

**Olde Coleraine:  
A Musical Hilltown History**

**a new play with music**

**By Jonathan Mirin  
Music and Additional Lyrics by Carrie Ferguson**

**In Association with Susan Tracy, Professor of History, Hampshire  
College**

*Working script VERSION 5*

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Dad? CHRIS

Yeah? FATHER

Did you know your Great-Grandpa? CHRIS

Yep. I did. FATHER

What was he like? CHRIS

Well . . . he liked to tell stories. FATHER

About what? CHRIS

A lot of things . . . but especially about the town where he grew up. Coleraine Massachusetts. FATHER

Where's that? CHRIS

Just a couple hours south. It's a town next to a river. Surrounded by hills. The hilltowns, they call it. When he told those stories it was like he was back there again, like he was a child in Olde Coleraine. He liked to tell one about these two beekeepers named Carey and Langstroth who were best friends. He was outside playing one day down in Foundry Village when William W. Carey received a very important package. FATHER

Children playing outside in an orchard. Carey enters with a package. TRANSITION

Finally, it's here! CAREY

What is it? What is it? SOME CHILDREN

What did you get in the mail? ALL CHILDREN

The first Italian Queen ever to be imported into the U.S. CAREY

CHILD

How did she get so small?

CAREY

No - a queen bee.

CHILDREN

Ohhhh.

CAREY

She's going to be a very important addition to our cider business.

CHILD

I thought bees made honey.

CAREY

They do but . . .

THE BEE AND THE BLOSSOM THE BLOSSOM AND THE BEE  
 APPLES AND HONEY GO TOGETHER YOU SEE  
 THE BEE AND THE BLOSSOM THE BLOSSOM AND THE BEE  
 THAT'S WHY I HAVE AN ORCHARD AND AN APIARY

CHILDREN

A what?

CAREY

An apiary - that's a place where honey bees are kept.

CHILDREN

Ohh . . .

CAREY

Here comes my friend Lorenzo Langstroth. He's the minister down at 2nd Congregational in Greenfield, you know.

CHILDREN

Hello Minister.

LANGSTROTH

*(Entering carrying hive frames and a sketch explaining his idea).*

Hello children.

*(to CAREY and the children showing the sketch)*

I think I've got it - it's taken awhile but I've figured it out - a bee hive made from stackable boxes and sliding frames that are easy for the beekeeper to take in and out AND for the bees to make their comb. Let's try catching a swarm and see how they do. Oh . . .

*(Song as bees are shaken from a tree into Langstroth's hive)*

ALL

THE BEE AND THE BLOSSOM THE BLOSSOM AND THE BEE  
 APPLES & HONEY GO TOGETHER YOU SEE  
 THE BEE AND THE BLOSSOM THE BLOSSOM AND THE BEE

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE AN ORCHARD AND AN APIARY

LANGSTROTH

It seems . . . they like it!

CHILDREN

Yeah!

CAREY

Let's start production.

LANGSTROTH

Right!

CHILDREN

Right!

LANGSTROTH

*(Looking at his pocketwatch).*

Don't you children have to be back in school?

CHILD

We went to school this morning.

CHILD

Now we have to go back to the mill.

CAREY

Well, you can all take an apple for the road.

CHILDREN

Thank you sir . . .

ALL

THE BEE AND THE BLOSSOM THE BLOSSOM AND THE BEE  
 APPLES & HONEY GO TOGETHER YOU SEE  
 THE BEE AND THE BLOSSOM THE BLOSSOM AND THE BEE

CAREY

THAT'S WHY I HAVE AN ORCHARD AND AN APIARY

CHILDREN

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE AN ORCHARD AND AN APIARY

TRANSITION

FATHER

That minister's stackable frame bee hive is still the most popular kind all around the world! I also remember Great Grandpa saying how he and his friends would sled to school. Kids of all different ages were learning together in the same one room. I think I still have his old sled.

CHILDREN enter classroom, bowing and curtseying.

