



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1903-03-04

Letter from Mary [Muir Hand] to [John Muir], 1903 Mar 4.

Mary Muir Hand

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Kearney, Neb.
March 4, 1903.

Dear brother John, -

It was not my intention to be so very long in writing to you. - - - With pencil, I wrote quite a letter for you, when on my ^{way} coming from Chicago - but a letter written in a railway car is not always satisfactory - this was not -

The second evening after reaching home I was taken with the "Gripape" - Its grip was neither very gentle nor kind - - I am not yet well - but hope now to gain faster

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My eyes are still very sensitive -
 most of the time the eyeball
 aches so - I could not think of
 writing -

A letter came from Joanna a few
 days ago in which she mentions
 two weeks of sickness - and two
 or three of her recent letters
 tell of sick times - so I fear
 she is far from well. -

David's letter telling his thoughts
 also yours and Maggie's - in
 regard to the division of
 dear Annie's property - is
 perhaps right - - - We may
 agree that money in the home
 was Scotch money that never

L.

was divided - and should be -

But I do think and have so
 said to Willis - that Annie's
 own share of the Scotch money
 that she received and has been
 using - and part of which
 she has expressly given to
 Joanna - - we have no right
 to touch - - Annie's "will"
 is not legal, but we should
 respect her will as to this
 part of her property - just
 as much as if the law
 guarded it - - And
 some way I cannot believe that
 as a family we will see this
 in any other light - or will

wish it otherwise -

Before packing or disposing
of any of the household goods
I waited to hear from Sarah
wishing final - to know her wish

Sarah wrote me that she
was so far away and is so
unsettled - and shipping goods
is so expensive - that some
pictures and photographs,
and the nice mirror - was
all she wished to mention.

I sent the pictures
also some other things - to her
- putting them in a trunk -

A friend of hers, then in
Portage would start - for

Scapoose in a few weeks -
the trunk could go to Sarah
without - expense to her -

Dan, had spoken for the nice
mirror also for Mother's big
easy chair - Both of these Dan
had given to Mother many
years ago - and I knew it
was right - he should have
them - and Sarah would
not object -

Joanna mentioned what
to send her - and after
seeing Annie's "Will" made
little change - and expressed
herself as very glad
that Dan and Sarah had

mentioned what they wanted

She named some things for me to take - - the organ a chair - the wheel - ("if still of value" - she said) - I brought also two little stands and a trunk with a lot of trifles and some nice things too. Not knowing what to do with them.

I will wait till I hear from those who may want them

— - I sold some pieces - amounting to \$ 3.¹⁵

Gave away some things no one could sell - and left some to be given away.

The stove remains where it was - Miss Green, who rents may buy it if she can dispose of one she owns. - I could not sell it.

The two little rooms were emptied, or nearly emptied and when stopping to think how cheap and almost valueless everything is that made the rooms seem somewhat cosy - - I say again to myself - that only the fact that they so long belonged to dear Mother and twin sister - and were in a way precious to them and

gave them comfort - makes it seem at all wise to ask for them or care to pay expense in getting them to our homes.

We hardly would consent to sell them for little or nothing and let them all be scattered among strangers.

The Dunbar chest containing some things I did not know what to do with remains in a store-room up stairs - for whoever may ask for it.

Mother's old old wooden rocking-chair - I left in care of Mrs. Owen - Mother

always liked it - and never set it aside -

This may not all be of interest - to you - but if Maggie and David may read this letter they will understand - and I want all to know just what was done. - I cannot see that I have made any mistake for I waited until hearing both from Sarah and Joanna even after they saw a copy of Annie's "will"

-- We are anxious to hear again from David.

and if it is the wish of
the family that - Willis may
see to the legal business
- all right; and if not - he
will promptly send the
papers where they are
wanted -

With love and good
wishes to you and your
family - and hoping to
hear from you soon
I remain,

Lovingly,

Sister Mary.