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Lost too Soon

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LOST TOO SOON

My Grandfather,
Lean and silvered as a birch,
Had fading blue eyes

With skin near them
As soft as kid leather.
His hands grew old

But they were strong,
Though tremulous, as
They buttered his bread.

He knew good stories
Though we never got
To hear them all.

We did not know, you see,
That he would die,
Or we would have listened.

Martha D. Burkett