



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1888-01-19

Letter from Maggie [Margaret Muir Reid] to John Muir, 1888 Jan 19.

Margaret Muir Reid

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Recommended Citation

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John has an interest in the land
 this land & its prospective
 rise in value is all we have
 to look to to help us out of
 this terrible state of affairs
 what helped to make things
 so bad now was the loss of
 their crops by drouth & chinks bugs
 these two years. & having to buy feed for
 the horses. & last summer the buffalo
 grass was dried up, & in the fall the
 late rains have made it worthless for this
 winter & feed is so awful high there
 it is not quite so high here & John
 has shipped a car of feed down
 from Crete & the loss by Jim sign-
 ing those notes, then the Bankers
 lost confidence in Jim & would
 have nothing to do with him
 so John has gone to Kansas & taken
 Harry with him to help take care
 of the horses all winter hoping they
 will be some better in the spring.

John is five miles from the
 post-office so we can not exchange
 letters very quickly. I had a letter from
 him last night. he said he had written
 to Walter to find out exactly what had
 done about the land. He said the
 weather had been unusually cold in

Crete, Neb, Janth 9, 1888.

Dear Bro John

We received your
 letter of Dec 26. on the last day of
 the year & I can never tell you
 how grateful I am to you for
 your kindness. I do not wonder
 that you are surprised at not
 hearing from us. - as soon as
 I read your letter I wanted to
 sit down & write to you but Phil
 said I had better wait until
 we heard from Dan. (John wrote
 to him that same evening & sent
 it off which was Saturday) but no
 answer & in the middle of the next week
 he wrote again & also telling him he
 had to go to Kansas in a day or two
 but still no answer so Phil had to
 go according to arrangement on Thursday

Kansas & that they have had
 some awful blizzards. we have
 had some awful weather here
 too. last Sunday morning the
 thermometer stood at 32° below
 zero, but it was a still morning &
 it did not seem so cold as it was
 the two days before when it was
 20° & 22° below with a high wind
 how good it is to think of the
 nice weather you are enjoying in
 Cal - I was sorry to hear that
 Mrs Strutzel is sick I hope she
 will soon be about again remem-
 ber me to them & to all the rest
 with love, what a mine of
 comfort & pleasure your two girls
 must be to you all. I wish I could
 see them. how good it is
 that sister Annie is so well
 now I hope she will soon be

telling me to forward Dan's answer but the day after John left I was so anxious I could not help writing to Dan & begging him to say something one way or the other telling him how the land was unsafe, & how we had written to you.

He then very quietly answered that money had been scarce all fall, on till now. That he had some notes he was trying to sell but that the prospect was not very good but when he got the money he would send it.

Walter Brown had in the mean time written for the deeds of the ranch telling us he had seen the Agent & fixed it up. He did not explain or say anything about money but that he would keep the papers safely in his vault till they were signed & John not being able to turn himself in any

way did not send them without asking any questions.

John & Foster have dissolved partnership & I am thankful for that. What John Foster & John Reid put into their business (Jim never had anything) is all gone & John Foster has been trying to do business in Wis these years since we left & has greatly run behind them. The yards in Cret & the horses on the ranch in Kansas is all the property belonging to the firm & it is mortgaged for more than it is worth at present. Jim has got the yards & John the horses. I got the improvements on the ranch John releases them from all indebtedness to Sarah, as they have her money too. John has all the land in Sarah's name & sent them ^{the deeds} all to her when ~~she~~ she had so much trouble last spring through Jim & signing the name of the firm to notes to ~~obtain~~ accommodate others & all without John's knowledge (but perhaps I told you about it). Foster does not know that

perfectly well. we are all about in our usual health our family seems small without John & Harry.

I feel ashamed of the long miserable story I have written you but your kindly interest has encouraged me. I can never express to you how I appreciate your kindness. Thank you a thousand times.

I thank Wanda & you for the beautiful cards & kind wishes. I now with much love to Louie & yourself & all the rest I am

Affectionately
Magge

John's address is
Casper
Kansas
Fargo Co.