

The Crying Family (traditional Vermont)

I love the silliness of this song collected in VT by Helen Hartness Flanders and given to me by her granddaughter, Nancy-Jean Seigel.

T here lived as I've heard say
Down by a running water
An old man and his wife
Who had a beaut'ful daughter
So charming and so fair.
A young man loved her dearly
Who often wandered there
Through groves and fields of barley.

Li tull lull lull lull lull,
Tulla rinktum foo nafoodle.

We leave the young folks here
To find the old lady
So busy with her tasks,
Says she, "As quick as may be
I'll take the water pail
And fetch a pail of water,"
Musing as she went
She thought upon her daughter

The old man John was there
To realize her wishes,
With hook and line and fly
To catch some little fishes.
Quite tranquil in his mind
While on the bank as he's lying,
He cast his eye behind
And saw old wife a-crying.

"Oh, what's the matter, Kate?
O, what's the matter, woman?
There's something in your mind

I see, that's more than common."
"Ah, true," old Kate replied,
"I've had a troubled fancy.
I've heard these waters roar
And thought upon our Nancy."

If Tom and Nance should wed
And such a thing there may be,
Their wedding might bring forth
A pretty little baby
And when the babe was born
And just began to waddle,
Perchance it might come here
And in these waters paddle."

"And then you know, perchance
That baby might be drowned
And cast upon the shore
And afterwards be found,
And buried it might be --
That's common after dying."
"Ah, true," old John replied,
And he began a-crying.

They all went crying home,
Tom, old man, wife and daughter
For fear that baby's ghost
Might cry upon the water.
They sighed and cried and mourned.
How they did weep and wail o'er
That pretty little babe
That ne'er yet was seen or heard of.

From Judy Cook's CD "If You Sing Songs..."

Contact Judy for CDs, Tapes, Bookings, or Information.

Email: judy@judycook.net Phone: (301)776-4314 Website: www.judycook.net

Judy Cook / 16125 Malcolm Drive / Laurel, MD 20707 / USA