

EAST VIRGINIA BLUES

Traditional Bluegrass Song and "Blues" **DATE:** 1917 (collected by Cecil Sharp); **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Song; **OTHER NAMES:** "East Virginia;" "Old Virginy" (Ritchie); "In Old Virginy" (Sharp); **RELATED TO:** "Dark Holler Blues" (Ashley); "I Don't Want Your Millions, Mister;" "Greenback Dollar;" "Dark Hollow" (Browning); "Man of Constant Sorrow" "Darling Think of What You've Done;" "Oh Molly Dear (Go Ask Your Mother)" "Silver Dagger;" **RECORDING INFO:** First recorded by Buell Kazee, 1927; The Bray Brothers; Flatt and Scruggs (When I Left East Virginia); The Country Gentlemen; The Stanley Brothers; **NOTES:** One of the first published versions of "East Virginia" is "In Old Virginy" from *Sharp's English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians*.

I was born in East Virginia North Carolina
I did go There I met a fair young maiden
And her name I did not know.

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I was born in East Virginia, North Carolina I did go
There I met a fair young maiden, And her name I did not know.

Oh her hair was dark and curly, And her cheeks were rosy red
On her breast she wore white lilies, Where I longed to lay my head.

I don't want your greenback dollar, I don't want your watch and chain
All I want is your heart darling, Say you'll take me back again.

The ocean's deep and I can't wade in, And I have no wings to fly
I'll just get me a blue eyed boat man, For to row me over the tide.

I'll go back to East Virginia, North Carolina ain't my home
I'll go back to East Virginia, Leave them North Carolinians alone.