



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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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.