

The following “Where I’m From” poem is a group effort by residents of Sterling Meadows Assisted Living, Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County

Contributors include:

Sara, Reba, Wayne R., Jane, Eula, Mary, Allene, Wayne H., Doris, Majel, Brenda, Jack, Rhoda, Lottie, Sally, Norma, Rita, Carolyn, Wilson and Angie

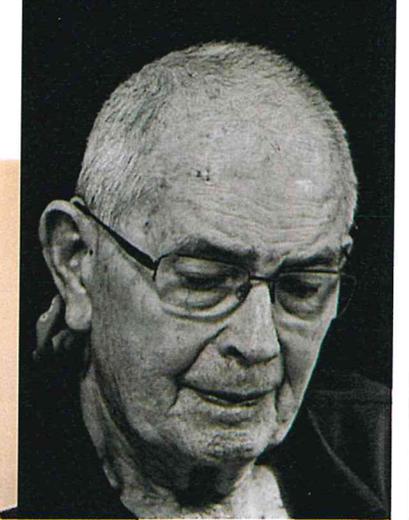
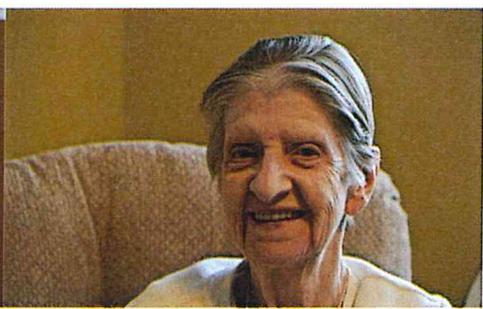
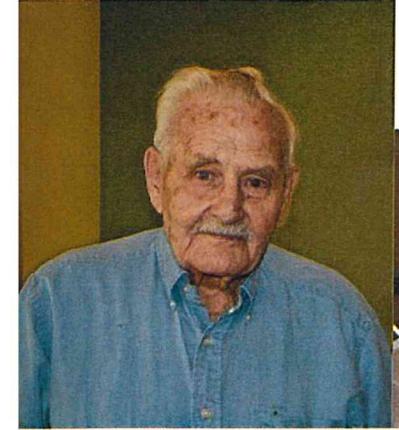


Where I'm From

*I am from snakes that chase me home, from tall weeds and creeks.
I am from soup beans and fried potatoes, from picking blackberries and making jam.
I am from country cooking and Bluegrass music.
I am from dancing and painting, from teaching lots of children, as if they were my own.*

*I am from Gospel music and going to church, from planting a garden and messing in the dirt.
I am from poetry and poems and drawing too.
I am from reading my Bible and singing old hymns.
I am from crocheting and quilting, from pontoon boating and water skiing.
I am from picking flowers and jumping rope, from playing with my dogs to serving my country.*

*I am from riding horses and playing pitch, from golfing, shopping and playing cards.
I am from cleaning house and wash boards, from making candy and baking cakes.
I am from housing the chickens, quarries and lakes.
I am from reading, knitting and playing bridge, from watching sports, boating and fishing and
lots of love and care from our Assisted Living.*



Where I'm From....

By: Alexis Trent, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from walking in the creek with boots on,
To running around in the summer with no shoes on,
I am from swimming in my pool in the summer,
To sledding in the winter.

I am from both my parents saying, "Wake up Alexis,"
To my parents also saying, "It's time to go to bed,"
I am from saying, "I pledge allegiance to the flag,"
To thanking God for my freedom.

I am from weekend swimming meets,
To almost every day practices,
I am from a family that likes to travel,
To just sitting down on Saturday.

I am from a farm on Maysville Road in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky,
To travel abroad,
I am from a blue Ford truck,
To a gray Toyota Forerunner.

I am from a black and white cat named Max,
To two mixed dogs named, Sugar and Spice,
I am from sweatshirts to school,
To skirts or dresses on Sunday.

I am from picture books when I was young,
To chapter books as I get older,
Finally, I am from Doug and Karen Trent,
To all my ancestors behind me.

Where I'm From....

By: Asher Cockrell, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I'm from watching, "Doctor Who" whenever
I get a free moment, to reading for fun,
Watching movies like, Rocky, Back to the Future,
And Lord of the Rings,
And reading Eragon and other fantasies.

