

## Home

During good times and bad, we often retreat  
To that very special place in our turbulent lives,  
A place filled with a lifetime of memories  
Of events that involve both harmony and strife.

The smell of Mom's hearty breakfast lingers there  
As the aroma of frying bacon fills the morning air  
With sausage gravy and scratch made biscuits in the oven  
Served in a delicious feast to which none can compare.

Like me, a lifetime of strong values was born there,  
A lasting product of childhood deprivation and toil  
As we worked the hillside apple orchards and fields  
And eked out a meager living from the Virginia soil.

Memories of tragedy and triumph linger in the shadows  
Of loss of family members and burying our favorite pet,  
Of times of an attitude adjustment with a belt or switch  
Learning education's value where life's direction was set.

A young life filled with baseball, BB guns, and cowboys  
Or doll houses, Barbie dolls, and afternoon parties with tea  
While our siblings and cousins slowly grew and matured  
And began to set life's goals to be all that they could be.

Adulthood arrives with little advance warning or flourish.  
We shift all of our attention to managing our adult lives  
And turn our backs on that magical childhood place  
While focusing on our roles as husbands and wives.

We return for holidays and special family events  
To celebrate life's many milestones and times of joy  
Or to introduce new members of our growing family  
As our marital union results in the birth of a girl or a boy.

We go back there in times of turmoil and galloping fear  
When the planes hit the towers and our neighbors died  
Or our sacred vows with our spouses are tested or tattered  
Or while seeking refuge from a pandemic and ask why.

During life's long journey, we face almost constant change:  
We change addresses, jobs, and spouses but still we find  
The things that never change are the places where we were born  
And the sheer joy of returning home – if only in our mind.