West Kentucky Coalmines  
(AKA The Battle Of The Forty Miners)  
Writer: Dottie Rambo

Verse 1  
FROM THE HILLS OF WEST KENTUCKY  
THERE’S A STORY ALL THE PEOPLE TELL  
ALL ABOUT FORTY MINERS  
THE WIDOWS KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL  
IT HAPPENED IN LATE DECEMBER  
THREE MILES UNDER THE GROUND  
THE ROOF GAVE A TREMBLING WARNING  
THE EARTH GAVE A RUMBLING SOUND

Verse 2  
BILLY, JACK AND WILLIE CLAYTON  
WERE BUSY LOADING NUMBER NINE COAL  
RAILROAD CARS WERE STRAINING  
FROM THE WEIGHT OF THE MINER’S BLACK GOLD  
WILLIE GAVE A SCREAM OF WARNING  
THE ROOF CAME CAVING IN  
THIRTY-EIGHT MEN BEHIND THEM  
THEY’VE NEVER BEEN SEEN AGAIN

Verse 3  
FROM MILES ALL AROUND THEY GATHERED  
DIGGING IN THE FREEZING SNOW  
PRAYING FOR THE SOUND OF VOICES  
FROM THE DUNGEON THREE MILES BELOW  
WILLIE CLAYTON’S WIDOW WAS PRAYING  
HOLDING TO HER PREACHER’S HAND  
SHE LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO THE HEAVENS  
CRIED, “GOD PLEASE SAVE MY MAN”
Verse 4
THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS THEY LABORED
BUT THEIR SEARCHING HAD BEEN IN VAIN
BLOOD AND TEARS WERE MINGLED
WITH THE FALLING OF THE FREEZING RAIN
DOWN A CINDER LANE SITS A CABIN
WITH A WREATH HANGING ON THE DOOR
AN UNPAID BILL IN THE MAILBOX
BILLY OWED AT THE COMPANY STORE

Chorus
THERE’S NO GRAVE QUITE SO COLD
AS THE WEST KENTUCKY COALMINE
ROSES JUST WON’T BLOOM
WHERE THE SUN CAN’T SHINE
FORTY CROSSES HIGH ON A HILL
SOMWHERE IN UNION COUNTY
BLACK STONES MARK THE GRAVES
OF THE WEST KENTUCKY COALMINES

Repeat Chorus