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Elias and the Reformation

In the Year of our Lord 1834
Elias Isbell willed to his Creator-
The Maker and Master of the Universe-
His soul like his old best shoes
After 86 years filled with farming,
Fighting the French
Beating time for the Revolution
With brother Eliab on the fife,
A wife, two children,
And a wife again
By way of a legal document
Now in Hartford as part of the
Historical record of Connecticut.

Here is the Reformation
In a nutshell
In the Nutmeg State.
Not a birthright
But an earned right
Plainly stated.

New paragraph:
My beloved wife shall have
All she brought into the marriage
And the house for as long as she lives.
My son gets the farm,
My daughter, the furnishings.

(continued)

(continued from page 1, "Elias and the
Reformation" by Sandy Carlson)

End of story.

But then,

The next line:

"My body I resign to the earth."

"Hoping," he said, "for a blessed immortality."

I have sought and found Elias's place
Marked with a silent rock in Killingworth
Where boys working for the town
Mow around him and his kind summer after
summer
Because you have to.
The stars are rooted here,
And God knows it.