



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1903-07-21

Letter from Wanda [Muir] to [John Muir], [1903] Jul 21.

Wanda Muir

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[17]

Berkeley  
July 21 '03

Typed

Dear Papa

Helen and I are both down here in Berkeley now, trying to get used to Summer School and wishing we were still in the mountains where we had such a glorious time little while ago. Our trip was a grand success in every way. We went wherever we wanted to, whenever and however we pleased and enjoyed every minute we were up there, yet had no terribly exciting adventures did not get lost, frozen or even very tired in spite of the fact that there was no "head" or "guide" to our

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farty, but all came back feeling well and strong and happy and wishing we could have stayed there longer. We went first to Crockers, stayed a few days in the fine  
or fine woods there and then went to Hetch Hetchy where we stayed ten days. We were the first people in there this season so we had the whole beautiful valley to ourselves while it was just at its best. There was one delightful snow storm while we were there and two fine roaring thunder storms

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but the rest of the time the weather was warm and springlike. There was a great deal of water in the falls and the lower part of the valley was still overflowed but where we camped

some California Oaks it was quite dry and there were hundreds of lovely little flowers around us everywhere. Many of them I had never seen before. We also went up into the Mill Valley, a very little way into the Tuolumne Canyon and over into Poopenant Valley. The packer that we had expected to have go

with us into Hetch Hetchy, backed out at the last minute but we got along alright for Robert-Anderson and Jason became quite expert packers and we were rather glad not to be bothered by having

anger around camp. Two of the pack horses bolted on the way into Hetch Hetchy and we had an extremely lively seven mile chase after them but finally caught them in an old sheep corral and after that we had no further trouble with them. They were all good strong horses and though we did our own packing and

rode them over logs and rough trails they were all in better condition at the end of the trip than when we got them.

The cooking was mostly fun for the party was not enough to make it much work and every one helped. We all got so we could make very good bread (your way) and once we made a fine cake in the frying pan out of flour, water, sugar, raisins and pine nuts.

After Hetch Hetchy five of us made a hurried trip to the Yolumne meadows

which I think Helen told you about in one of her letters. It was very cold, snowy and shushy up there and we didn't have much to eat but every thing looked so wonderful all

and we had such glorious old camp fires in the marvelous clear, frosty nights that I enjoyed that part the most of the whole trip. After we came back from the meadows we stayed three days at Crocker's and then went to Yosemite where we stayed for ten days. There was a

tremendous crowd of people in the valley but we had a fine camp under the Royal Arches and I was very glad to be in the valley long enough to see more of <sup>it</sup> and I did when I was there before. We went over nearly all the trails and also took some grand one and two day trips where there were no trails. We did not go very far around the rim of the Valley because the rest of the trip took rather longer than we expected it would and the rest of the party wanted to spend

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most of the time there was left in the valley and on the trails but we went around the top from Nevada Falls to Glacier Point and camped one night near the top of Eagle Peak and <sup>in</sup> the sun set and sun rise. Perhaps some other time I will have a chance to go all the way around the rim. The Santa Fe people treated us beautifully both going in and coming out. We had remarkably good teams and comfortable stages and they took us all the way in to Crocker's. I don't like Summer

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School at all. It is hard  
 autonomous work and  
 Berkeley seems dreadfully  
 dull and lonesome with  
 out college and the college  
 people, but it only lasts  
 three weeks longer and

so I can survive  
 till then. Helen is only doing  
 a little work and as every  
 thing is new to her down  
 here she rather enjoys  
 it.

Mama is pretty well  
 most of the time but says  
 it seems awfully lonesome  
 at home when you are  
 so far away and we are  
 down here in Berkeley

so much of the time.  
 Aunt Margaret has  
 been dreadfully sick  
 with the grip but is now  
 much better and able  
 to be up a little while  
 every day. I hope she  
~~soon~~ be as well  
 as usual again. She  
 longs to hear from you  
 often so we always take  
 your letters over for her  
 to read and they are a great  
 comfort to her.

What a fine trip you  
 must be having and how  
 many things you have  
 already seen. I wish  
 I were with you

It is getting very late  
and I have a lot of physics  
and "trig" to study before  
I go to bed so Goodnight

Your loving daughter

Wanda

Kappa Phi Beta House

Shannon Way

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