



Thank You Bill

Eyes of steel – we could feel – as you greeted us for a time
You found peace in the peaks – but we do need to speak
– of the wars that you left behind

From the sign – he looked down as we drove to Banff town
a place where his life had gained fame
horseman, warden and guide through the hills he did ride
Bill Peyto was this mountain man's name

A young immigrant from England made the mountains his home
after crossing this land where he started to roam
To fight for Canada – he had not a doubt
and crossed back over the ocean as a Steele Scout
Bill left the mountains – where eagles soar
to the scream of bullets and the canon's roar
Wounded in battle – he survived death's door
and returned to the mountains after fighting the Boer

Guiding, trapping and prospecting from his cabin in the hills
Bill found peace again after battle memory chills
He became a Park Warden to protect his chosen land
and his home in a place where only he could understand

Peace was shattered again when war threatened once more
Bill left his peaceful valley to fight on foreign shore
Comrades in *The Great War* were falling - from canons, poison gas and gun
On Ypres Hill Bill was wounded – ending his machine gunner run
The sound of war finally behind him – he returned to his mountain lair
continued work as a Warden – leaving fame and legends for us to share

Bill paid for his new land – and for our future too
fighting for his home and the peace that he knew
We owe it to Bill and to all of his creed
and hope that new Canadians follow his lead

Don Mickle - 2017

