

Alabama "Patches"

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I was born and raised down in Alabama
On a farm way back up in the woods
I was so ragged that folks used to call me Patches
Papa used to tease me about it
Of course deep down inside he was hurt 'cause he
done all he could

Papa was a great old man
I can see him with a shovel in his hand
See, education he never had
He did wonders when the time got bad

The little money from the crops he raised
Barely paid the bills he made
So life had kicked him down to the ground
When he tried to get up

Life would kick him back down
One day papa called me to his dying bed
Put his hands on my shoulders
Then with a tears he said

Patches, I'm depending on you son
To pull the family through my son, it's all left up to you

Two days later papa passed away
And I became a man that day
So I told mama I was gonna quit school
She said that was daddy's strictest rule

So every morning 'fore I went to school
I fed the chickens and I chopped wood too
Sometimes I felt that I couldn't go on
I wanted to leave just run away from home

But I always remembered what my daddy said
With tears in his eyes on his dying bed
He said, "Patches, I'm depending on you son
To pull the family through my son, it's all left up to you

Then one day a strong rain came and washed all the
crops away

And at the age of thirteen I thought I was carrying
The weight of the whole world on my shoulders
But you know, mama she knew what I was going
through

Everyday I had to work the fields
'Cause that's the only way we got our meals
You see, I was the oldest of a family
And everybody else depended on me

Every night I heard my mama pray
Lord, give him the strength to make another day
Though years have passed and all the kids are grown
And angels took my mama to a brand new home

Lord knows people that I shed a tear
My daddy's voice kept a tinging in my ears
Sayin, "Patches, I'm depending on you son
To pull the family through my son, it's all left up to you

Patches, I'm depending on you son, I'm depending on
you son
To pull the family through my son, it's all left up to you

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