

When the Levee Breaks

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 21 November 2009 12:03 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 March 2015 21:04

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In 1927 the Mississippi river overflowed. The flood had a severe impact, but the state of Mississippi suffered most, especially its Delta area. Whole towns were destroyed as well as agriculture, the base of income for many people from that area. Tens of thousands of colored people were forced to leave their homes and head to the cities.

This way the river caused 'The Great Migration' of black people from South to North. This disaster echoed widely across the Unites States. *Blind Lemon Jefferson* was singing sad blues songs about the flood while being in Chicago.

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The flood itself and its impact have been witnessed by the pair of bluesmen: **Kansas Joe McCoy** and his wife **Minnie** and his **Memp**

. In 1927 they wrote a blues together '

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'. The authors dedicated it to the memory of inhabitants of *Greenville*

, a city in Delta which was most intensively destroyed by the flood. The town depopulated strongly whilst around 13 000 of its inhabitants left to seek better fortune elsewhere.

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Kansas Joe i Memphis Minnie

In December 1970 Led Zeppelin recorded '**When the Levee Breaks**' as a first piece on their latest album **Led Zeppelin IV**. The following pieces were being recorded till March 1971. This album became one of the bestsellers in the rock music history. Over 23 millions of records were sold in the States alone.

The sound of blues was nicely enhanced by the typical drum beats of *John Bonham*, whining guitar and weeping harmonica. Again *Page* used the 'reverse echo' effect this time on *Plant's* harmonica.

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...the drums... it was... can't take you..