



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1881-01-01

## Letter from Mary [Muir Hand] to [John Muir], [1881].

Mary Muir Hand

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her to the depot. It was about one and a half hours from the time she left Joanne until the freight train left him, and by the same length of time - no longer - after the train started her from us - the little baby died. It cried very hard for a while but we saw nothing alarming until a few minutes before it died. Really I was somewhat alarmed as soon as I saw it, but J. said it had had several such crying times and soon quieted. I thought she knew best and as I had seen nothing of the baby excepting when it was quiet or sleeping. She held it in her own arms the last half hour - and saw -

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Allean and  
a true photograph  
or I may not  
get a true  
portrait -

Baby sends  
kisses to his  
little Conin

1881.

Phillips, Wis.

Dear Brother Elister,

Before me is a letter that I wrote to you Nov. 13th. I had scarcely finished it and was interrupted - since that time many things have occupied my time in such a way that writing has almost seemed out of the question except of Topsy, but most hearty congratulations on your happy meeting. We were overjoyed to know of the safe return of the "Conin". I had feared that the coming winter days would

seem long and weary to  
 you, had you seen and  
 heard nothing of each other  
 - How kindly the Good God  
 mingles light with shade,  
 sunshine with showers that  
 come to us - Often and  
 anxiously I had thought  
 of the precious brother far  
 away from us all on so  
 perilous an expedition,  
 and invariably a comfort  
 came to me in the thought  
 that the same kind and  
 tender care ever over and  
 about you in all of your  
 mountain expeditions, would  
 still protect and prosper  
 you - How glad I  
 would be to see you in  
 your home, and glad to

see you in our home  
 We shall hope to be so  
 blessed some day.

How is your darling  
 baby? Give her kisses  
 from her auntie's hands

My boy is 17-month  
 old, as rosy cheeked - merry  
 and happy a little one  
 as is ever found. We think  
 and up to all sorts of  
 pleasing pranks -

How dear Joanna  
 suffered most keenly in  
 the loss of her little one  
 Sister Sarah washed and  
 dressed the wee darling  
 that morning and left it  
 and Joanna looking unusu-  
 -ly well and cosy, she came  
 to our house and went from

[5]

As soon  
as I finish  
writing I  
will name  
wrote on a  
Crayon picture  
of a little  
boy - The  
boy is pretty  
and coarse.  
I want to  
be pretty  
too.

Please send  
me a photo. of  
any one you  
would like to  
have enlarged  
and I will do  
it gladly and with compliments

nothing to alarm until the  
last - The shock was so  
sudden and unexpected that  
the poor girl could not  
believe the dreadful truth.  
Oh my heart ached for her.

The Dr. thought the dis-  
ease might be spasmodic  
croup - but it had no  
cold noticeable - All is  
uncertain to us. Perhaps  
I am telling you no news  
as Annie or some other  
one may have told all  
this and much more -

Two or three weeks  
ago Joanna was taken  
quite ill - but is now



recovering quite rapidly  
 She is again able to be  
 about the house and out  
 of doors some. She has  
 a good working girl and  
 so has no anxiety in  
 that direction - Father  
 has a comfortable hour  
 with her - He is quite  
 feeble but seems well  
 and happy -

Willis is not at home  
 today but I know sends  
 love - Maybe this

will reach you a little  
 before Christmas, still  
 I will send you most  
 hearty compliments of  
the season, I shall be  
 delighted to hear from you  
 both, Affectionately  
 Sister Mary.

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