



1882-01-03

Letter from John Muir to Sister Mary [Hand], 1882 Jan 3.

John Muir

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Martinez, California,
January 3, 1882.

Dear Sister Mary,

I was very glad indeed
to get your letter giving
the particulars concerning
poor Joanna & her vanished
baby. I have been very
anxious about her &
was greatly relieved by
the news you send as to
her recovery. The loss of
her little darling firstborn
& Sarah's terrible loss are
8, the saddest of all our

family experiences. May
the new year bring us
Heavens best blessings
to brighten our widely
scattered homes & turn
our grief to joy.

What about this new
home that Mr Brown is
said to be seeking some-
where in Arkansas?

I am not able thus
far to get any particulars
& somehow even to me
as a wanderer Arkansas
seems somewhat outlandish

although since the war some new & better
 society centers are being formed.
 I can fancy how big a place & how bright
 a radiance your little boy fills & sheds
 on your home in the woods. Children
 of his age whatever their parentage may
 be have always fascinated me, & when
 they are begotten of good parents they
 are just so much the better. Our own
 little big girl makes the home, & the
 garden, & the vineyard, & orchard, & the hills,
 & the whole landscape near & far
 shine for us. & when among the
 Eskimos & the Tchuckis about the
 icy polar shores of Siberia & Alaska
 this summer the little moony faces
 of the babies in their fur bags had
 a new interest for me, as you
 may now readily understand.
 Some of these new years, some of the
 80's will surely bring us your babies
 together. So I pray & hope, in the mean-
 =time wish you all the happiness that an
 affectionate brother can. John Muir.

Here is one of my photographs from the same place.