



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1909-02-17

Letter from M. S. Griswold to John Muir, 1909 Feb 17.

M. S. Griswold

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Office of County Judge

M. S. GRISWOLD, COUNTY JUDGE

ANDREW SNYDER,
REGISTER IN PROBATE

WAUKESHA, WIS., Feb. 17. 1809

John Muir, Esq.
Martinez, Cal.

My dear old friend;

I do address you, as an old friend of our school days of the vicinity. Mr. John Howitt has just called on me and shown me your late letter to him and for your kindly remembrance of me therein contained I most sincerely thank you.

I have often been prompted to write to you, and especially after reading some of your graphic descriptions of nature scenery as found in various articles which have come to my notice. I have always read such with intense pleasure, and when reading them there always comes up before me the vision of our younger days, when we took our botanical trips around the lakes and woods of your county. What delight we used to experience in the haunts of the forests when we would meet with a new flower or some fossil among the rocks. I have yet the botanical specimens I there gathered, but the busy days of years past have prevented me from increasing them.

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ANDREW SNYDER,
REGISTER IN PROBATE

WAUKESHA, WIS., _____

The scenes amid which we used to wander around Madison have greatly changed - The valley and summer homes have swept away the wild glories of old Rocky Point and other places of our youthful interest around Lake Mendota. But the University is still there, and has become one of the quietest institutions of learning now in the west. It is the Alma Mater of myself and of my two sons as well, one of whom graduated in 1905 and the other graduates in June next.

The last of our old time instructors passed away with the death of Mr. James Butler, who, but a short time before his death, gave me an interesting account of your coming to his relief a few years before on an occasion when he found himself lost towards nightfall among the mountains in California.

Since 1870 my home has been here in Waukesha, and I am now numbering out my 20.th year as County Judge. My official duties, as I have civil jurisdiction as well as probate, have kept me continually busy, with

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M. S. GRISWOLD, COUNTY JUDGE

ANDREW SNYDER,
REGISTER IN PROBATE

WAUKESHA, WIS., _____

The reception of an occasional summer vacation
in Minnesota, or down on the banks of the
Hudson, or in New England.

My enjoyment of life however remains and
with it strenuous good health and vigour still.

Just probably remember I was quite a
student in the languages - and the inspiration
I got from Prof. Butler in Latin & Greek
has never left me. I have kept up my
studies in the classics as well as delved into
several of the modern languages, and I have
banks of ancient lore that would stock up
a professor's library. I now read daily
from twenty to thirty pages of Seneca
or Plato of my evening portion, in Greek
reading at eight - besides I hardly ever read now,
and I verily believe my constant intercourse with
the best thoughts of the best men of the past
has much to do with keeping up my
freshness and buoyancy of spirit, and keeping my
perceptive faculties alert and active for the
fettering discharge of some my judicial duties.

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M. S. GRISWOLD, COUNTY JUDGE

ANDREW SNYDER,
REGISTER IN PROBATE

WAUKESHA, WIS. _____

On no other basis can I account for the fact,
for it is a fact, that among the appeals now
to our Supreme Court since I have been in my present
position, I have a higher percentage of affirmances
than any other Judge in the State.

It has never yet been my fortune to get out
to the Pacific Coast - but I often think that
if I could get there, the first effort I should
make would be to find you, and
with you review the many pleasant
remembrances of the past. Your love of
Science and Nature never flags - and
it is that which doubtless contributes still to
your own vigor as well as serenity
and happiness. I heartily sympathize with your
efforts to preserve Yosemite Park from the
grip of the money power, and have been interested
in what I have read relating to the matter
in the Outlook & other periodicals. May I
hope to hear from you sometime soon?

Most respectfully yours
M. S. Griswold

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