

Since Then

Jacqui Beck - for Judy, 2014

Years ago, in ancient times,
during the Depression,
I was born in a small town
on the rough rocks of New England.

My father
thought he was a man.
My mother believed
she was a woman.

They had two children,
my sister, who thought she was a girl,
and me,
who also thought I was a girl.

They gave me a baseball mitt
when I wanted a beautiful chiffon dress,
the one they gave my sister.

As I look back
over years spent
pretending to be a man,

I cry inside
for the girl, for the woman I am
who was held
prisoner
inside the rock walls of New England.