



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1863-03-02

Letter from David M. Galloway to John Muir, 1863 Mar 2

David M. Galloway

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if we could have made it out ^[43], I suppose you will have heard by this time of Maggie's little Jessie she is a fine stout baby, I had a note from Maggie lately she feels somewhat better and not quite so nervous as she has been for some time back, her girl of sixty left her in a few weeks taking with her two X rolls of Maggie's butter and telling some one she had given her one for her Christmas & the other for her New year's and that she could work as well as her so much for her.

Father has bought a house and lot just outside of Portage he is building a stable and means to build a cistern and make things comfortable. I suppose Anna says I must tell you that George has got the whooping cough and that she will soon get it.

You know James Whithead enlisted last fall his regiment went to Kentucky he was there only a short time when he was taken sick he lay in the hospital a long time hardly able to tell his wants.

You know how much there must be in such a place to make any one sick at heart even though he be in health, he graduated of it got his discharge and started for home although they told him it was no use as he would certainly die on the road he said he did not want to be buried there anyway he started about noon on the cars rode all that day and night all the next and arrived at Portage the next night he was taken to the house of an acquaintance where he has been three or four weeks he got home on Friday & Home to

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Fountain Lake 2nd March 1863

Dear Brother John

We received your long looked for letter about a month ago, also the Catalogue some time previous; unfolding your last John the first words that met my eye were "I am at home, contented and happy" well after all come to analyze my own mind this evening "I am at home, contented & happy" we have had quite a snowy day, and if you could have peep'd in this afternoon you would have seen us, (all four) busy discussing a tin panful of Pop Corn, an hour or so later you might have heard us from the upper gate as if "Bedlam" were loose, and if you had not been scared to come near the house you might have seen me with one on each knee shaking down the pop, and singing and laughing like all possessed; John I have a good many such days this winter. moreover, what do you think? Sarah is learning to "trip it on the light fantastic toe", it would make you laugh John to see me with the poker for a bow, and left arm for a fiddle imitating

^{c 23}
all the motions &c. &c. Sarah is scolding me for
telling you but you know John it is only when her
feet is cold &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

Did you get the advertisement of that nice little
Farm in the Town of Buffalo, well I have the
Bills pretty well scattered over Marquette Dodge
and Columbia Counties, but I am afraid it will
do no good as regards me selling, and yet there is
a good demand now for real estate on account
of the uncertainty of the currency. Capitalists
are investing largely in good land and those
who sell out are ready with the money to buy a
gain, I came across a number wanting to buy
when I was out with my Bills, who said it was
all very good on paper, but that I could not
give a warranty deed. for the first wind would
take the half of it over the line fence to my neigh-
-bour, very well I said that was a great advantage
for I got the half of my opposite neighbours, and
we had always new land, it was as good as the
approved system of rotation of crops. But joking
aside I am making my arrangements for another
crop at least and am very glad in the prospect
of having you to help me in harvest. I need not
now make any further arrangement, because I am

^{c 31}
willing to give you as much as is going; I shall
not have much corn this year, but if I have not
sold before I intend to break a few acres and you
^{you might} get a little job at grubbing. but if not we will
expect you to come here and "rusticate" the inter-
-vening time till harvest, my winter wheat looks
well yet and I expect now that it will live.
I would like to come down to Roquette this summer
as your Father took my Bills in that neighbourhood
having business there anyway. it is a long time a-
-head yet but I think we can arrange to meet
there; Sarah will need all this room so I close by
wishing you good health and happiness, and may
you be so guided that when you are done with all your
walks, and studies here, you may receive an abun-
-dant entrance into that everlasting dwelling place
where there is no more care and anxiety is the heart-felt
wish of your fellow pilgrim David M. Galloway

Dear John you know I said as sure as if
we might be down to Madison this winter
but shortly after New Year the little ones were
both taken sick with diphtheria it was a busy
time before they looked anything like themselves
again. indeed if they had been well I doubt much