



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1884-07-10

## 1884 jul 10 jm to wanda envelope

John Muir

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Wanda Muni

Martinez

Cal.



The bear that mamma  
did not see —

01139

Yosemite Valley,  
July 10<sup>th</sup> 1884.

My dear little Wanda, Mamma & Papa got the two nice letters that you wrote & Mamma & Papa are very glad because the letters said that you are all right & not crying at all & waiting like a good girl & a sweet baby for Mamma & Papa to come home. & we are coming home soon to our own sweet baby. Mamma & Papa got on to the cars & the poogh poogh pulled us to Stockton & there are many Mosquitoes in Stockton & they stung Mamma & I wouldn't let her sleep. & then we got on to the cars again & another poogh poogh pulled us to Milton. & Milton is a very hot place & we were all wet with sweat. & then we came out of the cars & got into a big buggy & six brown horses with long tails trotted fast & galloped some of the time & pulled us to Copperopolis & then the horses were tired & the man

that was driving <sup>2</sup> them put them in  
the stable & gave them a drink of water  
& some hay to eat & some barley. &  
got some more horses to pull the buggy  
to a funny-looking little town & its name  
is Chinese Camp. & then the horses got  
tired again & they were all dusty & wet  
with sweat & so the man put them in  
the stable & gave them some water & hay  
& barley & then the poor things were all  
right. & just now a man came to papa  
when he was writing this letter & said "Is  
this Mr. Min", & papa said, yes. & then  
the man gave papa a little letter from  
Grandpa & the letter said "All well, do not  
hurry down". & then more horses pulled  
the buggy up & down many big hills through  
many bushes with pretty flowers on them &  
big trees with beautiful cones hanging on  
the branches & we saw many squirrels

with long tails & <sup>3</sup> the squirrels were afraid  
 of the horses & so they ran fast up the  
 trees & began to bark like Bruno, & shake  
 their long tails, but they did not bark so  
 loud as Bruno, & some of the squirrels  
 were gray & some of them had yellow  
 stomachs & they all had whiskers & bright  
 shining eyes, & we couldn't catch them  
 & sometimes we jumped out of the buggy  
 to gather pretty flowers that were growing  
 under the big trees. & here is one of the  
 trees, & here is one of the flowers, & here is one  
 of the squirrels.



And then we came to  
 Yosemite valley & the horses stopped & mamma &  
 papa jumped out of the buggy & went into a big  
 house to live til we got home but the people  
 in the big house did not give us anything

good to eat & the bread was sour & the butter too old to eat & the meat was tough & the tea & coffee very bad & so we came away to another big house & we get many good things to eat now & we wish baby could come to see the pretty flowers & the big trees & the white water falling far down out of the sky. But baby will come with mamma & papa some other time when she is a little bigger. This morning the man that keeps the big house that we are living in brought about 20 little fishes all covered with pretty red & yellow spots for mamma to look at & mamma said to the man that had the fishes, "Are these Catfish" & the man said "no these are trout" & that made papa laugh for Catfish have beards & whiskers & trout have no whiskers but mamma did not know that. Then the man fried the trout & brought them to us to eat for our breakfast. & he brought some ice-cream too for our

breakfast & papa<sup>3</sup> said to mamma  
 "What a funny breakfast this is  
 ice-cream & Catfish instead of mush & milk  
 but we had mush & milk too & venison  
 & mutton & ham & eggs & bread. but the  
 funniest things were the little spotted  
 fishes & the ice-cream. An Indian man  
 with long black hair, who never washed  
 his face caught the fishes in a big creek  
 that people call the Merced River  
 A little boy that lives here has a funny  
 little tiny donkey that has long ears &  
 big sleepy eyes & the boy climbs up on  
 to the donkeys back & whips him & makes  
 him trot trot trot up & down the valley  
 & the boy never falls off & everybody  
 looks at the donkey because it looks so  
 little & funny. There are many mules here  
 too & horses & cows & some queer little  
 dogs. & quails & robins & owls. & they make  
 a loud noise some times neighing & lowing  
 & braying. & barking & singing & piping but  
 the falling water coming down out of

The sky makes a far louder noise & that is the sound we hear most. but baby cannot hear it because it is so far away & because there is no telephone to make baby hear.

It is dark now & baby has gone to bed & papa will not write much more until he writes another letter to baby & papa & mamma pray that God will keep baby safely. & soon papa & mamma will come back to baby & bring many pretty things for baby.

Here is a pretty flower that opens in the night & shines when the stars come into the sky Goodnight Papa will soon write another letter to baby & papa hopes that baby will be very good & do what grandma & grandpa tells her & be careful not to fall on the stairs or on the steps outside & do not eat anything that will make baby sick. & now papa says to his own sweet baby Goodbye.