

A Father's Day Regret

why did my Dad choose
to become an attorney?
I will never know

what pioneer tales
did my grandparents tell him?
I will never know

what was home-life like
in their crude prairie cabin?
I will never know

did Bleeding Kansas*
and Blacks fleeing north** touch him?
I will never know

did he think about
writing his own life story?
apparently not

* Civil violence over legality of slavery in Kansas (1854-1859)

** Post-emancipation migration of former slaves throughout the 1870's, many to Kansas



J. W. Dana (1874-1955), photo circa 1900

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