

# The American Frontier

In the beginning it was waiting - from Plymouth to Jamestown  
It lay to their west -the untamed unknown unexplored wilderness  
Dark woods, emerald rivers, lush meadows – bear, bison, deer and cougar  
Skies that darkened with countless migrating geese and crane and pigeon  
Inhabited by earlier first arrivals seeking not its conquer – but to be a part of  
After a short period of anchoring to the land, the brave few ventured forth  
Nearly four centuries the pattern was followed as the risk takers moved the line  
Ever westward -- ever seeking dominion -- ever leaving a wake of security  
And in this manner came growth and reformation again and again and again

In the beginning the line's movement was nearly imperceptible  
As it moved, ideas of independence and liberty were conceived  
A new nation was born -- dedicated to the proposition of equality  
Armed with this new order, the line's movement continued  
And as it moved Individualism was garnered -- cooperation nourished  
Equality of race and gender grew -- as privilege diminished  
Opportunity stimulated innovation and purpose and democracy  
And ever gradually the earlier vision of a City on the Hill became reality  
Not only for the new nation but for the people of all nations -- for all time

Don Adams

On Bethel Pond, May 2023

For MCLA History Day