

## Slippery Slope

on tongue's tender tip  
names of known people and things  
stubbornly resist

my urgent summons  
in daily conversations  
at senior moments

friends say, "yeah, me too"  
but their words seem to appear  
when called to duty!

how did your brain work,  
oh, pioneer ancestors,  
as age beset you?

were you forgetful?  
did you sense, with worried mind,  
that slippery slope?



Photo: My grandparents' grave in Ottawa, Kansas

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