I am from shooting pop can targets with a red rider BB gun,
To watching Disney movies,
From laughing so hard I can't breathe when I watch
America's funniest home videos.

I am from watching Star Wars so often,
That I can quote, "Return of the Jedi",
To fighting with light sabers constantly.

I am from shouting in the movie theater when,
"A long time ago in a galaxy far away..."
Comes on the screen, to signing petitions,
Signing for newsletter, and blogging for
"Inheritance Cycle" books.

I am from offering my fandoms to anyone,
Who's willing,
From a street called Crystal Springs,
That's where I'm from.

Where I'm From....

By: Jay Sloas, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from the smell of bacon in the morning,
To visiting people, to going home,
To a casual home and the peaceful breeze of the trees and wind,
From "Get up" to "Hurry up" for school.

I am from Tim, Paula, and Mom who are a caring family,
I am from a God centered household,
From a cool sister and fun brother,
To a spectacular mom.

I am from Save-A-Lots to Kroger,
From long stories, to YouTube,
I am from a private school at CTS,
I am from my computer, to Ipad.

I am from bourbon chicken, to hard candy,
I am from China Wall to fast food,
I am from football to baseball, and
The history about wars.

I am from my cat to my friends.

Where I'm From....

By: Spencer Butcher, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from going outside, to playing in the snow,
From baseball to basketball,
From I'm neat one day to,
"CLEAN YOUR ROOM HONEY!!!!"

I am from catching fireflies in the summer,
To throwing snowballs in the winter,
It's time to eat, to wake up everybody,
I am from hard working parents, to a bossy sister.

I am from don't forget your hat, to make the lay-up,
Yelling at the T.V., to reading on the couch,
I'm from "I want the blue blanket, Sydney."
To get it off of me, "I'm hot!"

I am from climbing trees, to playing until it's dark,
From going to bed late, to waking up at 3:00 a.m.,
From not having summer vacations because of baseball,
To living on Meadow View Drive.

Where I'm From....

By: Scout Cockrell, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I'm from Ale-8 on a hot summer day,
From swimming at my grandparents,
I'm from loving parents, and a home cooked meal,
From each camping trip, to a boys only hideout.

I'm from cartoons, video games, and Star Wars,
From a semi-large church and reading my Bible.

I'm from summer cookout, 80's music, and books galore,
I am from comics and Doctor Who,
I'm from bikes and adventures,
I am from Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

Where I'm From....

By: Dylan McKinly, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from.....

I am from the smell of gunpowder on a Saturday. I am from the taste of pancakes on a Monday and playing until we get sunburnt and climbing trees.

I am from reading the Bible, praying before meals, and "hurry up" on Sunday. I am from Christianity.

I am from a loving family, ruthless cousins, and a little brother, calling me "brother".

I am from Kentucky. I am from the fields of Winchester. I am from pappy's dog.

I am from freedom.

I am from my Scottish ancestors. I am from playing baseball and football with cousins. I am from, "finish your homework." I am from best friends. I am from parents that help me through tough times. I am from playing music in pap's garage.

I am from video games. I am from an old blue house on 2nd Street. I am from screaming "He broke his arm!" I am from it's ok to cry. I am from crashing an old police cruiser, helping my mom with a broken knee. I am from a country spirit.

I am from "Everything's ok". I am from mom saying, "123 deep breaths." I am from it's just anxiety. I'm from God saying do not be afraid. I am from thinking life can't get any worse. I am from hope.

Where I'm From....

By: Addisyn McCann, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from Saturday morning home cooked meals.

I am from converse shoes to an average ponytail.

I am from pugs to hugs.

I am from Xbox to archery.

I am from acting to sports.

I am from slippers and blankets snuggled up tight.

I am from swimming until I can't breathe.

I am from adventuring into the woods.

I am from writing and reading.

I am from playing super man with my brother.

I am from friends and family.

I am from jump ropes to hula hoops.

I am from pens and paper.

I am from being myself.

I am from my wonderful home, Kentucky.

I am from God.

Where I'm From....

By: Audrey Hartgrove, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from Kraft mac' and cheese with Dad's yummy grilled steak,
And making no-bake cookies at my mamaw's house.

I am from UK Basketball, riding my scooter that makes sparks,
And hitting softballs in flat grass until I am thirsty for a cold blue Gatorade.

