



[John Muir Correspondence \(PDFs\)](#)

1861-10-04

**Letter from Margaret Muir Reid to John Muir and David Muir, 1861
Oct 4**

Margaret Muir Reid

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Dear Brothers John and David, Hickory Hill

I am going to fill up Joannas paper if I can but am hardly able to write. I was not able to do my work so I thought I would spend a few weeks in visiting and let John batch it. I spent about a week at Sarahs and have been almost a week here but I am going home Sunday with Gilnord French to do my work John finding at took too much of his time to boil his potatoes and fry his pork. my nerves are miserable and I have such hard nights I am good for nothing day times. you tell me the clouds will pass away some time although its long I will live in hope and if it does not I hope I may have supporting ^{grace} while here and be fitted to meet you in that blessed home where sickness never enters. boys pray for me I think I have said too much about my troubles but boys you know my feelings I will try and write you something else tomorrow. Oct 5 Mary and Anna birth day fifteen to day about the age I was when I came to America. what changes since

Dear John.

We received your little short letter and was glad to hear that you have got ^{the} ~~the~~ money. We rolled your key and your combs up in a news paper and you have not said whether you have got them or not. They are not going to have any schooling in the new new school house this winter but I expect they are going to have schooling in summer ~~and~~ and they dont expect to have any in ~~the~~ Graham's school house. ~~at least~~

~~to go to school at home~~
So was talking of sending us to meman school house if they will let us in and I think it will be a pretty cold walk ~~up~~ up the hill ~~but~~ we had to stay at home a good deal last winter for ^{the} road was drifted up so and I should think it would be a good deal ~~so~~ worse when ~~there~~ ^{are} no rods. Have you got the same room you had last time. I suppose you wont be so lonesome this time as David is with you.

from your sister
Joanna Marie
Adair

at least this is the prayer of your sister
Margt

Don't find the ball of the pendulum of your hygrometer among the corn

them, my 2nd birth day occurred last Monday and I was here (since predicted) to get current cases if you had been here today you would have tasted current scenes once more would that that been good. Dav. Andrew says Dav. thinks he has got into a grand place and I guess wishes he was beside you but times are hard and to add ^{to} it they have had another house died. But the worst news I have to tell you is about Mr. King he has been reading some bad I suppose sceptical books and now doesn't believe the Bible to be the word of God and has given up all profession of religion and works ^{on} Sundays and his poor wife though pained to hear him read them at first is now staggered and wavering and says she is quite undecided and does not know what to believe this

I heard from her own lips and David and all of us tried to persuade her to examine and to convince her what an awful thing it was and if she did not now she would when perhaps too late find out her awful mistake. Let's pray for them boys and John will you not write him a letter either with or without your name and try to convince ^{him} of his error. There is not meetings here now but fathers and the Elders ~~will~~ Jones not being able to preach now and it is doubted if he ever will again and Mr. Leathrop is also about to leave Montello. I was glad of your letter John but has David forgot me. Write to me soon David and tell me all your news you seemed to have had a pleasant visit at Watsons but you did not say anything about your aunt ~~the~~ good boys and may God bless and keep you from temptation and sin and gather us an unbroken family to His right hand

~~Dear David~~
Dear David

this is the first time I ever began
to write to you and I have a good deal of
questions to ask you so you must not weary.
have you got a key for your watch, does it run
well. how do you like to go to the university
and how do like to go up to the black board. tomorrow
is mary and Anna's birth day, and then they will be
fifteen years of age. Mary and Anna was over at
Sarah's helping her to make comforters and little
George could all most walk and perhaps altogether
by this time and Anna still thinks a good lot
of her little pigs and visits them every day.
do you keep your stack smooth I suppose you
know what stack I mean Anna sends her love
to you and John and she wants you both of
you to write soon. Adieu write soon
from your sister

Joanna Macie