Skin and Bones

By John Mason Neale & Thomas Helmore

Listen to this song here.
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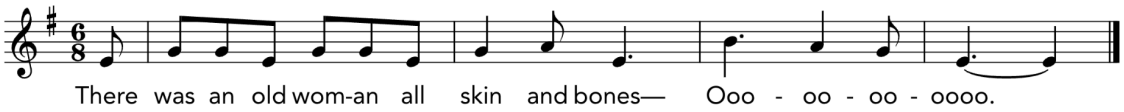
There was an old woman all skin and bones. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
She lived down by the old graveyard. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
One night she thought she'd take a walk. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
She walked down to the old graveyard. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
She saw them bones a-lyin' around. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
She thought she'd sweep the old graveyard. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
She went to the closet to get her a broom. (Oo-oo-oo-oooo)
She opened the door and … BOO!



History
“Skin and Bones” is a spooky English folk song, first recorded by the Appalachian folk singer Jean Ritchie in 1949 for the Library of Congress.

Jean Ritchie (December 8, 1922 – June 1, 2015) was an American folk singer, songwriter, and Appalachian dulcimer player, regarded as the “Mother of Folk”.

As a child, she learned hundreds of folk songs in the traditional from the oral tradition, many of which were Appalachian variants of much older English, Scottish, and Irish songs,

As adulthood, she shared these songs with a wider audience, and also wrote her own songs using the same traditional style.

She is ultimately responsible for the revival of the Appalachian dulcimer, the traditional instrument of her community, which she popularized by playing on her albums and writing tutorial books.

Jean also spent time collecting folk music in the United States and in Britain and Ireland, in order to research the origins of her family songs and help preserve traditional music.

She inspired many popular folk musicians, including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Shirley Collins, Joni Mitchell, Emmylou Harris, and Judy Collins.