



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1907-06-20

## Letter from Charlotte Hoffman to John Muir, 1907 Jun 20.

Charlotte Hoffman

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been very happy to stay a  
few days; but I felt that  
I ought not to be away even  
for the night, and left  
on an early train Monday  
morning.

Miss Sunam brought a  
tray with delicious tea and  
toast and an egg to my  
room before I was up, and  
after I had dressed I  
was taken to say good-bye  
to Miss Sunam, who was  
sitting up with her best  
Capt. on, and ready with  
further messages of love  
to you and Helen and

<sup>C13</sup> 20 June 1907  
Perthampt address, of Mrs. Gillespie Co.  
GILLESPIES 11 Rue Scribe  
SKIDDAW HOTEL Paris.  
KESWICK.

My dear Mr. Anis:

The pleasant memory of  
carry away from Scotland is  
that of the visit to your  
birthplace, which proved its  
right to the title "Stormy  
Winter" the minute I stepped  
off the train.

I blew about for some time  
before I found the pleasant  
Westfield villa, and those  
cordial, kindly ladies, your  
cousins. They welcomed me

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most warmly, <sup>[2]</sup> although I  
arrived after nine of a Sunday  
evening. <sup>sent</sup> Jessie out  
later when she left my  
bag, to bring it after me,  
and insisted on my staying  
the night with them, and  
longer, if I would. Miss Maggie  
laughingly said, "It is a way  
you Californians have, this  
appearing without warning,  
and leaving your bags  
at strange hotels! That's  
just what John did!"  
And the mother laughed  
with her.

<sup>[3]</sup> They asked me a thousand  
questions about you, and  
particularly about Helen's  
health and Wanda's  
husband — and I was happy  
to be able to give them good  
word. Mrs. Susan says  
how expects you and Helen  
this year. She says she  
must see you again, and  
urged me repeatedly to  
influence you to <sup>come</sup> if I  
could.

If that was had Edna,  
my charge, waiting for me  
in Edinburgh, I should have

And Wanda, and again <sup>[5]</sup> with the plea that  
you should come again. <sup>[24] June 1922</sup>  
She is wonderful, is she not? So keen, and  
cheery, and alive, in mind at least.  
Miss Maggie told me she does not get about  
much now. And I like Miss Maggie very  
much.

And so I have made my pilgrimage to your  
native town, with its wild, though graceful,  
sweep of coast, its gently undulating fields  
sweeping off to the low hills — the  
Lorne Hotel, where you got your "early  
training in mountaineering" — Oh yes? I  
hear all about the scramble on the roof,  
cut off by David's difficulties! Why are  
you so shy? I had to tell them many  
things they ought to know about what  
you are to us — and I could only tell  
them part, of course.

Thanks for suggesting that I might  
go, and please plan to make your  
visit happy by visiting her once again.  
Take Helen. The trip will give her  
a Scotch Cassie's cheeks. And please  
write to me if you have time. What  
are you working at now? I hope you  
are strong, and that the house is settled and  
the atmosphere favorable for <sup>work</sup>. Affectionately <sup>Charles</sup>

Permanent address, care Am. Express Co., 11 Rue Scribe, Paris.

Gillespie's,  
Skiddaw Hotel,  
Keswick,  
20 June, 1907.

My dear Mr. Muir:

The pleasantest memory I carry away from Scotland is that of the visit to your birthplace, which proved its right to the title "stormy Dunbar" the minute I stepped off the train.

I blew about for some time before I found the pleasant Westfield villa, and those cordial, kindly ladies, your cousins. They welcomed me most warmly, although I arrived after nine of a Sunday evening, sent Jessie to the hotel where I had left my bag, to bring it after me, and insisted on my staying the night with them, and longer, if I would. Miss Maggie laughingly said, "It's a way you Californians have, this appearing without warning, and leaving your bags at strange hotels! That's just what John did!" And the mother laughed with her.

They asked me a thousand questions about you, and particularly about Helen's health and Wanda's husband -- and I was happy to be able to give them good word. Mrs. Lunam somehow expects you and Helen this year. She says she must see you again, and urged me repeatedly to influence you to come if I could.

If I had not had Edna, my charge, waiting for me in Edinburgh, I should have been very happy to stay a few days; but I felt that I ought not to be away even for the night, and left on the early train Monday morning.

Miss Lunam brought a tray with delicious tea and toast and an egg to my room before I was up, and after I had dressed I was taken to say goodbye to Mrs. Lunam, who was sitting up with her best cap on, and ready with further messages of love to you and Helen and Wanda, and again with the plea that you should come again.

She is wonderful, is she not? So keen, and cheery, and alive, in mind at least. Miss Maggie told me she does not get about much now. And I like Miss Maggie very much.

And so I have made my pilgrimage to your native town, with its wild, though graceful sweep of coast, its gently undulating fields sweeping off to the low hills -- the Lorne Hotel, where you got your "early training in mountaineering" -- Oh, yes, I heard all about the scrambles on the roof, cut off by David's difficulties! Why are you so shy? I had to tell them many things thought ought to know about what you are to us -- and I could only tell them part, of course.

Thanks for suggesting that I might go, and please plan to make your cousin happy by visiting her once again. Take Helen. The trip will give her a Scotch lassie's cheeks. And please write to me if you have time. What are you working at now? I hope you are stronger, and that the house is settled and the atmosphere favorable for work.

Affectionately,

Charlotte [Hoffman]