



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 stage 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 -

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

Baby sends  
kisses to his  
little Comin

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.

Accept of cordy, but most heartly congratulations on your happy meeting. We were overjoyed to know of the safe return of the "Comin".

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 have 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 hand.

My boy is 17-months 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 married and dressed the new darling that morning and left it and Joanna looking unusually well and cozy, she came to our house and went from

(5)  
As soon  
as I finish  
writing I  
will send  
word on a  
cragon picture  
of a little  
boy - The  
boy is pretty  
and comely  
greatly the  
gentle - has  
a sweet air - has  
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 home 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 later. Affectionately

Sister Mary.

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