



[John Muir Correspondence \(PDFs\)](#)

1891-09-06

Letter from Julia [Merrill] Moores to John Muir, 1891 Sep 6.

Julia Merrill Moores

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I have had great anxiety during the past two years in regard to Janet. I have been frightened - lest she be a permanent invalid. But she is full of hope and courage and leaves no stone unturned - nothing undone wh. may help her to health. and - God grant her life & health is my daily prayer. She often speaks of you and Mrs Muir's kindness to her - and of your sweet children & lovely home. I am glad that Ed. Coe has proved of service to you. Sister C. & Mina are well - and all of the other friends. I do not hope for a letter from you - for I know how busy you must be. My love to your wife. Janet too joins me in love to all. Truly & affectionately
Julia Moores

01526

Indianapolis

Sept. 6th 1891

My dear Mr Muir,

I have before me two letters - written by you from near Snellings in the Spring of 1869 - more than twenty years ago! As I have read them over I have felt a strong desire to thank you for writing them - even though I may have done it long ago. They open up to me and describe in your own way - your life as a shepherd.

The life in nature - the birds
 bees - hares - or squirrels
 the trees, the mosses &
 lichens - the sky and
 stars. The sheep which
 cared for - surely and care-
 fully - did not fill your
 life. - Just now - these
 letters, are just what I want.
 I have to write a little paper
 on Robert Browning's
 "Saul" - in which David as
 a shepherd appears - and
 I need your description &
 shall use it. - You can not
 help yourself - My friend!

I wish that once more I could see you and
 yours - but I fear it may not be. The real
 happiness is to find that Kate Gwynson is with
 you - you will do her good - & she will make
 the basis of your little girls sweetest wishes
 for being with them. How affectionately all
 these children remember you! Our friend
 good you have been to them - we can never
 forget. Of Merrill & Charles all I can say is
 that they are well and hard at work in the
 profession they have chosen. It is a guiding
 life - in doing & doing other men's lives.

[Marked "Indianapolis letters"]

Indianapolis,
Sept. 6th, 1891.

My dear Mr. Muir,

I have before me two letters - written by you from near 'Snellings' in the spring of 1869 - more than twenty year ago! As I have read them over I have felt a strong desire to thank you for writing them - even though I may have done it long ago. They open up to me and describe in your own way your life as a shepherd,--the life in nature, the birds, bees, hares, or squirrels - the trees, the mosses and lichens--the sky and stars. The sheep, while cared for surely and carefully, did not fill your life. Just now these letters are just what I want. I have to write a little paper on Robert Browning's "Saul" - in which David as a shepherd appears, and I need your description and shall use it. You cannot help yourself, my friend!

I have had great anxiety during the past two years in regard to Janet. I have been frightened lest she be a permanent invalid. But she is full of hope and courage and leaves no stone unturned, nothing undone which may help her to health, and - God grant her life and health is my daily prayer! She often speaks of yours and Mrs. Muir's kindness to her and of your sweet children and lovely home.

I am glad that Ed Coe has proved of service to you. Sister Catherine and Mina are well, and all of the other friends. I do not hope for a letter from you, for I know how busy you must be. My love to your wife. Janet, too, joins me in love to all.

Truly and affectionately,

Julia [Merrill] Moores