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## sandy lee carlson

You Are Not Alone (North Cemetery, Woodbury)

Ice on the birdbath  
Robin song in the air  
Soft air soft light cold breeze  
Clouds shift and lift, shapeshift  
Spirit rises  
Alone, soft light  
Silence among the ancestors  
Mitchell Stoddard Isbell  
Deborah Stevens Isbell  
Alonzo Isbell  
Inventors, carpenters, stonecutters  
Farmers, Revolutionary warriors  
Time passes, stands still, splits, crumbles  
Like sandstone bathed in centuries of rain  
And marble that has wept  
The lines from its face  
Under expanding hemlocks  
Infant daughters  
Teen daughters  
Mothers of warriors  
Everyday death  
Come here.  
You are not alone.  
We go before.  
You will follow.  
Meanwhile.  
Sunshine thaws ice  
On the birdbath  
And music in the air  
Follow me, brothers,  
As you must  
Earth to earth  
Ashes to ashes  
Dust to dust.