



1904-07-07

Letter from D. F. Abbott to [John Muir], 1904 Jul 7.

D. F. Abbott

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Oxford, Kan. July 7th '04.

Long missed friend, —

Your letter & contents were surprisingly, joyfully & thankfully read. I accidentally saw in some periodical your wood cut a little larger than the one you sent with leaflets, and placed it in "Hacket on Acts" — so I could see your shadow at least — I've had it about three or 4 yrs. Well, I could write a little volume on the past 40 years, but I will only make a few statements in this missive, thinking it may be the last I may write — & that you may be off again to the earth's end.

When I to write my biography, I would begin by saying "D. J. Abbott was born in Doche, Cayuga Co. N.Y. Aug. 5th 1838 Worked on a farm & attended district school till 19 yrs old — then taught school, short term at \$13⁰⁰/₁₀₀ per mo. & the next winter at \$16⁰⁰/₁₀₀ then coming to Northern Ill. & working on farm — sending part of wages to Father. — here I stop till some time in the future. Give my love to David — Dear boy. He gave me good advice but I never followed it; consequently am not worth a my thing to-day, — but, perhaps — a good name.

Well, here I am, scratching a letter
to one of the great men of our Nation, if
it possible! I saw your name in brief,
in the "Christian Herald Encyclopaedia" last
Spring - But, to hasten:- I spent about 6 years in
Wis. teaching winters as you know - then 6 yrs.
in central Ill. 32 years ago the 8th of next
August I was married in the Ladies'
College at the Wisconsin University to a Miss
Hayes of Central N. Y. Her cousin, Mrs.
Hiram Johnson was Matron there at that
time, and arranged our wedding.
(Mr. Sabin, my brother in law, taught one
of the Ward schools in Madison not far from
the time you left perhaps) She ^{Mrs. S.} moved here
from Parabo, ^{Wis.} where he taught much later,
& he went to N. Dakota at some time - both
made change for health's sake. - My brother
Leth died (I could say much about him) ten
years ago this (20th?) of Aug. & was buried
here. - My Sister died nine years ago
this coming Sept. & was buried here. I
have two daughters who are now play
a duet on piano. - One 24, the other 20
this coming Fall. Will speak of them per-
haps if I write ever again.

My Regards, respects & love to yourself & yours
Your friend: D. J. Abbott, Oxford, N. Y.