MS. JONES

Good morning class.

CLASS

Good morning Ma'am.

MS. JONES

Let's start with a spell down.

*BOYS go to one side of the room. GIRLS to the other.*

MS. JONES

Jean?

JEAN

Yes, Ma'am.

MS. JONES

Snow.

JEAN

Snow. One syllable. S - N - O - W. Snow.

MS. JONES

Good, Margaret?

MARGARET

Yes, ma'am.

MS. JONES

Cat

MARGARET

Cat. One syllable. C - A - T. Cat.

MS. JONES

Very good. Arthur?

ARTHUR

Yes, Ma'am.

MS. JONES

Lament

ARTHUR

Lament. First syllable: La. L-A. Second syllable: ment. M-I-N-T. Lament.

MS. JONES

M-E-N-T. M-I-N-T spells what Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

M-I-N-T spells Mint ma'am.

MS. JONES

Okay class, let's switch to some mathematics on your slates. If you bought a cow for 13 dollars and a calf for 3, how much more did the cow cost than the calf?

*(Overhears whispering).*

Myra?

MYRA

Yes ma'am?

MS. JONES

Why are you whispering?

MYRA

I was talking about the question ma'am.

MS. JONES

Be that as it may, there is no whispering in class. (places "TALKATIVE" sign around her neck and she sits on the boy's side) Now, who knows the answer to the question. Yes, Arthur?

ARTHUR

If you bought a cow for 13 dollars and a calf for 3, the cow cost ten dollars more than the calf, ma'am.

MS. JONES

Correct. Now let's play Buzz with the number 3. You start Jean.

JEAN

1

NEXT CHILD

2

NEXT CHILD

Buzz

NEXT CHILD

4

NEXT CHILD

5

NEXT CHILD

Buzz

*(They Go to 12)*

MS. JONES

Very good. Now for singing. Let's do Frere Jacques. First in english. Ready?

ALL  
 ARE YOU SLEEPING, ARE YOU SLEEPING,  
 BROTHER JOHN? BROTHER JOHN?  
 MORNING BELLS ARE RINGING! MORNING BELLS ARE RINGING!  
 DING, DANG, DONG. DING, DANG, DONG.

MS. JONES  
 Very nice. Jean would you like to teach us how they sing it in Canada?

JEAN  
 Oui, yes ma'am.

FRÈRE JACQUES, FRÈRE JACQUES,  
 DORMEZ-VOUS ? DORMEZ-VOUS ?  
 SONNEZ LES MATINES ! SONNEZ LES MATINES !  
 DING, DAING, DONG. DING, DAING, DONG.

MS. JONES  
 Now let's all try. Ready?

ALL  
 FRÈRE JACQUES, FRÈRE JACQUES,  
 DORMEZ-VOUS ? DORMEZ-VOUS ?  
 SONNEZ LES MATINES ! SONNEZ LES MATINES !  
 DING, DAING, DONG. DING, DAING, DONG.

MS. JONES  
 Good. Bon.

*(Knock on the door.)*

MS. JONES  
 Yes?

*(A man enters.)*

MR. FLAGG  
 Good morning, class.

CLASS  
 Good morning, sir.

MR. FLAGG  
 Can I have a moment of your time Ms. Jones?

MS. JONES  
 Of course. Elizabeth, please lead the younger ones in a game of Blind Man's Bluff outside.

ELIZABETH  
 Yes, ma'am.

*(Students leave.)*

MR. FLAGG

I'm sorry to interrupt your class Ms. Jones, but the School Board met yesterday evening and I am off to Boston for a week so I wanted to stop in before leaving.

MS. JONES

Of course.

MR. FLAGG

And we want to commend you on the fine work you are doing here in Griswoldville.

MS. JONES

Thank you.

MR. FLAGG

But we also determined a few areas for improvement.

MS. JONES

Oh.

MR. FLAGG

The most concerning of these areas is that we have a report that you have introduced one or two books not on the prescribed list of books. Is that true?