I am from tent camping at Cave Run Lake, going hiking and swimming at Natural Bridge,
And riding fast go-carts in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.

I am from inside jokes that my family and I laugh at,
And a very annoying little brother that takes over the X Box.

I am from climbing the Oak tree in the front yard.
To walking to Mamaw's next door, no matter how cold or hot it is.

I am from when my mom says, "Audrey, no pop!,"
To eating salty, hot fries at McDonalds.

I am from long car rides to the beach, where we stop for views and swim breaks along the way,
To my first-time, airplane ride where I played my Ipad and looked out the window.

I am funny, kind, and crazy,
I love God and my Hartgrove family.

Where I'm From....

By: Olivia Sanders, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from the country, to a dog loving family,
From a messy house no matter how much we clean,
To sleeping in as much as I can.

I am from falling and playing in the creek,
Playing outside until dark, watching every **single** UK game,
To telling my dog to shut up every time
We see a dog on TV.

I am from borrowing stuff from neighbors,
To babysitting with my sister,
From bacon, eggs, biscuit, and pancakes on the weekend.
To "Hurry up we're going to be late" on the weekdays.

I am from "Clean your room, it looks like a landfill!"
To staying up late no matter what day of the
Week it is, from two bossy and girly sisters,
A strong brother and a loving mother.

I am from country music, to riding with our windows down,
From praising the Lord on Sundays, to good home cooked meals that night,
I am from every dog I see I want, kicking the ball around on the field,
From "Go to your room, I'm watching TV."

I am from staying the night with my grandparents on the weekends,
From Court Days in October, to Christmas in December,
I am from Kool-Aid and Sweet Tea,
To popsicles every single day in the summer.

I am from "MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME."

Where I'm From.....

By: Delaney Wills, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from cheer at TK's,
To playing trucks with my brother,
Hanging out with my best friend,
I am from hip-hop music to always dancing and watching TV.

I am from going to school at CTS,
To a family that loves me,
I am from breakfast, to "Wake up Delaney for school,"
Spelling, English, and not wanting to do Math.

I am from smelling cinnamon rolls in the morning,
On the weekend, going to church at Rolling Hills,
And spending the night at my best friends,
I am from "emojis," texting and glitter.

I am "Justice" clothes to jeans and purple,
Green and dark pink,
I am from cheer buddies,
To a family that loves Kentucky.

I am from pajamas to slippers,
With my hair pulled up,
I am from always going full speed,
To being super tired from cheer and school.

I am from Bible verses,
I am from the BIG BLUE NATION, KENTUCKY!

Where I'm From....

By: Ella Maye Donathan, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am a McDonalds lover, who wants more fries,
I am from nice, from a place that's free,
To lollipops, to the sun, to Sunny-D,
To loving eating chicken dip in ranch.

I am from salads, to my secret recipe,
I am from Juicy Fruit candy and soccer.
To my dad saying, "I am as cute as a kitten,"
To eating turtle and then wanting one as a pet.

I am from my hide out to my favorite tree,
The place I love to read,
To hot fudge over ice cream,
To the place I am from.

I am from swimming all day, to playing with my dog,
Fishing with my dad, catching lightning bugs,
To picnic days in the great outside,
To the Christ I love.

I am from a country girl "yes indeed,"
To a good singer and dancer,
I am from riding bikes to camping fun
That I wish we could stay longer.

I have freedom to learn,
To look, "There's a deer!"
I have freedom to run,
And know I am ten.

I wish that I could have a vote,
To loving pets,
To singing in the shower,
To dancing out of nowhere.

Now there's more, but for now the end.

Where I'm From...

By: Jackson Bentley, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from football, from Adidas and Nike,
From the brick house, and Hover Boards.

I am from the trees, and the roses, from
Christmas, and funny, from Hunter,
Taylor, and Madison.

I am from the blended family, with older siblings,
From "Yes and no sir," "Please and thank you," and
"I love you."

I am from Lexington and Central Kentucky,
Meat loaf, and mac-n-cheese,
From the Harry Potter, the wizard, and the
Creative, and making memories with family.

Where I'm From

By: Logan Townsend, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from the sweet
Smell of pancakes in the morning,
To going to City King
Buffet and eating nutty Bars for lunch.

I am from a wonderful family, my
Mom, sister, Dad, Grandma, and an uncle
Who loves me.

