

A CARD OF THANKS

By Flora MacDonald.

The summer of 1919 was the only year Bon Echo was open to the general public that I managed it myself. Owing to the unusual number who came, many without previous reservations, difficulties rapidly multiplied and I was unable to procure efficient help to look after the different departments. That I was able to keep open at all was due to the kindly generosity of guests who came to Bon Echo in the spirit of comradeship and joy, and when things went wrong as they did, helped instead of knocked. I have had dreams and visions of what Bon Echo will be. The great dream has already materialized—Bon Echo has been dedicated to the Democratic ideals of Walt Whitman by Horace Traubel and has become historically, psychically, and spiritually a substantial part of the great Whitman cause that has been lifting mankind for the past half century.

Whether Bon Echo develops into a larger holiday resort or becomes a private club does not in the least affect the work I have been elected to do in connection with the Whitman memorial at Bon Echo.

A few to whom I must give special thanks are:

Mildred Bain, who acted as secretary to the Whitman Centennial Convention, and who sang and played with unselfish cheerfulness the whole summer through to the delight of all. To Arthur Hewitt, who filled in any vacancies from the piano to the woodpile and did so much to comfort Horace those last trying days.

To J. W. Bengough, that prince of entertainers. To F. M. Billsmith, the "man o' parts," to Col. and Mrs. Cosgrave and Dave Cummings, who so added to the joy and morale of the place. To Miss Perrins, Miss Barnhardt and Mrs. Winyard who so finely gave their services as professional nurses to Horace and Anne. And to Miss Black, Miss Hilliard and Mr. Conn, those splendid Whitmanites, who helped out during the Convention.

I must also mention Geo. Morris, Frank Bain, Henry and Helen Sanders, Nathan Mendelssohn, Dr. Mendel, Barnard Weiring, Dr. Guernberg, Dr. Koffler, Dr. Tyndle and Dr. Mathers who added joy and comfort to the last days of Horace Traubel.

Roger Lewis called Walt by a great name when he labeled him "The Introducer." Could any name mean more? Walt had brought the Blue Bird to Roger Lewis as he had to me and that was all the introduction we needed, and Leonard Abbott too. Oh the joy of meeting these friends of Walt's. Their appreciation of my work away up here at Bon Echo makes rough roads smooth and carries me on to the next "lift."—Flora MacD.