MS. JONES

Yes, Mr. Flagg, it is.

MR. FLAGG

Do you have copies of those books here now? I will be removing them.

*(MRS. JONES retrieves books, gives them to him.)*

We will be instructing parents that it is their responsibility, not yours, to pay for the prescribed books and that sum will be given to the assessor who will add it to their taxes. So don't worry you will still have sufficient books with which to teach.

MS. JONES

I should hope so.

MR. FLAGG

You must know so.

MS. JONES

Do you have another concern, sir?

MR. FLAGG

Thank you for asking. Our other concern has to do with the lack of science in the curriculum. Reading, elocution, writing, arithmetic - of course these are all essential. But we must find room for a strong base in science. Without science, how can children really learn to think to judge, to reason, to truly investigate natural law? In the coming century science will be more and more the center of the wheel, Ms. Jones, not simply a spoke. We



must start now. Is that amenable to you, Ms. Jones?

MS. JONES

I can do my best, Mr. Flagg.

MR. FLAGG

Excellent. Then I wish you good day, Ma'am.

MS. JONES

And a good day to you sir.

*(MS. JONES closes door behind him.)*

TRANSITION

CHRIS

What was that all about?

FATHER

Just like today, there was a committee whose job was to try and improve the schools. At the end of the 1800's there were 13 one room school houses in Colrain. Great-Grandpa was always interested in education. He was even a teacher for a few years himself.

CHRIS

Maybe I'll be a teacher some day.

FATHER

Maybe. But when he was a child, Great Grandpa split his time between school and Joseph Griswold's cotton mill.

CHILD

Did a lot of children work at the mill?

FATHER

Yep. Generally the girls were spinners and weavers. Both girls and boys were spinners, warpers and spoolers.

CHILD

I don't know what those words mean.

FATHER

It was something like this . . .

TRANSITION

*SUPERVISOR checks pocketwatch. Rings bell for start of workday. Children and adults come in to start work.*

MUSICIAN

THE WATER TURNS THE WHEEL TURNS THE WHEEL TURNS THE WHEEL  
THE WATER TURNS THE WHEEL ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND

THE WHEEL TURNS THE ROD TURNS THE ROD TURNS THE ROD  
 THE WHEEL TURNS THE ROD ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND

THE SPINNER MAKES THE COTTON INTO THREAD INTO THREAD  
 THE SPINNER MAKES THE COTTON INTO THREAD WHITE BLUE OR RED

THE SPOOLER COMBINES THE BOBBINS COMBINES THE BOBBINS COMBINES  
 THE BOBBINS THE SPOOLER COMBINES THE BOBBINS INTO EVEN BIGGER  
 SPOOLS

THE WAPER THREADS THE LOOMS THREADS THE LOOMS THREADS THE  
 LOOMS  
 THE WAPER THREADS THE LOOMS LOOK HOW FAST SHE ZOOMS

THE WEAVER WEAVES THE FABRIC WEAVES THE FABRIC WEAVES THE FABRIC  
 THE WEAVER WEAVES THE FABRIC I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE MAGIC

WHEN THE BOBBIN IS EMPTY TAKE IT OFF QUICK AS YOU CAN  
 WHEN THE BOBBIN IS EMPTY TAKE IT OFF AND THREAD IT AGAIN

MILL DAYS ARE LONG DAYS ARE LONG DAYS ARE LONG  
 MILL DAYS ARE LONG EVEN WHEN WE SLEEP WE HEAR THEIR SONG  
 (REPEAT 1X)

*(Children are sleeping AND dreaming. Thread breaks. Everything stops. Foreman enters.)*

FOREMAN

Mrs. Lemieux, this is the third break this morning. Regular interruptions are not good for the machines or our schedule. Is there a problem?

MADAME LEMIEUX

English pas bien. Slower please.

FOREMAN

No, not slower. We need faster.

