and moan
Thinkin' 'bout my baby and my happy home

If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break
If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break
And all these people have no place to stay

Now look here mama what am I to do
Now look here mama what am I to do
I ain't got nobody to tell my troubles to

I works on the levee mama both night and day
I works on the levee mama both night and day
I ain't got nobody, keep the water away

Oh cryin' won't help you, prayin' won't do no good
Oh cryin' won't help you, prayin' won't do no good
When the levee breaks, mama, you got to lose

I works on the levee, mama both night and day
I works on the levee, mama both night and day
I works so hard, to keep the water away

I had a woman, she wouldn't do for me
I had a woman, she wouldn't do for me
I'm goin' back to my used to be

I's a mean old levee, cause me to weep and moan
I's a mean old levee, cause me to weep and moan
Gonna leave my baby, and my happy home

<http://www.lyricstime.com/memphis-minnie-when-the-levee-breaks-lyrics.html>

Led Zeppelin
When the Levee Breaks

If it keeps on raining levee's going to break
If it keeps on raining levee's going to break
When the levee breaks have no place to stay

Mean old levee taught me to weep and moan
Mean old levee taught me to weep and moan
Got what it takes to make a Mountain Man leave his home

Oh, well; oh, well; oh, well.

Don't it make you feel bad?
When you're trying to find your way home you don't know which way to go?
When you're going down south and there's no work to do
And you're going on to Chicago

Crying won't help you, praying won't do you no good
Crying won't help you, praying won't do you no good
When the levee breaks, mama, you got to go

All last night sat on the levee and moaned
All last night sat on the levee and moaned
Thinking about my baby and my happy home

Going - going to Chicago
Going to Chicago
Sorry, but I can't take you

Going down - going down, now
Going down - going down, now
Going down
Going down
Going down
Going down

Going down - going down, now
Going down - going down, now
Going down - going down, now
Going down
Going dow-, dow-, dow-, dow-, down, now

Additional Resources:

Song Recording

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpKg4WrSgGk>

Inscription on Memphis Minnie's Grave (on the back of her gravestone):

"The hundreds of sides Minnie recorded are the perfect material to teach us about the blues. For the blues are at once general, and particular, speaking for millions, but in a highly singular, individual voice. Listening to Minnie's songs we hear her fantasies, her dreams, her desires, but we will hear them as if they were our own."^[7]

Background Information:

<http://www.bbking.com/bio/>

Song:

It's Still Called the Blues

People Got Money
Still Got problems
Got to the doctor
And try to solve them
Anyway you look at it

It's still called the blues

Baby needs new shoes
Mama needs a new dress
Daddy's out scufflin'
Tryin' to do his best
Anyway you look at it
It's still called the blues

Makes no difference
What you do or say
The blues might still
Come your way
Just when you think
Your trouble's about to end
Along comes something
And start it all over again

You party on a Saturday
Go to church on Sunday
Fun leaves you because
Gotta work on Monday
Anyway you look at it
It's still called the blues

Makes no difference
What you do or say
The blues might still
Come your way
Just when you think
Your trouble's about to end
Along comes something
And start it all over again

Ain't got no money
To pay the rent
Baby's gone
You spent your last cent
Mm, still called the blues
Still called the blues, y'all

Anyway you look at it
Makes no difference
What you do or say
The blues might still
Come your way
Just when you think
Your trouble's about to end
Along comes something
And start it all over again

Additional Resources:

Information on BB King and his legacy:

<http://www.thebluehighway.com/legacy.html>

WC Handy

Background Information:

<http://www.biography.com/articles/W.C.-Handy-39700>

Song:

Memphis Blues Lyrics

Folks I've just been down, down to Memphis town,
That's where the people smile, smile on you all the while.
Hospitality, they were good to me.
I couldn't spend a dime, and had the grandest time.

I went out a dancing with a Tennessee dear,
They had a fellow there named Handy with a band you should hear
And while the folks gently swayed, all the band folks played Real harmony.
I never will forget the tune that Handy called the Memphis Blues.
Oh yes, them Blues.

They've got a fiddler there that always slickens his hair
And folks he sure do pull some bow.
And when the big Bassoon seconds to the Trombones croon.
It moans just like a sinner on Revival Day, on Revival Day.

Oh that melody sure appealed to me.
Just like a mountain stream rippling on it seemed.
Then it slowly died, with a gentle sigh
Soft as the breeze that whines high in the summer pines.

Hear me people, hear me people, hear I pray,
I'm going to take a million lesson's 'til I learn how to play
Because I seem to hear it yet, simply can't forget
That blue refrain.

There's nothing like the Handy Band that played the Memphis Blues so grand.
Oh play them Blues.
That melancholy strain, that ever haunting refrain
Is like a sweet old sorrow song.
Here comes the very part that wraps a spell around my heart.
It sets me wild to hear that loving tune a gain,
The Memphis Blues.