I am from, "Go clean your
Room" to "Brush your teeth,"
And Dad always saying, "Ask your
Mom" to Mom saying, "Ask your Dad."

I am from making crafts with
Paper and tape
All by myself,
To having help with a hot glue gun when stuff falls off.

I am from a huge fluffy dog named Sophie
Who bites me and jumps on me,
But I still love her,
These are memories I will remember forever.

Where I'm From...

By: Laney Ledford, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from Mt. Sterling, Kentucky,
With sweet smelling fresh air,
From my family,
Debra, Eric, and my annoying little sister Presley,
From parents that love me no matter what.

I'm from going to the UK ballgames with daddy,
And having ice cream right before the end of half-time,
To drinking Starbucks coffee whenever I go to
Lexington with mommy.

I'm from hanging out with friends at sleepovers,
And wanting to sleep all the next day,
To having the bestest friend ever,
Who always understands me no matter what.

I am for singing my heart out wherever I am,
Until mommy has had enough of it,
To, "Stop making all that racket," try new things,
To, "It's time to go to bed."

I'm from cheering late at night and always getting hurt,
To being sore the next morning and complaining,
From jumping on my trampoline, swimming, and
Riding my bike in the summer,
To freezing while I sled down the hill,
And warming up with a cup of hot chocolate.

I'm from traveling around the world,
To being snowed in on a Tuesday and feeling,
Like I have nothing to do.

I'm from reading the Bible,
To going to church in the morning with my
Family on Sundays.

These days pass by so fast and these are,
Memories I'll never forget.

Where I'm From....

By: Campbell Shields, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I'm from a wonderful family,
Aubrey, Ben, and Ansley,
Having fun together on vacation, playing on late summer nights.

I'm from bacon and chocolate chip pancakes every morning,
And milk to go with it,
To cool, sugary ice cream almost every night before bed.

I'm from going to my sister's school volleyball games,
Some are boring, some are interesting, some are even exciting.

I'm from the lawn mower every Wednesday, and smelling
The grassy air after the lawn mower's job is done,
From walking in the grass and getting my feet all grassy
Green.

I'm from the sweet Kentucky air, and memories
That will last forever until the very end.
That is where I'm from.

Where I'm From....

By: Jack Hartgrove, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from my amazing Christian family,
Tony, Heather, Shannon, Carl, and my weird sister Audrey,
Who always say, "I love you."

I'm from praying to God every night,
And reading my Bible with mom.

I'm from complaining about reading twenty minutes,
To playing video games for a long time,
And dad saying, "Time to turn off."

I am from the great taste of cheese Quesadillas,
And the milk I love,
To the broccoli I hate,
And the water I usually don't drink.

I am from my dad always saying,
"Put your shoes where they go!"
And mom is always saying, "Do your reading."

I'm from Hinkston Pike, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

These are the memories that make me different.

Where I'm From....

By: Addie Shoupe, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I'm from Mt. Sterling, Kentucky,
Wyandot Way, from Christina,
Tony, Hannah, and Molly
Shoupe.

I'm from riding bikes and playing
Tag outside, to graceful
Ballet steps every
Monday.

I'm from a strong Christian family
Going to church for hours
And hours, then coming
Home and throwing
Clothes all
Over.

I'm from really big gardens at nana's
House, sweet smelling melons,
And good tasting corn.

From "Hurry up" and "Let's go" and
"Come on" always when we are
Going somewhere.

I'm from an awesome school (CTS),
Hot lunch on Friday to music
On Monday.

This is my life, my story, and where
I'm from. My home, school, and fun,
I love it and I won't give it up.

Where I'm From...

By: Ava Gruneisen, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from having to eat broccoli to be healthy,
To popcorn, apple cream pie before bedtime.

I am from a family,
Mommy, Daddy, a sister, and a dog,
They love me.

I am from a sister who's loud and out of her mind,
But really nice at school.

I am from swimming in summer till it gets dark,
And hurting legs ready for bed.

I am from making self-portraits and using glue,
Paint, pens, crayons, tape and paper.

I am from my uncle's farm, milking cows and riding horses,
To living in a subdivision with a lot of cars speeding.

These are memories I'll never forget,
This is where I'm from.

Where I'm From....

By: Sophie Tibbs, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I'm from indoor soccer every Saturday morning,
To spending time with my mom after the game.