MADAME LEMIEUX

Slower

FOREMAN

Faster!

MADAME LEMIEUX

Slow slow speak

FOREMAN

Faster do, faster do, no breaking!

*Foreman leaves. Ballet Renversé - dance of the dream of the work at the mill, end with a bell sound and everybody leaves).*

CHRIS

I thought doing my chores was bad.

FATHER

I think they found ways to have fun even though it was hard to be working for 12 or 14 hours a day. And not every day was a work day. When the weather warmed up, everyone liked to be down by the river.

TRANSITION

MUSICIAN

IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
UP ON CATAMONT HILL  
AND IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
DOWN IN GRISWOLDVILLE

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

LET'S GO SWIMMIN'  
YEAH  
DOWN IN THE NORTH RIVER  
FIVE NICE SPOTS TO CHOOSE FROM  
THAT'S JUST COUNTIN' THE CLOSE ONES  
STILL MIGHTY COLD WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN THE SUN

IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
DOWN IN ADAMSVILLE  
AND IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
OUT IN LYONSVILLE

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

LET'S GO FISHIN'  
YEAH!  
DOWN IN THE NORTH RIVER  
FOUR NICE SPOTS TO CHOOSE FROM  
WE CAN GO WHEN WORK THE IS DONE  
WHEN WE'VE CAUGHT ENOUGH WE LET'EM RUN

IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
UP IN GIMLETVILLE  
AND IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
DOWN IN SHATTUCKVILLE

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

LET'S GO PICNICIN' YEAH  
DOWN BY THE NORTH RIVER  
THREE NICE SPOTS TO CHOOSE FROM  
PACK BREAD AND APPLE PIE THICK AS YOUR THUMB  
WATCH THE BIRDS COME AND EAT OUR CRUMBS

IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
DOWN AT ELM GROVE  
AND IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
HUDDLED ROUND THE STOVE

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

LET'S GO CROSSIN'  
YEAH  
LET'S CROSS THE RIVERS  
TWO RIVERS TO CHOOSE FROM  
THE NORTH AND WEST BRANCH ARE THE ONES  
BUILD ENOUGH BRIDGES TO GET THINGS DONE

IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
AT TAYLOR BROOK  
WHEN THE WIND BLEW  
AND THOSE SAWMILLS SHOOK

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

LET'S GET ON THE TROLLEY  
YEAH  
DOWN BY THE NORTH RIVER  
WE'VE ONLY ONE TRACK TO CHOOSE FROM  
KEEP THE WINDOWS OPEN, SIT WITH YOUR CHUM  
LISTEN TO YOUR HEART BEAT LIKE A DRUM

SO LET'S GO LET'S GO LET'S GO . . .  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(ANOTHER DAY AT THE MILL)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER

(WE CAN DRINK OUR FILL)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER

LET'S GO LET'S GO LET'S GO . . .  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(WE'LL SWIM EVERY DAY)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(WE'LL FISH OUR WAY)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER

LET'S GO LET'S GO LET'S GO . . .  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(DOWN FROM THE RIDGE)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(ACROSS THE COVERED BRIDGE)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER

LET'S GO LET'S GO LET'S GO . . .  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(NO NEED FOR A BOAT)  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
(LET YOURSELF FLOAT )  
DOWN BY THE RIVER

IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
UP ON CATAMONT HILL  
AND IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER  
DOWN IN GRISWOLDVILLE

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

BUT NOW WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS  
AND THE AIR IS STILL  
DOWN BY THE RIVER  
SURROUNDED BY HILLS

TRANSITION

FATHER

In the summer, you could open the windows of the Coleraine Shelburne Falls Trolley as you rode along beside the North River.

CHRIS

Coleraine had a trolley?

FATHER

A lot of children had never seen anything like it. In 1896 they put in the tracks and they called it an "electric road."

