Most Distant Antiquity

After William Bartram

When he reached the end of his travels this was his conclusion, that the people he encountered in unmarked territory had descended from a glorious ancient world they had no knowledge ever existed.

Bartram slept on the ground, under fallen oak trunks, one blanket wrapped over him, another pitched across a tree for a tent, foraging some days, and taking fine meals from the tables of strangers on others.

He drew the world into order with a pencil and sketch paper, the light of his vision cast upon each leaf, petal, stem, and seedpod, naming as he went, describing how each ridge crests along the edge of all nature.

---Jesse Graves