



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-07-11

Letter from W[illiam] H. Trout to John Muir, 1913 Jul 11.

William H. Trout

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

Recommended Citation

Trout, William H., "Letter from W[illiam] H. Trout to John Muir, 1913 Jul 11." (1913). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 4036.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/4036>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

322-24th Ave Milwaukee July 11th 1913

John Muir Martinez California

Dear Friend John

I received your much prized book over a week ago, and in the course of two days read it all through. A good sized party, ^{of us} went out to Beaver lake in Waukesha Co to spend the fourth and a few days more in camp. I took your book along for others to read, but it was not opened, there was tent preparations, cooking, fishing, or prowling around the country, anything besides reading, except to look into the daily paper which goes everywhere in Wisconsin now. After leaving the city and the reading of your book I saw the whole country thru John Muir's ^{eyes}, or at least I had you with me enjoying the varied scenes. You see my son-in-law Davis is the leading man in the conduct of an Automobile Truck Co, so he had one of his large Merchante Trucks fitted up with seats, on which we took 21 people, 6 being children. Had plenty of room besides for our tent and baggage. At our destination when all was unloaded, ^{special} hammocks were swung across our 7ft wide truck and a good number slept in it, having light hammocks above to put ones clothes on, the same as upper berths in a sleeping car. Fine netting around it kept out the mosquitos, and the heavy oil cloth curtains belonging to the truck would keep out the rain. We rented a small cottage, with gasolene stove, table chairs and some dishes, so we had a fine time. Our truck was set to a governed speed of 12 miles per hour, which except on heavy inclines was maintained. I sat on the front seat with son-in-law, the driver, the boss of the party where ~~where~~ I had an unobstructed view of the country, which never looked so fine before. There has been abundance of rain, and lately warm weather, resulting in extraordinary growth, the streams flowing. fat sleek cattle and horses in the fields, ^{and} the trees in their heaviest richest foliage. I never saw greater luxuriance anywhere.

05490

I that were you here now, you would not recognize old Wisconsin except by its natural features, which you know so well. The fine buildings are modern, and the nice clean villages have lately been greatly improved. Beautifully shaded well oiled dustless streets, and other evidences of good esthetic taste, and civic ambition, as well as ^{financial} prosperity, such things as our old timers had no idea of.

I undertook to swim in the lake, and did it too, but the effort was so much behind my old swimming memories, that it hardly deserved to be called swimming. I could swim on my back with some degree of comfort, but face swimming taxed my strength too hard. The water was too shallow anyway. I did better in a moderate surf in Galveston ^{years ago} two. Both instances revealed the small extent of my strength.

Lucretia, the daughter that was with me at the Coast 7 years ago, is now with her husband at the Yellowstone park; from thence they go to a small ranch he has bought on the Columbia river, where he proposes to go when family increase and he gets tired of his tailoring business. From there they go to Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, and via C.P.R. and Winnipeg, home.

Mrs Davis here and her three children are sufficient nature lovers to get up by daylight this spring, and go to our fine near by 200 acre park, to note the incoming of the birds. She identified 127 varieties. The children would go to bed early so as get up with her, and of course enjoyed their ante breakfast lesson.

If all goes well I shall put in six weeks in old Canada this summer, visiting old relatives, and gathering some more family ^{items} for my history. You write for the great general public I for my limited family connections. It will be some time before it is out; then I will send you one. I am not half such a worker as you are, particularly in that line.

Hoping all goes well with you and your family, and with thanks for the book I remain as ever your grateful friend

05490

W. H. Trout