

**THIS IS ONEIDA
GRADUATE/FORMER STAFF MEMBER SHARES POEM**

Donna Lanham, class of 1979, sent me this poem after visiting for our annual Homecoming. This poem wonderfully sums up our mission--past, present, and future. This poem blessed my heart and I wanted to share it with all of our Oneida friends.

Our Oneida Fair!

A small hill in a mountain chain,
Long ago chosen for God's purpose to reign.
A foundation planting small seeds to grow;
No one knowing just how far they'll go.

The service and duty not for the weak,
Doing His bidding, His glory to seek.
Dedicated, loving, fulfilling the task,
Whatever duty or chore they are asked.

An outreach of service to those far and near,
A creation of memories many hold dear.
An odd sort of family with wide connection
Mostly accepted with a small chance of rejection.

ALWAYS in the memory and heart
Of anyone who has ever been a part.
Protected and held by His loving grace
There's so much special about this tiny place.

One has only to utter her name
There's always a response or testimony to claim.
Through her first century she stands steadfast
Her mission through His will to forever last.

At times her security, humanly in doubt,
But through faith and prayer things do work out.
So onward they come to learn and grow
Reserving their place in the heavenly flow.

Just a little hill with stories to be told,
Her mission and purpose never grows old.
A small, little place for a big world to share,
Our school, our blessing, our Oneida fair!

DJ Lanham
Class of '79



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President**

*First printed in the Western Recorder August 5, 2014.
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