



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1906-08-12

Letter from W[illia]m Newton to John Muir, 1906 Aug 12.

William Newton

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# Haskins Brothers & Company, SOAP MAKERS.

FACTORIES AT  
OMAHA AND SIOUX CITY.

OMAHA, NEB., August-12, 1906.

My dear Mr. Muir:

Your letter of July 13<sup>th</sup> received. I was very much pleased to learn that you are the John Muir that I faintly remember as a little boy and whom I remember of often hearing my mother speak of. My dear mother died in Prairie du Chien in 1871 and my father in 1881. In 1889 my two brothers, both born after you left "the Prairie", and myself, moved to Sioux City, and bought an interest in the above firm and in 1898 after my marriage to a Miss Brooks of Sioux City I moved to Omaha where we have established a branch factory. Our business has been very successful.

I got your address from the list of members and addresses of the National Geographic Society, of which Society I have been a member for ~~for~~ years. I have your picture in the May 1901 number and after looking it up the other day I remarked to my wife, "there is a picture up stairs among mother's old daguerrotypes of a man with rather long black hair and full beard that I think is of John Muir;" on finding it I feel sure it is yours and if you would particularly care for it, I will send it to you. I also found an old undated letter from you to my mother written shortly after baby Elmer's death, probably in 1863 or 4.

My wife and I have spent three winters in Mexico, but I have not been to California since twenty years ago; but we often talk of going and when we do, we will surely stop and see you and should you come to Omaha at any time, we want you to make our house your home while here and we will take pleasure in making your stay a pleasant one, and will tell you the news of Prairie

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OMAHA, NEB.,

de Chien for the past forty years. We go back there every year or so but it don't seem like home any more, it has changed considerably and there are very few left that you would remember. Mr. Jas. D. Humphrey, formerly of Prairie du Chien but now living in St. Paul, Minn., is a stock holder in our Company; his wife is still living and his two daughters are traveling in Europe this summer. Mr. Lawrence Case is still in business in Prairie du Chien, and is hale and hearty; his hair and beard are white as snow. B. F. Fay, an old settler, is still living; he is 86 years old; and last year I saw Mr. Sumner Styles (you may remember him) in Chicago; he is about the same age, he knew me and called me by name although he had not seen me for thirty years. I send you under separate cover my photograph taken two years ago, and I will be glad to receive yours in return. Hoping that I may have the pleasure of meeting you some day, and with kind regards, I remain,

Very Sincerely,  
Wm. Newton.

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