

The Grasshopper Plague
A Life-snippet

when I was a boy
my dad told me this story
he was an old man:

*“they filled the whole sky
they turned the daylight to dark
they sounded like rain*

*they smothered our farm
they stripped the leaves from corn stalks
they ate our garden*

*we burned them in piles
we smashed them, but not enough
they left us hungry”*

I cherish that tale
holding on to part of him
I’m the old man now

Setting: near Humboldt, Kansas, 1874, the year my dad was born, the sixth of ten children



Image source: Kansas Historical Society

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