

# NORMAN & NANCY BLAKE

## BACK HOME IN SULPHUR SPRINGS

1. **MORE GOOD WOMEN GONE WRONG** – *Traditional*
2. **COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES** – *Traditional*
3. **HE'S COMING TO US DEAD** – *Traditional*
4. **THE GIRL I LEFT IN SUNNY TENNESSEE** – *Traditional*  
*Arr. Norman Blake - Blake & Blake Music / BMI*
5. **WE PARTED BY THE RIVERSIDE** – *Traditional*
6. **ELLA REE** – *Traditional*  
*Arr. Norman Blake - Blake & Blake Music / BMI*
7. **HAPPY LITTLE HOME IN ARKANSAS** – *Traditional*
8. **BACK HOME IN SULPHUR SPRINGS** –  
*by Norman Blake - Blake & Blake Music / BMI*
9. **THE MERMAID** – *Traditional*
10. **TAKE ME HOME POOR JULIA** – *Traditional*
11. **SEABOARD AIRLINE RAG** – *by Norman Blake -*  
*Blake & Blake Music / BMI*
12. **STAR SPANGLED BANNER** – *Arr. James Bryan -*  
*Blake & Blake Music / BMI - Mandolin by Nancy Blake*
13. **THE EMPRESS OF IRELAND** – *by Patty Bryan -*  
*Blake & Blake Music / BMI*
14. **KATY CLINE** - *Traditional*

Recorded July 28, 29 & 30, 2004 at Western  
Jubilee Warehouse, Colorado Springs

Norman Blake – Vocal, Guitars, Dobro,  
Fiddle, Mandolin

Nancy Blake – Vocal, Guitars, Cello,  
Mandolin

Engineer & Mixing – Butch Hause

Mastered by – David Glasser -  
Airshow Mastering, Boulder, CO

Cover Photo and Album Notes –  
Scott O'Malley

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Norman Blake Signature Editions

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**PLECTRA FONE**  
RECORDS

The Old Time Country  
Division of Western Jubilee  
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# NORMAN & NANCY BLAKE

## BACK HOME IN SULPHUR SPRINGS





# NORMAN & NANCY BLAKE

**Sulphur Springs** - Although Norman was born in Chattanooga, from age eleven months to twelve years he was raised by parents Rufus and Lorraine in one of the log houses on the Blake's old home place in Sulphur Springs. It's the same property where Great Grandfather R.I.G. Blake was born in 1829. R.I.G., in his later years, lost an eye as a quartermaster in the Confederate Army and eventually returned to Sulphur Springs and ran a legal, bonded whiskey still. Grandfather Larkin worked as a coach carpenter for the railroad and built the log houses on the Blake property. It was in one of those homes in Sulphur Springs where Grandmother Blake lived while Great

Grandmother Carnes resided about a half mile away, down by the water tanks. Both worked for a time down the gravel road at the depot as telegraphers for the Alabama Great Southern.

The small community of Sulphur Springs is just 25 miles from Chattanooga and sits right on the Georgia & Alabama line. The old one room schoolhouse was converted into the Stataline Methodist Church. It was said the congregation sat in Alabama while the preacher stood in Georgia. The Blake's home in Sulphur Springs was on the Georgia side while Norman's parents, grandparents and great grandparents, along with many other relatives and friends, continue to rest in the cemetery on the Alabama side.

Norman recalls the wood stove, the flat iron, no electricity and the friendly tenants on the property who had a victrola and hillbilly records. That was followed by the Zenith radio that, with proper tuning, offered live music. It was there that Grandmother Blake taught him his first tune on guitar, Spanish Fandango in open G tuning.

Now accomplished on dobro and mandolin as well as guitar, Norman's subsequent musical journeys are well documented. The recordings of Johnny Cash, The Carters, Kris Kristofferson, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and John Hartford are among the notable many.

In 1972, Norman returned to his musical roots for his first solo record, *Home In Sulphur Springs*. Shortly after Rounder Records released this now critically acclaimed recording, Norman met cello player Nancy Short of Independence, Missouri. Norman and Nancy married in 1975 and not long afterwards, they built their two story home in Rising Fawn, Georgia, where they still live. Rising Fawn is at the Southern end of Dade County, off the old Lee Highway, in the Cove of Johnson's Crook, beneath Lookout Mountain, three and one half miles from the Home In Sulphur Springs.