I'm from an amazing teacher,
From a dad who takes me coon hunting,
To a mom who helps me find arrowheads in the woods.

I'm from puppies and cousins running around everywhere,
From wearing tights and dresses every Sunday morning,
And eating Mexican food after church.

From a dad that makes me clean my room,
And a mom who makes me clean a smelly chicken coop.

I'm from a sunny family,
Chad, Megan, Lucy, Bennett, and Jazzy.
They make me laugh and cry.

These are memories that I will never forget.

Where I'm From...

By: Noah Cockrell, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I'm from loving my parents,
To them loving me and tucking,
Me in at night.

I am from smelling the outside fresh air,
To going to church,
With my family.

I am from having weird brothers,
To a kind family,
That protects me and my brothers.

I'm from mom saying, "Clean your room,"
To dad saying, "Do what your mom says."

I am from playing with my friends,
To fishing with my dad and
My brothers Asher and Scout,
Until sunset.

I'm from Owingsville Kentucky,
Crystal Springs Drive, from
Living with Heather,
Chris, Asher, and
Scout.

Where I'm From...

By: Alaura Gullett, Christian Traditional School, Montgomery County

I am from granola bars for breakfast, to having spaghetti for dinner,
From the sweet smell
Of Lee's chicken for lunch.

I am from sharing a room with an annoying little sister,
To playing gymnastics with her on
Our mat and saying, "We are best friends forever."

I'm from Saturday morning basketball games,
To late night Saturday church, from "Do
We really have church tonight?"

From a great Christian school named C.T.S.,
And a class pet named Peanut that is a tiny little hamster.
From classmates that never give up on me, to yelling and arguing at me.

I am from not wanting to read for school
And then telling my mom, "I want to read
More." From reading series after series of mystery books.

I'm from a family that loves me,
A mother, Amy, that gave birth to me, a father, Steve,
That cares for me, and a sister, Alison, who loves me.

I am from a trailer on a hill on Grassyview Ct., Mt. Sterling, KY 40353,
I am from a grandmother that buys me anything I want,
And takes me anywhere I want to go.

I owe my family, my classmates, and my teacher,
Everything I have for raising me,
Playing with me, and teaching me for my whole life.

This is my home, my charity, and my love,
I will always keep these memories in my heart,
My mind, and in my soul forever for my family.

This is my where I'm from.

Where I'm From

by Landon Cord, Montgomery County Intermediate School

I'm from musty books and peaceful quietness
From loud laughing till you can't breathe

I'm from beautiful happiness
to rock bottom
from green grass
to dead leaves

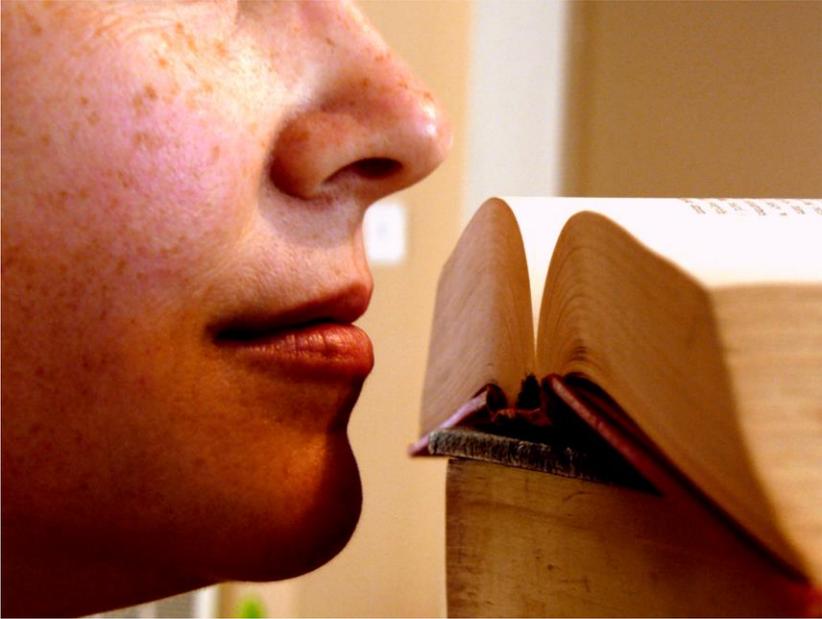
from the tops of trees
to dead on the ground

from playing games
to complete seriousness

I'm from the past
and the present

I'm from pacifiers
to iphone games

I'm from being told about the birds and bees
to loving my family unconditionally



Where I'm From

By: Alex Ison, Montgomery County Intermediate School

I am from family that cares about me
a place where a dog is family
From the sound of food
cooking on the grill
to the smell of dogs
wet dogs
I am from the place where mistakes can get by

