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from Shades of Death Road

Jill Magi

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Jill Magi

from Shades of Death Road

field-yelling crows a mockingbird around new marble another dead

Stuyevesent flung open estate gates rusting burned, the missing mansion

a search for foundations at the slave quarters ends here

dead woodpecker at my feet Quaker cemetery fenced

grave rubbings a sooty history if the paper is large enough

historical marker in metal relief contains

sighs permanence the cold of history atop loaming

, or

were abolitionists

throughout

(while we learned to spell you don't tary at the cemetery)

lost, we

"write it down

right off

Heller Road in case

around blind

turns,

mirrors

chip and tar vectors toward
a house used to be our walls shifted up, down
modern swath of earth now cut
mounted by a new colonial ground thaw
still won't absorb flood waters
a valley lined by old
disfigured rock walls
its pasture pre-dated our (idea of

cow corn or people corn

nestledness

I sat on that rock at the base of the hill in the crook of the turn

declaring that I would become a naturalist as cars slowed down to

see if I was alright writing

Dear Miss New Jersey,

come on out! watch the pigs at Ervey farm & count

chipmunks, walk in rows of corn, grab at clusters of queen anne's lace, do the buttercup test

those croaking frogs equal bad weather approaching so come

look at my quilting