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Cover Photo by Rocco Rainone

**Origami Poetry Project™**

**Mishnock, RI  
(An album)**

**Nancy Brown © 2012**

## **Mishnock, RI (An album)**



**Nancy Brown**

### **Neighborhood Life**

After a restless night, I walk into dawn.  
Mute swans float beneath the lake mist.  
The creek bubbles under the road next  
to the small cottage where Miss Lovelace—  
her sister dead in a crash—  
raised her orphaned niece and nephews  
after rejecting her brothers' solution,  
“We can each raise one.”

### **Mishnock Barn**

Fires, a hurricane and post-war building  
codes  
hastened demise of Mishnock sawmills.  
Still, native timber was found  
to build the dance pavilion at Mishnock  
Barn.  
Gone the carousel, roller rink, bath house.  
It's live music and feet-footed line dancing  
on the shores of Mishnock Lake.  
The heron lifts its head to listen.

### **Winter**

One, two...five boys push snow  
from the frozen catch basin,  
brush clear the stump  
where Sara can sit,  
but she straps on skates,  
grabs a stick,  
and joins pond hockey.

### **Summer**

The neighbor builds this year's racing car.  
His sons play basketball in the street  
after they drop their bikes in the yard.  
Later, they walk to the lake,  
beach towels over their shoulders,  
bare feet slapping the road.

### **The Lake**

In the beginning was water,  
fish, turtles, freshwater clams,  
and hunters, fishermen, farmers  
with spears, canoes, nets, hoes.  
Then came axes, chainsaws, trucks,  
cars, streets, TV, Internet...  
Is that Metacomet on YouTube?

*On the shores of Mishnock Lake  
The heron lifts its head to listen.*