

Seneca, Undone

VolunteerMusic

Commemorating historic Seneca Village in Manhattan's Central Park

V.1

More than a few rough hewn boards
 Nailed up in haste
More than a few stones heaped up
 On a distant waste

More than a few mouths to feed
 And some bones laid down
All would be carted off
 When bludgeon came around
 When bludgeon came around

V.2

More than a few tough dollars
 Spent on title clear
A patch of ground for standin' on
 The paper says right here

Would you know the cost in sweat
 To gather up this sum
Who could cast their lot for this
 To find it all undone
 To find it all undone

V.3

Not the first to name a child
 Or walk for sweet spring water
Not the first on Summit hill
 To look towards the great river

Laughter there, and music too
 From Africa and Eire(A-ra)
The beats survived the shackle
 The tunes, the starvin' era
 The tunes, the starvin' era

V.4

Not the first to sing in praise
 To learn of rule and letter
More than one was rising there
 Resented by the 'betters'

And at some plush salon, no doubt
 Where civic virtue reigns
A rain of blows was readied
 To measure out the pain
 To measure out the pain

V.5

Not the first broke promise
 As Progress runs the course
The house and spire and settled bones
 Cannot withstand such force

And soon a setting pastoral
 will be sketched for there
For once the human stain's removed
 The canvas will be bare
 The canvas will be bare

V.6

Not the first to search for trace
 By trowel and ledger, found
Sifting safe at Time's remove
 Old blows – have gone to ground

But if old bits and stones would speak
 From where this story's laid
Yes, there's playground laughter
 But a bounty, too, was paid
 But a bounty, too, was paid

(repeat V.1)

