

# **The Simmons Family – “East Virginia”**

## **Live at the 1970 Smithsonian Folklife Festival**

### **Audio Transcript**

[Cheers from the crowd]

Man: This little red-headed lady over here on the right bakes the biscuits in my house, and me and this little girl here eat 'em.

[Cheers]

Man: Here you go now.

[Little girl begins singing over strummed dulcimer]

*I was born in East Virginia  
North Carolina I did go  
There I met the fairest maiden  
Whose name and age I do not know*

*Her hair it was a dark red color  
And her cheeks are rosy red  
On her breast she wore white lilies  
That's where I long to lay my head*

*Many a time we rode together  
Down beside the deep blue sea  
Now in your heart you love another  
In my grave I'd rather be*

*I don't want your green back dollar  
I don't want your watch and chain  
All I want is you my darling  
Say you'll take me back again*

*Papa said we cannot marry  
Mama said you'll never do  
If you ever learn to love me  
I will run away with ye*

*At my heart, you are my darling  
At my door, you're welcome in  
At my gate, I'll always meet you  
For you're the girl I long to win*

*I'd rather be in some dark holler  
Where the sun would never to shine  
Than to see you with another  
And to know that you'll never be mine*

[Whoops and applause]