I am from getting good grades is nothing
the sounds of the ball bouncing
on the ground continuously
From sports being a tradition

I am from place where you need to be known as a gym rat
to a place where the feeling of sweat is normal
From having to ice your knees
on a normal basis

I am from a place where you are known as a "baller"
I am from a family that does not spoil you
a family that can not
get everything we want
no new Jordan 11's or Lebrons
Just a family that is
making things work

I am from the feeling of the ball
in your hands
from racking up points
to scoring 4 touchdowns in a game

I am from a place where it is ok
to get dirty and
have lots of fun
to knowing everybody
in your neighborhood

I am from a place that I have spent
my whole life and do
not plan to move
but most importantly
I am from a family that loves me

Where I'm From

By Rhonda Edwards, Montgomery County Intermediate School

I come from a mother who spread terror
and a father who never knew...

From Sunday School and John 3:16
born and raised near the Motor City
Dickenson County ingrained on my parents' tongues
Appalachia riding the trail of my DNA

I come from Aily and Bruce & Alfred and Tiny
Birchleaf and Dog Branch, outhouses at night
From a mother hiding one baby, giving another away
Ralph Stanley tucked inside our family tree

I am from food canned in old Mason jars
lined-up like soldiers on basement shelves
From soup beans and cornbread and fried potatoes
and turnips cooked with bitter greens

I come from Helen Keller Junior High
and running home to see Dark Shadows
From bell bottoms and love beads and Stop the War
and joints smoked recklessly in bathroom stalls

I am from a hetero marriage I couldn't maintain
raising two kids and growing up with them
I come from love in a chatroom in 1995
and leaving Kentucky for a northeastern Garden

From Mother disowning me, Dad passing away
As I enter data at Princeton
Then moving back home where Coal rules and abides
and praying diversity holds sway in Berea

I come from fear of myself then accepting myself
and defending the Bluegrass, despite its red status
I am from SCOTUS barely making the vote
watching equality rise as prejudice fails

I am from hatred and passion and oceans of guilt
stories wait impatiently inside me to be written...

Where I'm From

by Mary Breiner, Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County

I'm from parents unable and unwilling to care for me and my siblings.
I'm from a mother married too young, and a father too immature.
I'm from an aunt, wonderful woman, and uncle, angry man, who took us in.

I'm from a grandmother, for whom I am named,
And the family clan she ruled with love and strength,
Who decreed that we would *not* be lost to 'the system',
But instead would be taken in by family.

I am from Appalachian, Irish, Native American Stock.
People who lived in the hills and hollers of Kentucky.
People who did not suffer outsiders,
And took care of their own.
Where what happened in the family
Stayed in the family,
For good or bad.

I am from the land of foods prepared in cast iron skillets and non-stick ones alike,
And you knew which to use for what foods, and which you did not!
A land of fried chicken, fried corn, fried cornbread, fried green tomatoes,
And the list goes on.
A land where *every* evening meal contained meat, potatoes, and bread.
More often than not it came with creamy milk gravy.
And the drink of choice was sweet, cold iced tea.

I come from a place of strict discipline, sometimes gone overboard.
Where every infraction was met with swift punishment, usually meaning,
"The Belt".
I can *still* hear the sound it made when folded over, bent, and quickly snapped together!

I also come from a place of love.
While hugs might have been in short supply,
It was shown in a hundred other ways.
A mom/aunt who declared she *liked* wings and backs,
So that there was enough chicken to feed five people.
A mom/aunt who carefully made our clothes by hand,
Even to the point of making blouses in the current style
So that we might fit in.
A mom/aunt who is so loved to this day that she is known only as Mom.
Folks who worked long hard hours to care for three children not their own.

I come from running through fields and woods,

Playing in streams and creeks.

A place where there was always a hound or two to run with,

And many a meal was running through those same fields just that day.

A place where every tree was climbed, feet were like shoe leather by mid-summer

And skin was golden bronze.

A place of clean air filled with children's laughter.

