



Once Upon a Lifetime

From New York all the way to Louisiana,
Though the Carolinas and Alabama.

No air conditioning in our big sedan,
Open car windows our only fan.

Can you imagine a fifteen-hundred-mile drive,
Two children asking, “When do we arrive?”

This was years before any interstate highways,
Through dusty roads and country byways.

Three days to there then three back again,
Through dust and noise and sometimes rain.

A grand family reunion anticipated,
In Southern summer heat unabated.

Fish fries, watermelon, barbecue meat,
Loved ones come by to meet and to greet.

Babies with bottles on Grandma’s knee,
Others drank beer, pop, and delicious sweet tea.

I remember it well although I was still little,
Uncle Herman on guitar, Uncle Solon on fiddle.

A difficult journey, the drive long and hard,
But worth it to enjoy the love in that yard.

—Louis Ebarb