**Colorado Springs** - In the Summer of 2004, thirty years and twenty some recordings later, Norman & Nancy Blake returned to the old railroad warehouse by the tracks in Colorado Springs. In more recent years, the 1887 Santa Fe Railroad building has become the home of Western Jubilee Recording Company where the Blakes have recorded on several occasions. Their previous visit resulted in Plectrafone Records and the Grammy nominated duet recording, *The Morning Glory Ramblers*.

Norman is now celebrating more than thirty years of not getting on an airplane and the sessions are generally tied to a Colorado festival appearance. As in the past, the Blakes along with their dog, Bascom, parked their 'home on the road' travel rig by the railroad tracks just outside the warehouse studio. This time, it took more trips than before to unload all the vintage string instruments carried from Rising Fawn in their new and much improved RV that "O Brother" paid for. As always, good friend and Recording Engineer Butch Hause had pre-set the room with their favorite old mics, no baffles and two straight back wooden chairs. The set up allows for recording upon impulse – morning, noon and night – and that they did. Norman suggested they "record without much playback for awhile." The Blakes effortlessly and eloquently recorded the 14 songs herein. They didn't know what the next selection would be until the previous one ended. A couple were penned by Norman, another made up by good friend, Patty Bryan. Nancy picked the "Star Spangled Banner" on her mandolin from an arrangement she learned from Patty's husband, James Bryan. The rest were dug up and dusted off from yesteryear. They sparingly and tastefully, but more so than in the past, went back and added other instruments.

Since, Norman's directions have been clear:

"Nancy & I are liking these tunes quite a bit, let's get it out there."  
"Might as well have two recordings on Plectrafone."  
"Let Butch mix them, I know he won't change them too much."  
"Let's call it *Back Home In Sulphur Springs*. The first record was a title only. Now I've written the song, plus it's 'back home.'  
"That photo you took at the end of the sessions with our new hats and new Blake model Martins will work for the cover."  
"Just leave them in the order we recorded them ... plays pretty good."  
"Don't think I'll write song notes. Just let them speak for themselves."

So, here it is – and proud to capture another great collection of songs from America's #1 purveyors of Old Time Country Music

**Norman & Nancy Blake**  
**Back Home In Sulphur Springs**







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# ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY

This is to Certify that \_\_\_\_\_

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is the owner of \_\_\_\_\_ full paid and non-assessable shares of the par value of fifty dollars each of the **ORDINARY** Capital Stock of Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company transferable only in person, or by attorney, in the books of the Company upon the surrender of this Certificate. The Ordinary Shares are subject to the prior rights of holders of Preferred Stock at any time outstanding, according to the preferences thereof.

This Certificate shall not be valid until signed by the President, or Assistant to the President, or one of the Vice Presidents and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company, nor until registered by the Registrar of Transfers.

In Witness Whereof, the said Company has caused this Certificate to be signed, and its corporate seal to be affixed hereto this 28th day of March 1906

*[Signature]*  
SECRETARY

*[Signature]*  
V. M. J. PRESIDENT

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$11,850,000.  
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AND 150,000 ORDINARY SHARES.  
SHARES \$50 EACH.

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY.

ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY

# NORMAN & NANCY BLAKE

## BACK HOME IN SULPHUR SPRINGS

1. MORE GOOD WOMEN GONE WRONG 3:13
2. COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES 3:22
3. HE'S COMING TO US DEAD 2:59
4. THE GIRL I LEFT IN SUNNY TENNESSEE 3:33
5. WE PARTED BY THE RIVERSIDE 3:55
6. ELLA REE 3:36
7. HAPPY LITTLE HOME IN ARKANSAS 3:10
8. BACK HOME IN SULPHUR SPRINGS 3:22
9. THE MERMAID 5:23
10. TAKE ME HOME POOR JULIA 4:33
11. SEABOARD AIRLINE RAG 2:50
12. STAR SPANGLED BANNER 1:57
13. THE EMPRESS OF IRELAND 3:35
14. KATY CLINE 3:22



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RECORDS

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