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

76
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.