

DONALD HALL
EAGLE POND FARM
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Sarah Innes
285 Orchard Hills Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

14 November 2014

Dear Sarah,

I love your book-notion, your pig-book-notion. More in a moment.

I loved seeing you in Ann Arbor in December of 2009! I won't be back. I feel fine, and I have a book coming in December, and another next fall – and of course I am working on 2016. However, I can't drive, I can't walk much, et cetera. I push a rollator and live on one floor. Honestly, I don't mind so long as I can work! Linda comes a couple of nights a week, and three other women take care of me as well, but mostly I am alone. I like solitude. I'm so glad I could see you and Bridget. Is she still there? Give her my love.

Did you mean you would love to see Stephen's note to me? It's possible that I can find it. The University of New Hampshire archives two hundred and fifty thousand of my letters. That was not a typo.

Just before you wrote, I was again enjoying or loving Stephen's photograph of Philippa when she was seventeen. Do you have a copy? Do you remember? It is so beautiful!

Andrew told me to expect your letter. Did you ever do the show, gallery show, that you spoke to me about?

The book for next year is *The Selected Poems of Donald Hall* – and I have been rereading my pig-poem. I know it is not especially modest of me, but I think it is terrific!

On the cover of *Kicking the Leaves* it is my great-grandfather together with my grandmother with my baby-mother on the ground before them.

What's the front name of Ken Burns's brother who co-did the pig dinner *with* Stephen?

I do love that photograph of Stephen and the dear pig! Was that he who said that he had never fainted in his whole life? Maybe I took liberties with the quotation.

I'm happy to know for sure that Jane was there. She had to be! – but usually with any memory I remember her image, and in this case I could not quite bring it up.

Next April it will be twenty years after her death. I'm not the only one with lethal-anniversary thoughts! Of course I think of her every day – as you do of Stephen.

It would be lovely of course to meet with you! Otherwise, we could try talking and letters or on email. authordonaldhall@gmail.com . I am terrible on the telephone.

Come and see me! After two or three hours of talking to somebody, I need to lie down for a bit. I know you won't mind, but I'm preparing you. You can sleep overnight here if you would like.

If it were to be only a few hours, afternoon would be best. I know you have friends forty minutes south of me. If possible, let me take you to a late lunch or an early dinner! Any day of the week would do. If I had to make a choice, probably a Friday would be best.

I look forward to seeing you – and to seeing the book.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don".