



1882-12-19

Letter from Mary [Muir Hand] to Maggie [Margaret Muir Reid], & Sarah [Muir Galloway], 1882 Dec 19.

Mary Muir Hand

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and awkward and unsatisfactory in the art - Nature is always so superior to art - that pictures are usually the most satisfactory the more we forget the real beauty in Nature or are ignorant of it -

I hope to make a winter picture in oils - before the snows go away - and I have one or two other little oil pieces in my mind but whether I can accomplish all I plan in that direction time alone can disclose

Your telling of fruits and flowers and green leaves and grasses at this season but shows us all so plainly how very far distant we are

01090

Phillips Wis.
Dec. 19 / 82.

My dear good sisters,

Maggie & Sarah,

Your nice long letters were a very comfort to me - I am overjoyed at the thought of your being where you are - it must be so pleasant for you all - And to think of the possibility of our having John and Louie with us next year sometime is just delightful - May nothing hinder their coming - Is a most earnest wish

Yes I will write to John very soon - I have written very few letters - for a long

time - but will try to do better as I am feeling better and have a girl doing my housework - who does very well - so I have more time to myself and do not get so tired -

I hope to do something in picturing very soon. I shall finish Joann's little picture first - and then make a picture of Wheeler.

The photographs we had taken of Wheeler are not just satisfactory but we have ordered some more to be printed a little lighter than we think will be much better - When they come there will be one for you and for the others too -

I hope Wanda's picture

may be taken and be satisfactory - and we will wish for one - I was pleased with your description of Louie for although it may not give a very vivid or true idea we had not even the first inkling of how she looks or seems -

Their home must be delightfully romantic from what you write - And we shall hope to see it some time - perhaps not in the very far future - as Willis often expresses his wish to visit California - And oh if I could only do justice to picturing some of the mountain views you tell about - I am afraid I ought find myself young

11

settle in Boston or New York
or New Jersey or some far
Eastern City - and then we
would be "scattered to the four
winds" - surely enough.
Shall we never meet - at a given
point - ?

This will
reach you about Christmas -
and I warmly wish you
the compliments of the season.

Wishing to hear from
you both again - Enc. Long
I remain as ever,

Lovingly Yours,
Lester May

Many thanks for the little
sprays you sent to me.

from each other - for you
know what sort of times
Christmas brings the far
North - John might
laugh at calling this far
North. He has been so much
farther North - but it is
far North to us - and
shows us no blossoms
but a few little frozen
buds and blossoms that
one frosty breath from
the open door might
destroy almost immediately.

My plants are looking
very nicely although some
of the more tender ones
have been touched with
frost. We are having
a very pleasant winter -

The snow is about a foot deep It is not very cold but is comfortable and healthful - We have had but one very cold snap and then the thermometer went as low as 34° or 36° I do not remember which —

Yes we were all pleased to hear the news from Arkansas and pleased to know that the little one is so strong and well. A letter from J. a few days ago informs us that she has been afflicted with jaundice and so has not gained strength as rapidly as she otherwise would have done - Walter is selling

out his business and intends removing to Kansas City - where he will go into Real Estate business

They were boarding at Little Rock when she wrote as they could not conveniently get help at the Springs.

Father will remain with them during the cold weather at least - she says

I suppose your Christmas will be spent where you now are. Oh that we could be all together once more - Do you suppose that will ever be? We seem to be getting more and more scattered - instead of anything else. If Annie should be married she might