**Trying**

*January 24, 2015*

Born In Clay County.

Red Clay Hills On Dismal Crick.

Dad Back From Alaska.

Mustered Out Of The War.

Ides Of March. Forty Six.

Share Cropping. Dirt Farming Poor.

Mom Teaching In One Room School.

Drought. Burned Out. No Summer Rain.

Straight Three Years.

Dusted. Busted.

Hit Road North. No Time To Whine.

Cry. Pule. Complain.

Shed Wasted Tears.

So It Goes.

Worked From Seven To Fifteen.

Hauling Coal Buckets.

Shucking Corn By Hand.

Pulled Weeds. Hoed Rows.

Milked Cows. Cut Hogs. Steers.

Cut Corn From Beans.

Baled Hay. Dollar An Hour Pay. Sixteen.

Fixed Truck Tires. Drove Wrecker.

Solo. Midnight To Eight Am.

Semi Truck Stop Shift.

Kankakee River Crossing.

Route Sixty Six. Dollar Fifty.

Thankful For The Raise. Pipeliner.

Chainsaw. Jackhammer. Tunneled.

Bored Roads. Shoveled. Mucked.

Bucked Heavy Loads.

Two Eighty Five.

Kept A Body Well. Alive.

Learned To Care. Dare.

To See. Do. Dream.

All My Dreams.

Try. Stand Up.

Be A Man. Headed East.

Cambridge On A Train.

MIT. Harvard Law. Scholarships.

West. North.

Back To Alaska. Family.

Two Fine Kids.

Marriage Cratered.

Not Sure Why.

What I Did Not Do. Or Did.

Trial Lawyer. Still Standing.

Defending. Helping Fellow Beings.

Farming. Homesteading.

Treasuring. Using. My Head.

Seeking Justice.

Peace. Freedom.

World Tranquility.

Riding Waves Of Entropy.

Working The Land.

Living The Dream.

Caring. Striving. Trying.

To Do As I Learned.

Was Taught. Trying To Do What Is Right.

Savoring. Gifts. Each Day.

Night. Doing All I Can.

Living Like A Hill Country.

Clay County Down Home Man.