



1881-01-26

Letter from S. Hall Young to John Muir, 1881 Jan 26.

S. Hall Young

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I Articles placed in the coffin.

2 pairs flannel drawers @ \$2.00	4.00
1 undershirt	2.00
1 fine "	1.50
1 pair pants	8.00
1 vest	4.00
1 coat	20.00
1 overcoat	30.00
1 pair shoes	5.00
1 " socks	2.00
1 " gloves	1.50
1 " mittens	3.00
3 silk handkerchiefs @ 2.00	6.00
1 white blanket	3.00
1 blue	4.00
1 hunting sack	5.00
1 Chilcat dance blanket. Priced	60.00
Total, ^{val. of} goods in coffin	159.00

II Debts of honor paid to those who presented gifts & performed services for the dead within while the corpse lay in state.

Paid for dissecting & removing

Fort Wrangel, Alaska. Jan. 26. '81.

John Muir,

Dear Friend;

Fort Wrangel is a very indignant town just now & the most indignant part of it is the missionary establishment. The steamer failed to bring any letters for the place. The fault lies (so Ned Hughes says) with the P.M. at Port Townsend who mislaid the mail bag somehow. So we are completely in the dark as to the doings of our friends & "enterprises of great faith & moment" in the mission world have to lie by & perhaps fail because of the carelessness of

some pretty government official.
 I suppose a letter from you
 is among the number. I wished
 to hear whether the box of In-
 dian relics I sent two months
 ago has reached you. I am afraid
 it is lost for I gave it into
 Hughes' hands with instructions
 to express it to you, prepaying
 charges, & give the bill to me.
 He presented no bill & when I
 asked him about it could tell
 nothing.

I have had a severe time
 with lums back from a fall
 I received nearly six weeks ago on
 the ice was confined to bed for
 a while & have to use a cane
 still & takes it slow. No perma-
 nent injury. There is much
 drinking & fighting among
 the Indians here now more
 than ever before since I came to

the country. They openly buy &
 make all the vile liquor they
 want. I have much trouble to
 keep my church adherents straight.
 Old Lott Green is the staunchest-
 man I have. He wants you to
 know that by the death of his
 Uncle, Chief Shustake the chieftain-
 cy properly descends to him & he
 is very busy now "making
 ready" the affairs of the deceased.
 He has sent below for a \$100.00
 stone & has had a fence made
 for another hundred. The obse-
 quies will cost in all about
 \$350.00. But he will more
 than make good these expenditures
 out of Shustake's estate. As you
 like curious Indian items I'll
 give you a list of the expenditure
 to satisfy the honor & minister
 to the comfort of the dead chief
 by his brothers - not by Lott

note C

Tellie Abraham
Blackie Graham
from 2nd of Aug

00973

C53

5:

the diseased portion of lungs
& cleaning the part - - - - 90.00
Paid woman for helping - - - 17.00
" for 1 cord wood for use of
" watchers - - - - 10.00
" 37 cts worth of oil - - - - 3.00
" 2 candles presented - - - 1.00
" watchers @ 3.00 per night per man 27.00
" ^{other} presents of little value presented
by disconsolate friends to show
their affection to the deceased.
with certainty of being remunerated
ten fold - - - - - 80.00
Value of feasts given immediately
after the decease - - - - - 150.00

All this & more was given
away "cultus" from motives of
pride by Shustak's brothers.
And then they begged me to
give them a coffin & other goods
because "they were too poor
to buy one." Lot. had nothing
to do with this part of the

ceremonies but only insisted upon having order & no whiskey at the feasts.

I had sent to Sitka for a brass cannon for old Shushtak who ~~said~~ he would die happy if he could see it belonging to him. The gun came but was carried past to Portland. The old man was terribly stricken by this blow but rallied & I believe for about two weeks hung on to life tenaciously just to see that cannon before he should die & at last when Nature lost her patience the old heathen just before he died uttered his last & I suppose his first prayer as follows: "O Chief Above, if there be such a being up yonder, have pity upon me & let me live to see my big brass gun." The father of this incident

appears from the fact that Shushtak had been for a year a regular attendant upon church & had been privately admonished besides.

I will not give you Chilcot this time for the boat is in sight.

Baby is a marvel of good temper & good health. Lucie is getting "whiter" every day. Mrs. V. is well & joins in best wishes.

Yours

L. Hall Young.