

Paris Spring 1920

In June 1918 he felt her soft caring eyes As he looked up from his a hospital gurney Near the French village of Chateau- Thierry German shrapnel deep in his thighs She wiped his brow gently her English just barely Her soft eyes spoke we've met before

In following weeks he came to understand Healing and whole found in compassion In fragrant walks in rose gardens and lounges in sun Care bloomed with force never known beforehand Sour bitterness became unfastened undone By soft caring eyes saying we've met before

November Armistice required a need of returning To the Indiana farm his generational home Lonesome were hours he worked the farm's loam Parting her gentle tendering anguishing Absence painful from her beauty honed For soft caring eyes saying we've met before

The winter following was warmed with her promise Till seas run dry and rocks melt I'll wait -- I'll miss He smiled at Burns work he'd sealed with a kiss On a rose scented pathway near Chateau-Thierry He longed a journey to his sweet reminisce To soft caring eyes saying we've met before

Two year passed before his farm earned a passage To view trenches healed and Flanders flowers blooming Paris Spring found her joy tending resuming Hearts grow fonder in absence more than an adage Promises were made midst Paris pleasant perfuming With soft caring eyes saying we've met before

Don Adams, on Bethel Pond, March 2022