

Apartment 803  
100 Ridout Street South  
London, Ont. N6C 3X5  
October 18, 1980

Dear Mr. Lothian:

I am sorry to have been so long in writing you. Like everyone else I am busy and the weeks fly by so fast.

Your History of Canada's National Parks is delightful reading, lively, very well written and, of course, your material is wonderful. One wonders just what the people were like who were involved in such a magnificent undertaking as setting up a system of national parks and the many anecdotes you tell help to bring them to life and add so much to the straight information.

The western National Parks interested me most, of course, but certain of the eastern parks also had their fascination for me. It is interesting, also, to come across familiar names. For example, in connection with the Georgian Bay Park, the mention of General Crutshank. We have, in our Public Library's Canadiana collection, his writings on the War of 1812, and Miss Williams, although ~~to~~ twenty years younger than Mrs. Crutshank, was her most intimate friend, <sup>for years</sup> until she died.

In the beginning of your book, Sir George Simpson's mention of finding heather, made me think of Miss Williams' little booklet, "A Sprig of Mountain Heather", in which she goes into the subject extensively and delightfully.

I thought that illustrations and some snaps would have added to the interest of your book, but 'it is a very fine piece of work and' I shall treasure my copy.

Every time, however, that I think of your History, I feel great sadness and a sore sense of guilt. It is dreadful to think that Miss Williams is given no credit for the vital and important work she did for the National Parks, in making known to Canadians the great treasure that was now theirs for all time. Her monographs have, I understand, never been superseded and she was spoken of, while still living and after so many years away from the scene, as "a legend in her own time." She and Mr. Harkin did a marvellous piece of work.

It is in no way your fault, Mr. Nathan, that she has been overlooked, completely in your book, (except for a

brief quotation). I let her down  
completely, as did her family also,  
(though they are very proud of her,  
by not seeing to it that a careful  
record was kept of her outstanding  
work and her fascinating experiences.  
It would have meant much to her  
to have had her rightful place in your  
book. You tried to get the information,  
but without success. If only you  
had come here during her lifetime!

Many thanks again and my  
grateful appreciation.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Shaw

Eleanor Shaw, London, to Lothian, 18 October 1980

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