



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1902-09-15

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1902 Sep  
15.

John Muir

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Jos. Martinez, Sep 15 1862

Dear Mr Johnson;

On my return from the Kern region I heard loud but vague rumors of the discovery of a giant Sequoia in Converse Basin on Kings River 153 feet Cir. 50 ft dia. to which I paid no attention having heard hundreds of such "biggest-tree-in-the-world" rumors before.

But at Fresno I met a surveyor who assured me that he had himself measured the tree & found it to be 153 feet Cir. 6 ft above ground. So of course I went back up the mountains to see & measure for myself, carrying a steel tape-line.

|                          |       |        |    |                                       |     |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| At one foot above ground | it is | 108 ft | in | Circum                                |     |
| " four "                 | "     | "      | "  | 97 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>6</sub> inches | " " |
| " six "                  | "     | "      | "  | 93 ft                                 | " " |

One of the largest & finest everywhere of living Sequoias that have been measured. But now can say it is certainly the largest

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The immensely larger dead one that  
I discovered 27 yrs ago stands within  
a few miles of this new wonder  
& I think I have in my note-  
-books measurements of living  
specimens as large, <sup>as the new tree</sup> or larger.

I have a photo of the tree & can  
get others I think from a  
photographer who has a studio in  
Converse Basin. I'll write a few  
pages on Big Trees in general if  
you like also touching on the  
horrible destruction of the  
King's River Groves now going on  
fiercely about the mills.

As to the discovery of a region  
grandier than Yosemite by  
the Kelly brothers in the King's  
Canon it is nearly all pure  
bosh. I explored the Canon long  
ago. It is very deep but has no El  
Capitan or anything like it.

Ever Yours faithfully John Muir

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