

Swamp Witch (Black Water Hattie) (Jim Stafford, 1973) (C)

[Swamp Witch](#) by Jim Mundy, 1973

[Swamp Witch](#) by Jim Stafford, 1974 – [Swamp Witch](#) by Jim Stafford (Rerecorded)

Progression: V IV I V

Intro G ↓

G F C G
Black Water Hattie lived back in the swamp, where the strange green reptiles crawl.

G F C G
Snakes hang thick from the cypress trees, like sausage on a smokehouse wall.

G F C
Where the swamp is alive with a thousand eyes, an' all of them watching you.

G F C G | G
Stay off the track to Hattie's Shack in the back of the Black Ba-you.

G F C G
Way up the road from Hattie's Shack, lies a sleepy little Okeechobe town.

G F C G
Talk of swamp witch Hattie lock you in when the sun go down.

G C
Rumors of what she'd done, rumors of what she'd do,

G F C G | G
Kept folks off the track of Hattie's shack, in the back of the Black Ba-you.

G F C G
One day brought the rain and the rain stayed on, and the swamp water over-flowed.

G F C G
Skeeters and the fever grabbed the town like a fist; Doctor Jackson was the first to go.

G F C
Some say the plague was-a brought by Hattie, there was talk of a hangin', too.

G F C G | G
But the talk got shackled by the howls and the cackles from the bowels of the Black Bay-ou.

G F C G
Early one morn 'tween dark and dawn, when shadows filled the sky,

G F C G
There came an unseen caller on a town where hope run dry.

G C
In the square there was found a big black round vat, full of gurgling brew.

G F C G | G
Whispering sounds as the folk gathered round "It came from the Black Ba-you"

G F C G
There ain't much pride when you're trapped inside a slowly sinkin' ship.

G F C G
Scooped up the liquid, deep and green, and the whole town took a sip,

G F C
Fever went a-way and the very next day the skies again were blue.

G F C G | G
"Lets thank old Hattie for savin' our town! Well, fetch her from the Black Ba-you."

G **F** **C** **G**
Party of ten of the town's best men headed for Hattie's Shack.

G **F** **C** **G**
Said "Swamp Witch magic was useful and good," and they're gonna bring Hattie back.

G **C**
Never found Hattie and they never found the shack, never made the trip back in.

G **F**
There was a parchment note they found tacked to a stump, said

C **G | G | G | G**
"Don't come lookin' a-gain."

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Drop D Tuning¹ – Progression: V IV I V

Intro D ↓

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D C G
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D C G D | D
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D C G D
Way up the road from Hattie's Shack, lies a sleepy little Okeechobe town.

D C G D
Talk of swamp witch Hattie lock you in when the sun go down.

D G
Rumors of what she'd done, rumors of what she'd do,

D C G D | D
Kept folks off the track of Hattie's shack, in the back of the Black Ba-you.

D C G D
One day brought the rain and the rain stayed on, and the swamp water over-flowed.

D C G D
Skeeters and the fever grabbed the town like a fist; Doctor Jackson was the first to go.

D C G
Some say the plague was-a brought by Hattie, there was talk of a hangin', too.

D C G D | D
But the talk got shackled by the howls and the cackles from the bowels of the Black Bay-ou.

D C G D
Early one morn 'tween dark and dawn, when shadows filled the sky,

D C G D
There came an unseen caller on a town where hope run dry.

D G
In the square there was found a big black round vat, full of gurgling brew.

D C G D | D
Whispering sounds as the folk gathered round "It came from the Black Ba-you"

¹ Drop D tuning is an alternative form of guitar tuning in which the lowest (sixth) string is tuned down from the usual E of standard tuning by one whole step to D. So where standard tuning is E₂ A₂ D₃ G₃ B₃ E₄ (E A D G B e), "drop D" is D₂ A₂ D₃ G₃ B₃ E₄ (D A D G B e). "[Drop D tuning](#)," Wikipedia.

D **C** **G** **D**
There ain't much pride when you're trapped inside a slowly sinkin' ship.

D **C** **G** **D**
Scooped up the liquid, deep and green, and the whole town took a sip,

D **C** **G**
Fever went a-way and the very next day the skies again were blue.

D **C** **G** **D | D**
“Lets thank old Hattie for savin’ our town! Well, fetch her from the Black Ba-you.”

D **C** **G** **D**
Party of ten of the town’s best men headed for Hattie’s Shack.

D **C** **G** **D**
Said “Swamp Witch magic was useful and good,” and they’re gonna bring Hattie back.

D **G**
Never found Hattie and they never found the shack, never made the trip back in.

D **C**
There was a parchment note they found tacked to a stump, said

G **D | D | D | D**
“Don’t come lookin’ a-gain.”