



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1861-10-01

**Letter from John Muir to David Galloway and Sarah Muir Galloway,  
1861 Fall**

John Muir

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copy my change note book [1] [Fall, 1861]

Dear David and Sarah I hope you and the little ones are well and happy David and John are so and perhaps even contented too

We walked from Postage to Watsons I was tired but not so tired as I feared I'd be. Watsons were well, we arrived about dark they were surprised and happy to see us and gave us a warm welcome after they bent too so was; for though some of them kind o knew Dave ~~but~~ none seemed able to claim acquaintance with me

Nxt day we walked to Madison we could see the university and fourth lake quite distinctly when we were only about half way to it Dave stood the walk well but not so very much better than myself for though tired I was not faint "Sweet the pleasure of the fair Q how pleasantly and contented by our feet lay on the prairie when they got the chance.

There was no more uneasy nervousness in them than in a fence post I need not tell you how happy I was to see our lake and school for I was thoroughly rested in the harvestfield I went - trip skip and jump up and down the stairs two or three steps at once looking for last terms acquaintances my knee and hip joints seemed to have been oiled in a moment and I quite forgot my tiredness but that joyful thrill is of course by and we now quietly pull at our lifelines

I often coad Dave to grow nervous about the lake's beauty but have not yet succeeded but he has no fault to find, he is sorely disappointed as to the case and leisure he promised himself here. He often looks pretty tired and perplexed about his books and misses very much that cream and sweet-milk but of all his misses the first mentioned seems the most serious miss (66). But this Miss talk makes me remember Miss Munnell Mrs Pelton tells me she is about to be married. I hope the dear girl's happiness shall be much increased thereby. The lucky man's name is Goodrich he is said to be both good and rich as his name implies - was a minister once and lives at Dubuque. We have been busy for a while getting our things put right and in moving order. We have got a nice alcohol cooking apparatus and a plate and a jug. If David will please pay me another visit we shall endeavor to entertain him in a more civilized and becoming manner than I did before. I suppose you know by the papers how wretched things are here. The seventh Regiment is preparing to leave, their appearance is very improving but how can all the great and showy coarsings of war hide its real hideousness. I was greatly surprised one evening to find Byron Hewitt one of Mrs Pelton's nephews who used to help me with the chow at Anou Chien with soldier's clothes on.