

WWC: Horace Traubel, *With Walt Whitman in Camden*, 6 vols. Vol. 1 (Boston: Small Maynard and Co., 1906); Vol. 2 (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1908); Vol. 3 (New York: Mitchell Kennerly, 1914); Vols. 4-6 (Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1959, 1964, 1982).



Eric Trethewey

PERIPHERY

You can't see, beyond the borders, the hills
singed by the season. It's the old place
outside Shubenacadie. He's standing there

in the wagon ruts, hand on her bridle,
the bell mare, his railroad cap pulled low
against the afternoon sun. Behind him

there's the barn—and what the photo leaves out:
manure, horseflies, the stamp and whinny
from stalls restless with September heat.

Turning, he'd see the river unruffled by wind—
a blank mirror until banked clouds move in,
water returning them trembling to themselves.

I can see him back her into the staves,
hitch up for the long trot to town,
the buckboard vanishing in the distance
with the last green haze on those burning hills.