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1906-04-18

Letter from [Annie] Wanda [Muir] to [John Muir], 1906 Apr 18.

Annie Wanda Muir

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Mays, April 18 '06

Dear Papa

At five o'clock this morning the worst earthquake ever known here, struck Alhambra valley and left the houses in it a wreck. Every one of our five chimneys (our own at the big house) are down, the roof is torn up, all the mantels except the parlour one, are entirely smashed and a great deal of the plastering is down. Nothing else is much hurt. Your books and papers are alright and so are our pictures. But - I never saw such a smash in my life. The whole house has to be rebuilt. What shall I do? Hadn't I better get back to Arizona as soon as possible and let you come up and see what has to be done?

Mays new house has all the plastering off - down stairs and both chimneys are down and one side of the porch. Aunt Margaret's house is moved eight inches off the foundation and the chimney is down

but there is not-much damage inside and she is alright but I don't know where she will go while it is being fixed for they can't have a fire in there now.

The only house in the valley that is not hurt is the adobe. Didn't hurt it at all except a little plaster in front. Most all of Martinez is in ruins. There are rumors of awful things in San Francisco but as all the telegraph wires are down and there are no trains running I don't know how true they are.

I don't know when this letter will go but I'll write it so you will know as soon as possible that ~~that~~ we are all well and so you can come up if you think it best. I wish you could come while I'm here if it is possible for you to leave Helen long enough. Unless you tell me something to the contrary I will start back to Adama as soon as my teeth will let me, probably a week from today. I've been going to the dentist for the last three weeks and am not through yet though I hope I will

be soon.

Tell Helen that her guitar and the rest of
her belongings are safe and unharmed.
I'll write again when I find out how
things really are and when I
get calmed down a little.

Lovingly
Wanda

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