



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1869-01-13

**Letter from [John Muir] to John and [Margaret Muir Reid], 1869
Jan 13.**

John Muir

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[1869]

New Year's night Two miles
north of Lovellmyst

Dear George

I have never forgotten your little dog Jack.
I have two dogs, I call one
of them Fannie & the other Compie
because he is my companion.

I am living all alone now
away out in the wide Joaquin
plains in a little board shanty.
It is not a pretty shanty, it
looks worse than a Hotentots
hut -

I am a shepherd now, I
wish you were with me to help
me to take care of the sheep -
I have 1800 to watch, & sometimes
they run & scatter over bank &
brae, far & wide, & it is all that
I & my two dogs, can do to make
them behave -

From your uncle John I will be glad to see you when I come home

If you were with me we would have fine times together at the fire side at night, for we would be by ourselves.

It is raining tonight. It never snows here, a good many boys in California never saw snow except what is far away on the mountains.

The grass is growing nicely, it began to sprout about a month ago & the ground is green.

Crickets & Grasshoppers can live all the year where I am, but they cannot jump quite so far in winter.

The plains where I feed my sheep are all dappled in purple & brown & yellow.

There are lots of grizzly bears in the mountains. Once one came to my camp last spring & frightened me, Larks sing most every morning in California. Every year I wish you Goodnight & a very happy