

West Kentucky Coalmines
(AKA The Battle Of The Forty Miners)
Writer: Dottie Rambo

Verse 1

FROM THE HILLS OF WEST KENTUCKY
THERE'S A STORY ALL THE PEOPLE TELL
ALL ABOUT FORTY MINERS
THE WIDOWS KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL
IT HAPPENED IN LATE DECEMBER
THREE MILES UNDER THE GROUND
THE ROOF GAVE A TREMBLING WARNING
THE EARTH GAVE A RUMBLING SOUND

Verse 2

BILLY, JACK AND WILLIE CLAYTON
WERE BUSY LOADING NUMBER NINE COAL
RAILROAD CARS WERE STRAINING
FROM THE WEIGHT OF THE MINER'S BLACK GOLD
WILLIE GAVE A SCREAM OF WARNING
THE ROOF CAME CAVING IN
THIRTY-EIGHT MEN BEHIND THEM
THEY'VE NEVER BEEN SEEN AGAIN

Verse 3

FROM MILES ALL AROUND THEY GATHERED
DIGGING IN THE FREEZING SNOW
PRAYING FOR THE SOUND OF VOICES
FROM THE DUNGEON THREE MILES BELOW
WILLIE CLAYTON'S WIDOW WAS PRAYING
HOLDING TO HER PREACHER'S HAND
SHE LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO THE HEAVENS
CRIED, "GOD PLEASE SAVE MY MAN"

Verse 4

THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS THEY LABORED
BUT THEIR SEARCHING HAD BEEN IN VAIN
BLOOD AND TEARS WERE MINGLED
WITH THE FALLING OF THE FREEZING RAIN
DOWN A CINDER LANE SITS A CABIN
WITH A WREATH HANGING ON THE DOOR
AN UNPAID BILL IN THE MAILBOX
BILLY OWED AT THE COMPANY STORE

Chorus

THERE'S NO GRAVE QUITE SO COLD
AS THE WEST KENTUCKY COALMINE
ROSES JUST WON'T BLOOM
WHERE THE SUN CAN'T SHINE
FORTY CROSSES HIGH ON A HILL
SOMEWHERE IN UNION COUNTY
BLACK STONES MARK THE GRAVES
OF THE WEST KENTUCKY COALMINES

Repeat Chorus

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