## MUSICIAN

HEY HEY LOOK AT THEM GO  
THEY'RE GONNA MAKE AN ELECTRIC ROAD  
HEY HEY WHAT DO YOU KNOW  
TROLLEY'S GONNA CARRY ALL OF OUR LOADS

PUT ON THE MILK AND THE MAIL  
PUT ON THE APPLES AND HEAD DOWN THE TRAIL  
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY  
WE DON'T HAVE TO WALK WE CAN RIDE THE WHOLE WAY!

HEY HEY WHEN WE GROW OLD  
WILL WE STILL RIDE THE ELECTRIC ROAD  
HEY HEY WHAT DO YOU KNOW  
DON'T NEED A CAR TO GO FASTER THAN SLOW

GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
WE'VE GOT PEOPLE TO SEE AND LETTERS TO SEND  
GET ON THE TROLLEY GO TO TOWN  
HEAR THE TROLLEY MAKIN' IT'S SOUND

DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
WE'VE GOT PEOPLE TO SEE AND LETTERS TO SEND  
GET ON THE TROLLEY GO TO TOWN  
HEAR THE TROLLEY MAKIN' IT'S SOUND

DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

("EVERYBODY NOW!")  
DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS  
CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

("ONE MORE TIME!")  
DING DING, THE CONDUCTOR RINGS

CLICK CLACK, ROLL DOWN THE TRACK

PUT ON THE MILK AND THE MAIL  
 PUT ON THE APPLES AND HEAD DOWN THE TRAIL  
 IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY  
 WE DON'T HAVE TO WALK WE CAN RIDE THE WHOLE WAY!

HEY HEY WHEN WE GROW OLD  
 WILL WE STILL RIDE THE ELECTRIC ROAD  
 HEY HEY WHAT DO YOU KNOW  
 DON'T NEED A CAR TO GO FASTER THAN SLOW

HEY HEY WHEN WE GROW OLD  
 WILL WE STILL RIDE THE ELECTRIC ROAD  
 HEY HEY WHEN WE GROW OLD  
 WILL WE STILL RIDE THE ELECTRIC ROAD

CONDUCTOR

Hey, where is everybody going all dressed up?

WOMAN

You know where we're going William. Aren't you coming along?

CONDUCTOR

I have to drive back to Coleraine. But don't worry you can tell me all about Memorial Hall's Opening Dedication Ceremony on the ride home tomorrow. Shelburne Falls sure has come a long way from when I was a kid.

CHILD

Let's get seats up front!

WOMAN

Shhhh . . . it's almost starting.

*(To the audience.)*

This was billed as a program of "Intellectual Entertainment" you know.

## EDWIN BAKER

Fellow citizens, ladies and Gentlemen. All days are not alike to the individual nor are they the same to a community like ours. Some are full of gloom and darkness, others of sunshine and light. May we not congratulate ourselves that as a community we are this evening, so to speak, in the sunshine and light. We are assembled to dedicate this building, a building the town has long needed for the purposes to which it will be dedicated. On behalf of the Building Committee, I would like to thank the Town for appropriating fifteen thousand dollars for the construction of Memorial Hall and five thousand dollars for the Arms Library whose 8000 volumes will be housed downstairs. This Hall will be dedicated to education, to patriotism and to good government but first of all it will be dedicated to the memory of those who gave their lives so that this country might be a united country and its people a free people. Twenty five of Shelburne's sons were lost in our great civil conflict and now in this hall our ballots will be cast, from the highest officer in our United States to the humblest official of Shelburne. And the men from the Ozro Miller Post, who have returned, will have a home. But enough by way of introduction to the interesting exercises which are to follow. May I present to you Mr. William Joy who will share with us Bach's Suite No. 4 in E Flat. Sarabande. Thank you, Mr. Joy. Now one son of Shelburne Falls who I knew particularly well was young Silas Nims. And Silas was particularly fond of traditional country dances and of all these dances, his favorite was the Galopede. Now in his memory, may we all enjoy it in the hope that no more young persons will be lost in conflict on our soil or the soil of other nations.