



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1902-01-11

Letter from John Muir to Emily P[elton] Wilson, 1902 Jan 11.

John Muir

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Martinez, Jan. 11, 1902

Mrs Emily P. Wilson

Dear friend of Auld Lang Syne
I'm delighted to find you &
see your handwriting after
this long silence. It is
wonderful how people
drift apart on varying
currents of duty & work without
intention. I've never forgotten
you - never forget any of
my old friends, but I'm
usually in the wilderness all
summer & in my study all
winter so I seldom make
visits. Oakland seems further
away than Alaska, - have not
made a single visit in your
town during the last fifteen years.

1/5/22
I have not in this time seen
the Bentons, McChesneys or
Gaskels whom I used to
see often times before I
was married & got into
the habit of writing for
the press. I'm going to try
however no matter how
overladen with work, for
I feel conscience stricken
to some extent, manage all
my excuses though not
more guilty than yourself
& doctor for you have
not visited us.
My daughter Wanda is attending
the University, & I must ask
her to call on you some
Saturday. I'm sure you'll
like her & she is well
worth seeing

My, how far back those
 Prame du Chun days are
 the Peltons, Lowell &
 Bissels. & the Chores in
 the big buck house & that
 old horse & car & Mr Grogan.
 No wonder time is touching
 us here & there. Nevertheless
 it always seems a joke
 to be called old. As far
 as I know I feel just about
 as young now as forty yrs
 ago. I'll send my first
 book with this & a copy
 of my last as soon as I
 get a new lot.

Remember me to the Doctor, &
 with best wishes believe me
 ever your friend John Miner

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Martinez.

Jan. 11, 1902.

Mrs. Emily P. Wilson.

Dear friend of *Auld lang syne*; I'm delighted to find you and see your handwriting after this long silence. It is wonderful how people drift apart on varying currents of duty and work without intention. I've never forgotten you - never forgotten ~~any~~ of my old friends, but I'm usually in the ^Wilderness all summer and in my study all winter, so I seldom make visits. Oakland seems farther away than Alaska, - have not made a single visit in your town during the last fifteen years. Have not in this time seen the Bentons, McChesneys or ~~Gaskins~~ ^{ills}, whom I used to see often-times before I was married, and got into the habit of writing for the press. I'm going to try however no matter how overladen with work, for I feel conscience stricken to some extent, *Maugre* all my excuses though not more guilty than yourself and Doctor for you have not visited us.

My Daughter, Wanda, is attending the University, and I must ask her to call on you some Saturday. I'm sure you'll like her and she is well worth seeing.

My! How far back those Prairie du Chien days are. The Peltons, Lovewells and Bissels and the *Chores* in the big brick house, and the ^{old} horse, and cow, and Mr. Grogan. No wonder time is touching us here and there. Nevertheless it always seems a joke to be called old. As far as I know I feel just about as young now as forty yrs ago. I'll send my first book with this and a copy of my last as soon as I get a new lot.

Remember me to the Doctor, and the best wishes believe me *ever*

Your friend

JOHN MUIR.

*Joseph T. Lovewell
Margaret + Emily Bissell. The first two married
and were the parents of Reuben (Lovewell) Dickinson*

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Mrs. Wilson (nee Emily O. Pelton) was married Sept 15, 1885 to Dr. M. W. Wilson MD of Placer Co. Cal. who died 1904 in Oakland, Cal. John Muir visited her first at Brownsville Cal. when he was exploring the Yuba River. (See account of his climbing trees in one of his early books. This occurred then.) His second visit to her was while she was living at Bolinas, Marin Co. This was probably to 1886. She was later in Chico when he lectured and was guest of Genl. Bidwell. Mrs. Wilson settled in Oakland in 1893 where she saw him at the home of the Gaskills.

The long interval in letters is accounted for by J. Muir's absence from the country (China trip) and not preserving (possibly) whatever letters there were.

He sent me the two books referred to and later instructed Mrs. Norman of Pasadena to give me a copy of his "Boyhood Days" E. C. W.