

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 3, 1945

Lieutenant Commander John S. Thacher, U.S.N.
Dumbarton Oaks
3101 R Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

Thank you for such a nice letter as I have been eager to hear from you and feel quite homesick for Dumbarton Oaks. Mrs. Bliss's gallant voice last Sunday told me of their variegated plans for the next months. One might almost wish that she were able to go west with Mr. Bliss, although the holiday would not please her as well as her European work. You and I have long known that she was eager for a chance to go abroad to see her friends and conditions and as she now can do it and be of use no wonder she is willing to undertake the journey in spite of the fatigue it means.

Naturally my mind is divided between relief and disappointment that you don't think it essential for me to come to Dumbarton this autumn unless something should develop which neither you nor I can foresee. Mrs. Bliss seemed rather to feel as though a journey were advisable but perhaps this feeling on her part comes as much from affection that lies between us as from any real professional need. You will I am sure keep me informed and if you or Bryce feel it would be wise for me to come I shall do my best to be there. It is also a relief to hear that the paving of the Green Garden does not have to be undertaken at the immediate moment. It would be wise to postpone this as long as possible but I would like to know what you and Mrs. Bliss are thinking of with regard to tree question for this space. It does seem to me as though something must be done as we must not make the same mistake with regard to the Green Garden as with regard to the oak replacements for which I am to blame for not having insisted upon doing during the last twenty years. The other side of my mind is of course disappointed as it is always nice to be at Dumbarton and you make me feel a continued welcome which has always been stretched out to me from that lovely place.

It will be nice to hear from Mr. Bryce about the little oak trees because as you know I shall continue to bother you and him until some are planted.

I have been trying to think where the walk is which has been paved with crushed "agate" between the greenhouse and the pool on Crab Hill, and where the steps have been taken out which interfere with the lawn mower procession.

Mr. Thacher 8/3/45 -2

If you and Mrs. Bliss are satisfied about it I am sure it must be right, and how right you are also to cut out some of the big apple trees in order to leave the others to develop.

Yours ever sincerely,

Beauvais Farnand

Please give best regards to Mr. Bryce from me & tell him our Turks Cap lilies are between eight & nine feet high -