



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1889-07-16

Letter from J[eanne] C. C[arr] to John Muir, [1889] Jul 16.

Jeanne C. Carr

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Snow-shoes, rattled down the western
slope until they reached the zone of
iceless land on the west coast, on
the 26, reaching the fjord called
Ameralite. Then they made a boat
of their canvas tent, in which two
of the party reached the Danish set-
tlement Godthaab, arriving on Oct 3
and immediately sending a relief
party in boats, for those left behind.

+ + +

The expedition Dr St. Aelias has proved
the whole interior of Greenland to be covered
by an immense shield-shaped cap of ice
and snow which in places must be 5000
6000 feet in thickness. A great point
of interest was the comparatively low
temperature of the interior. Dr St thought
the best way of solving the problems of
the great ice age was to examine the
places where similar conditions now exist
as the expedition had done in Greenland,
which had many characteristics of
Scotland and Scandinavia —

Sent to all in Shintyt-Mini families, + to the
Smith family - congratulate D.S. for us.

H.C.

C13

[1889]

July 16,

Dear John —

Around the evening
Camp I was skimming the London
Times ^{of June 28} reading aloud to the family —

Came across this —

"Dr Hansen's journey across
the Greenland inland ice."

"At the Royal Geog Soc on Monday
night, Dr Fridtjof Hansen, the
Greenland explorer, gave a description
of his journey across the inland ice
of Greenland from east to west.
(Many lords of high title, Sir Saml
Baker, + others present)

"Dr Hansen was well met with warm
cheers. A great many fine colored
sketches of Greenland scenes, and

the sledge upon which he made the journey were shown, with a fine map of the country.

Dr Hansen remarked that since the discovery of Greenland 900 years ago its interior had remained a mystery, and successively sketched the explorations Aefen 1869, when Edward Whymper & Dr Robert Brown tried it from the shores of Disco Bay, & failed.

Then came the more fortunate Norden-skjold (1870,) Jensen & others (78) Norden-skjold again in 1883, &c -

All these ex-^s were made from the west coast; Dr Hansen's plan was to start from the east coast, & work through to the west, when the Danish Esquimaux settlements would afford relief after the exhausting journey -

A generous Dane - Mr Augustin Gamel provided the means. Norwegian seamen and Lapp servants, completed the

expedition. They sailed for Iceland which they reached in June 1888, changed to a Norwegian sealing ship July 17th, leaving this in their boats, after 12 days coasting reached the land at Anoritok (61 deg, 30 min. N. L.) on the 29 July -

Then forced their way northwards along the coast until Aug 15, when the drumbeakel & commenced their inland journey, intending to reach the settlement on Disco Bay. For twelve days found hard travelling pulling their sledges; they altered their course to a more westerly direction making for the settlement of Godthaab. Sept 1. found them 9000 feet above the sea level, on an extensive ice plateau, like a frozen sea, cold severe, thermometer falling below the scale nights. Sept 19, a favorable wind sprang up, when the travellers lashed their sledges together, hoisted sails, and holding on to the sledges standing in their Norwegian "skis" or