A place of long games of Hide and Seek and

Sandlot softball, Cowboys and Indians.

A place where imaginations ran rampant,

And many a new game began with the words,

"Let's make like....."

I come from being the first

to go to, and graduate from, college.

I come from changing religions,

Being lashed out at by some family members,

And to eventual acceptance.

I come from being an artist,

A woman in a man's world,

A wife, mother.

I come from a betrayal of body

that left me disabled.

I come from a family of Church

that wrapped itself around me like a soft, warm

safe blanket, and took me in,

Yet again an orphan in search of a home.

I come from what is now a life of love and care,

Mixed with pain and fear of what the future holds.

I come from faith, strong and clear and beautiful,

that I know will one day see me home to yet another

New place from which I come.

Where I Am From

by Susan Graves Tebbs, Montgomery County

I am from Kentucky settlers who fought Indians for their land.

I am from smooth sanded rifles and roughhewn logs.

I am from a cabin with a dirt floor at Fort Boonesboro.

I am from a fourteen year old bride and a near forty year old groom.

I am from proud people who braved the wilderness to make a home.

I am from wild game, root vegetables and rows of corn.

I am from inherited farm land and an old brick house.

I am from cold hallways and large rooms with tiny fireplaces.

I am from an afterschool snack of vegetable soup warmed on a coal stove.

I am from rainwater stored in a backyard cistern.

I am from a ride on the back of a Percheron named Mable.

I am from "Gee" and "Haw": leather reins and horse sweat.

I am from a squeaking back porch swing and yawning hound dogs.

I am from an evergreen tree whose branches sang to me in the wind.

I am from juicy ripe tomatoes picked from beneath a tobacco canvas.

I am from blackberry bushes with prickly thorns and purple fruit.

I am from honeybee hives brimming with sticky sweetness.

I am from fresh eggs pulled from under a hen's warm feathers.

I am from sultry summer days and star studded winter skies.

I am from brown and white saddle shoes and poodle skirts.

I am from party lines and panty hose; from record players and radio shows.

I am from a blue eyed father and a brown eyed mother.

I am from an older sister and younger brother.

I am a daughter of the greatest generation who lived in the best of times.

Where I'm From

by Lacey Johnson, Montgomery County Intermediate School

I am from backyard games
And some grape juice stains
From the muddy rain boots
And the broken sandals

I am from rest in peace
To it's a girl
From chasing geese
And a nice tight curl

I am from divorced parents
From goodbye Daddy
And Mom's new friend
to married again

From what's your name
Or it's just a game
I am from go fetch
And I want some, too!

I am from brotherly love
To just give it a tug
I am from Family first
From give that back

I am from autumn breezes
to spring sneezes
Allergy shots
and it's too hot

From nicely dressed
and quite quite blessed
I am from can't never could
I am from Kentucky

Where I'm From

By: Donna Ison, Montgomery County

I am from
Tidy closets, armed with moth balls,
But stripped secret-clean.
Our skeletons rocked on the porch,
Drinking tall glasses of sweet tea spiked with Maker's Mark bourbon.

I'm from
Waste not, want not.
Pretty is, as pretty does.
And, you don't know your ass from apple butter.

I am from
Royalty,
Reared up on Queen Street,
Riding a chestnut mare named Cleopatra,
And listening to the King...
Until he was found dead next to his porcelain throne,
(My mother wailed for a week, clutching unused concert tickets).

I'm from Mouths,
That tasted of Ale-8-One, small town gossip, steeped sassafras,
Berryman's chili dogs, Marlboro menthols, and answered prayers.

From Hands,
That played honkytonk piano, birthed slippery calves, rubbed on Coppertone lotion,
Dug potatoes, picked purple irises, and applied layers of lipstick in Pink Frost.

From Feet,
That trod through fresh manure,
Danced in black, shiny shoes in Miss Rosalind's recital,
And tracked through October Court Days hot on the scent of a funnel cake.

I am from
Legend,
The rhinoceros that lived in the tobacco barn,
Great Aunt Pearl's ghost,
A buried treasure at the bottom of the pond guarded by an albino catfish,
And, a faraway place that never slept called New York City.
(I was determined to live there one day...and I did).

But...inside me,
A bone and flesh compass,
Needle never wavering.
No matter how far I get above my raising,
It always leads me back,
To where I'm from.