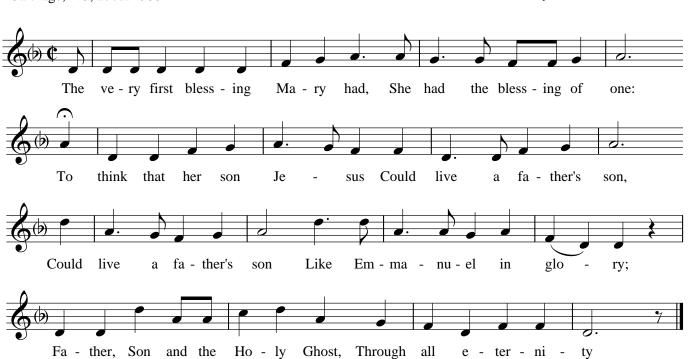
## The Blessings of Mary

Informant/ Performer: Will Brady Carthage, NC, about 1935 Source: Library of Congress AFS 3428 A2 Collected by Richard Chase



- 2. The very next blessing Mary had, She had the blessing of two:
  To think that her son Jesus
  Could read the Scripture through,
  Could read the Scripture through
  Like Emmanuel in glory;
  Father, Son and the Holy Ghost,
  Through all eternity.
- 3. ...Could set the sinner free
- 4. ...Could turn the rich to poor
- 5. ...Could bring the dead to live
- 6.\*...Could heal and cure the sick
- 7. ...Could conquer Hell and Heaven
- \* V. 5 from *Journal of American Folklore* 48:390 (1935)

## **Background Information**

The English carol 'The joys of Mary' appears first in its fifteenth century form in Brit. Mus. MS. Sloane 2593, in which the joys are five. In later versions they grow: in *Bramley and Stainer* they are seven; *Sandys* gives twelve. American versions of the words from Pennsylvania and Connecticut are in *JAFL* v, 1892; from West Virginia in *Folk Songs of the South* by David Harrington Cox (Harvard University Press, 1925); John Jacob Niles collected words and tune in the Southern Appalachian Mountains; and a version of both was found in Massachusetts. This version collected by Richard Chase from the singing of Mr. Will Brady, Carthage, North Carolina, who said: 'That's a precious song, somebody ought to take care of it' (*JAFL* vol. 48, no. 390, 1935).