

# Wayne Murphy

## MONUMENT

August 1914

*My Dear Alice*

it begins

this post office  
letter-card he sent to you

that August  
on his way to war

asking you to write  
to his mother

and remembering  
friends and acquaintances

missing home and  
you.

I found that letter  
the other day after  
we buried you

from your hundred years  
you'd kept it  
those last seventy

but then he did  
say it was a  
keepsake

with its postcard back  
depicting bridge  
and locality.

*Something to keep!*  
he scribbled in lead pencil

fading now as I hold  
and unfold

this flimsy reverent  
monument

to your love.