



Penned by Lantern Light

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the Western Music Association. It will highlight an invited poet guest with possible short biographical information of his/her works. If a member of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter and if interested in submitting one piece of original work for publication, please contact the Western Wordsmiths chapter president.

Abide

By Almeda Bradshaw – @2009

The prairie surface seems alive, the wind's out of the west.
The grass, in cadence like a dance, keeps rhythm without rest.
I hear a lonely tune it sings; a longing in my heart it brings
For when I rode those range lands far and wide.

Those days of old are memories, now cobwebs in my mind.
They weave a web of tales to tell, a history that binds
My cowboy life to days long past.
My mind drifts back to hold them fast.
I must not lose them with the changing tide.

Abide with me, I have a tale to tell;
Abide with me, come on and sit a spell.
I am old and past my glory but my life is worth a story.
Take time.
Abide.

I know you're rushed. Your days are full with all there is to do.
I know it's hard to take the time, but let me share with you
A life from which there's much to learn, more than in an hour
you'd earn.
So with this old cowboy sit and abide.



I am old, I rock upon a porch
Who will know,
my heart's a burning torch
For I may not be with you long.
My western way and cowboy song
Will cross o'er with me to the other side

Abide with me. I have a tale to tell.
Abide with me. Sit down and listen well.
I am old and past my glory,
But my life is worth a story.
Take time.
Abide.



Almeda Bradshaw is a singer, songwriter, poet and musician from Montana. She has journaled and written poetry and songs since her teen years and has performed at cowboy gatherings throughout the west for nearly two decades. A three-time National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo competitor, Almeda finished in the money each year. Her album *A Way of Heart: The Big Sandy Years* received a 2012 nomination from the Academy of Western Artists for Poetry CD of the Year. Her 2010 album *Voices From the Range* preserved the poetry of Rhoda Sivell in song and her newest collection of original songs, *Lovers, Wives & Mothers: A Western Woman's Voice*, will be released in 2015. Almeda lives in Huntley, MT, where she owns and operates the M2B Ranch Bed & Breakfast and helps train AQHA performance horses with her husband, former Marlboro Man, Merritt Bradshaw.