

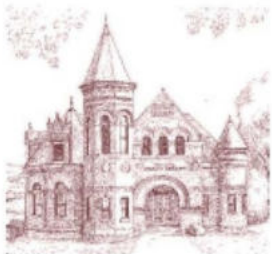


7th ANNUAL
POEM
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BRADFORD

Graves of Children

They danced on the graves of their children
and why not?
They put them there.
It was not a quick easy death.
Children do not deserve
such a thing as that.
No they lingered
slowly starving.
They danced of the graves of children
and why not?
They killed them slowly
letting disease ravage their bodies
until they were bones.
Nurturing would have been better but
guns and bombs were vastly more important.
We hate innocence and smiles.
They danced on the graves of their children
and why not ?
Stripping the earth of all its essence
water, trees, and life is far more profitable.
Its gold that matters
Compassion, comfort and children are for the weak.

James Jonathan Ruggles 10 March 2021
East Corinth, VT



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