



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1880-07-01

**Letter from Joanna [Muir] to John Muir, 1880 Jul 1.**

Joanna Muir

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We had planned that as  
 Anna has been staying with  
 Mary for some time and is  
 needed there, we would  
 have mother stay with us,  
 which she had with pleas-  
 ure consented to do, and  
 to break up home keeping  
 entirely, and then when  
 we came here we used all  
 our powers of language  
 to induce father to come  
 too ~~that we might~~ <sup>that we might</sup> have the great  
 pleasure of taking care of  
 both in their old age,  
 but unhappily we could  
 not persuade him. Now  
 if it were not that ~~our father~~  
 always provides a way, I  
 would be very much trou-  
 led, for certain it is, father  
 can never be left again  
 in his present condition,  
 but I am praying that his

An address  
 is - Cor. of Queen  
 and Patterson  
 Sts. Hamilton  
 Ontario, Can.

Hamilton, Can.  
 July 1st 1890.

Dear John:-  
 You will be sur-  
 prised to know that I am  
 here with father in this far  
 away country of the Queen  
 but I have not given up  
 my allegiance to Uncle Sam  
 as I do not intend staying  
 here always. Some time  
 ago father was taken sick  
 from a severe cold and  
 sent for me to come to him  
 accordingly I packed up  
 at once and arrived in  
 Hamilton four weeks ago  
 today, I was pleasantly  
 surprised however to find  
 him nearly recovered

He is now pretty well but is still encumbered by a crutch and a cane. I cannot become accustomed to see Father thus crippled and I think he at last begins to realize that he is growing old. He runs very happily to have me here and is quite with everything I do thus far, but he is just the same man he has ever been and by this you know just what I mean.

I must now inform you on another subject -

I am engaged to be married to a man in Phillips and may perhaps give up my first Scotch name in the fall.

Mr Brown, for that is his name, had just come down to Portage to visit when

I received the letter from Father and is inclined on accompanying me here, as he feared the long trip and then the care of Father, ~~was~~ if he were very sick, would be too much for me alone. And so before his return we went to Niagara Falls where we spent part of a day very pleasantly and profitably. I shall not here attempt any description, but I will say that I could not help wishing that I could have seen them years ago before man had so utterly spoiled the surroundings. Have you ever visited them? I believe however that I have not finished the subject with which I started out.

mind may be changed and that he may feel differently toward us all.

I would not be unwilling to stay some time with Father but in all probability he may live very many years in this world yet and I could not stay always.

Please write me very soon and tell me if you can arrange your affairs to be with us, with your wife, about the beginning of September.

There is a good deal of satisfaction in playing til for til and so I might perhaps not have told you for a long time yet about my work affairs but was so anxious to have you come that I had to find you time to make your arrangements accordingly.

Father received your letter and seemed pleased to hear from you.  
Much love to yourself and your wife  
Joanna.