



1914-01-01

## Letter from Joanna [Muir Brown] to [John Muir], [ca. 1914].

Joanna Muir Brown

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You cannot think how glad I  
am that Helen's health holds  
out so bravely, sometimes these  
delicate girls surprise everybody  
Bernice too is steadily gaining  
in health and strength, which  
is a source of great encourage-  
ment to me in this  
time of sore problems  
It seems that the terrible war  
is not only destroying the youth  
and consuming the wealth  
of Europe, but is also seriously  
affecting the prosperity  
of our own country. It is re-  
ported that in Philadelphia alone  
seventy five thousand men are  
out of employment, and we  
ourselves are feeling the blow

(13)

622 Hawthorne  
Richmond Va

My dear brother John  
Your letter  
of August was as welcome as  
your letters always are, and  
in it you told me of your  
six grandsons, since then  
Dorule has sent us the wonder-  
ful tidings of a seventh  
which according to scripture  
is a complete number, and  
certainly a number to be  
proud of. But if the number  
should reach the proverbial  
twelve why that would be  
still more to be proud of.

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(3)  
for the firm by which the girls are employ-  
ed have closed down one of their mills  
(lumber mills) and after discharging one  
hundred and fifty of their men have  
reduced all salaries twenty five percent  
this you see means close times for us  
as Mr Brown too is having a hard  
fight and has not been able to help  
us at all since his failure in bus-  
iness

He will get along in  
some fashion however if only the  
other lumber mill is not closed at  
the beginning of the year, in which  
case, of course, all employees would  
be laid off indefinitely.

What a sinful and useless thing  
war is any way! I cannot understand  
the inhumanity of man to man.

I trust you have  
made great progress on your Alaska  
book and we will be hoping soon to  
have the pleasure and profit of reading  
it.

Please give my congratulations  
to Grandpa on his death in the form  
of four fine cans, and when you write  
to Helen please tell her how pleased  
her Aunt Emma is to know of her fine  
little family and good health.

With warmest love to yourself my  
dear brother I am affectionately Grandpa