

# LITTLE BESSIE

Old-Time and Bluegrass Song- R.S. Crandall- words; arranged by W.T. Porter; **DATE:** ca. 1870; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Blue Sky Boys; Ricky Skaggs 'Ancient Tones' Skaggs Family Records; Roscoe Holcomb; Walter Smith & Friends; Stanley Brothers; **NOTES:** Most versions come from the classic Blue Sky Boys 1938 recording. Ricky Skaggs's note to the song reads: "Here is another song that I first heard from the Stanley Brothers. I loved their version very much. Then, one day, I found an old songbook that had many more verses to it than what they had recorded. I asked my dad if he knew anyone who could sing the old mountain style version of 'Little Bessie.' He said he thought he did. So we went down the road to a neighbor's house. Their names were Alvie and Vernie Fyffe. Vernie knew the old way of singing that song. So I learned it from her."

Let me hold you Mother closer put your arms  
a - round me tight for I'm cold in here dear Mo - ther  
and I feel so strange to - night

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**G**

Let me hold you Mother closer put your arms around me tight

**D G**

For I'm cold in here dear Mother and I feel so strange tonight.

Something hurts me oh dear Mother like a stone upon my breast  
Can I wonder, Mother, wonder why it is I cannot rest.

On the day while you were working as I lay upon my bed  
I was trying to be patient and remember what you said.

Just before the lamps were lighted, just before the children came  
While the moon was very quiet, I heard someone call my name.

Come up here, my little Bessie, come up here and live with me  
Where little children never suffer through the long eternity.

In the silent hour of midnight, in the silence, calm and deep  
Lying in her Mother's bosom, Little Bessie fell asleep.

Now up yonder past the portals that are shining very far  
Little Bessie now is tended by her Saviour's love and care.