Additional Information:

WC Handy and his legacy:

<http://www.thebluehighway.com/tbh2.html>

Carl Perkins

Background Information:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/artists/carlperkins/biography>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Perkins

Song:

Blue Suede Shoes

Well, it's one for the money,
Two for the show,
Three to get ready,
Now go, cat, go.

But don't you step on my blue suede shoes.
You can do anything but lay off of my Blue suede shoes.

Well, you can knock me down,
Step in my face,
Slander my name
All over the place.

Do anything that you want to do, but uh-uh,
Honey, lay off of my shoes
Don't you step on my Blue suede shoes.
You can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes.

You can burn my house,
Steal my car,
Drink my liquor
From an old fruitjar.

Do anything that you want to do, but uh-uh,
Honey, lay off of my shoes
Don't you step on my blue suede shoes.
You can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes.

Additional Resources:

Song--

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is4IWYGM6rM>

Bo Diddley

Background Information:

<http://www.rockhall.com/inductee/bo-diddley>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bo_Diddley

Song:

When the Saints Go Marching In

<no lyrics>

Nursery Rhyme

My sister's name is Puudin' Tame,
They asked if she would stay the same,
My brother's name is Little Jack Horner,
My mama asked to watch to heat warm them.

Sister told papa when he got home,
Papa, papa, he sassed and moaned,
Papa looked at brother, far in his eyes,
Brother started on thr handjive.

He called sister, and he called mom,
Said, Look here, look here, what's this going on?
Everybody had a real surprise,
But brother had tears in his eyes.

Brother's so scared he couldn't walk,
Papa's afraid he could not talk.

Additional Resources:

Song—

When the Saints Go Marching In

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhtabJn7ilg&feature=related>

Nursery Rhyme

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGKDT-33rx4>

Charlie Patton

Background Information:

<http://www.southernmusic.net/charliepatton.htm>

http://www.nps.gov/history/delta/blues/people/charley_patton.htm

Song(s):

High Water Everywhere (Part 2)

Backwater at [Blytheville](#), backed up all around
Backwater at Blytheville, done took Joiner town
It was fifty families and children come to sink and drown

The water was risin' up at my friend's door
The water was risin' up at my friend's door
The man said to his women folk, "Lord, we'd better go"

The water was risin', got up in my bed
Lord, the water was rollin', got up to my bed
I thought I would take a trip, Lord, out on the big ice sled

Oh, I can hear, Lord, Lord, water upon my door,
you know what I mean, look-a here
I hear the ice, Lord, Lord, was sinkin' down,
I couldn't get no boats there, Marion City gone down

So high the water was risin' our men sinkin' down
Man, the water was risin' at places all around,
boy, they's all around
It was fifty men and children come to sink and drown

Oh, Lordy, women and grown men drown
Oh, women and children sinkin' down
Lord, have mercy
I couldn't see nobody's home and wasn't no one to be found

Mississippi Bo Weevil Blues

Sees a little boll weevil² keeps movin' in the, Lordie!
You can plant your cotton and you won't get a half a bale, Lordie
Bo weevil, bo weevil, where's your native home? Lordie
"A-Louisiana raised in Texas, least is where I was bred and born", Lordie
Well, I saw the bo weevil, Lord, a-circle, Lord, in the air, Lordie
The next time I seed him, Lord, he had his family there, Lordie
Bo weevil left Texas, Lord, he bid me "fare ye well", Lordie
(spoken: Where you goin' now?)
I'm goin' down the Mississippi, gonna give Louisiana hell, Lordie
(spoken: How is that, boy?)
Suck all the blossoms and he leave your hedges square, Lordie
The next time I seed you, you know you had your family there, Lordie
Bo weevil meet his wife, "We can sit down on the hill", Lordie
Bo weevil told his wife, "Let's trade this forty³ in", Lordie
Bo weevil told his wife, says, "I believe I may go North", Lordie
(spoken: Hold on, I'm gonna tell all about that)
"Let's leave Louisiana, we can go to Arkansas", Lordie
Well, I saw the bo weevil, Lord a-circle, Lord, in the air, Lordie
Next time I seed him, Lord, he had his family there, Lordie
Bo weevil told the farmer that "I 'tain't got ticket fare", Lordie
Sucks all the blossom and leave your hedges square, Lordie
Bo weevil, bo weevil, where your native home? Lordie
"Most anywhere they raise cotton and corn", Lordie
Bo weevil, bo weevil, "Outta treat me fair", Lordie
The next time I did you had your family there, Lordie

Additional Information:

Explanation of Songs Listed Above:

http://blueslyrics.tripod.com/artistswithsongs/charley_patton_1.htm#top