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The John Muir Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2007

The John Muir Center for Environmental Studies

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THE JOHN MUIR NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, STOCKTON, CA

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2/3

SPRING/SUMMER 2007

JOHN MUIR'S WORLD TOUR (PART V)

Lex Chalmers, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

Preface by W. R. Swagerty, Director, John Muir Center

This past spring, I had the good fortune to travel to New Zealand and Australia through sponsorship of the J. William Fulbright Program of the U.S. State Department. At University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand on the North Island, Dean Daniel Zirker introduced me to Professor Lex Chalmers, a distinguished geographer and researcher on his faculty. It turns out that Professor Chalmers had plans to travel to the United States on family business. After learning my interest in following John Muir's trail from his 1904 visit to New Zealand, Lex agreed to help with this project.

In May, Chalmers visited us in Stockton and spent time in the John Muir Papers, clarifying the route and obtaining pertinent transcripts and details from the manuscripts. The document that resulted is his excellent work, not mine. I am indebted to Chalmers and the University of Waikato for the time spent helping the world better understand Muir's unpublished travels in New Zealand from the difficult-to-read notebooks that he kept while traveling abroad, and from Linnie Marsh Wolfe's transcriptions from the 1940s or 1950s. We are planning a more extensive academic publication from this preliminary work and share with you the fifth of six segments in the piece that follows.

WRS

John Muir's remarkable 'World Tour' began on May 29, 1903 with his departure from New York, and ended almost exactly a year later when he arrived back in San Francisco on May 27, 1904. For most of this time Muir maintained a detailed daily journal, commenting on the botany, geomorphology and the patterns of human occupation that he encountered. These journals, closely written in pencil and often illustrated, are held in the Holt-Atherton Collection at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Ca. The collection also holds some of Muir's correspondence written during his travels, and part of the Library collection he established.

The journals have attracted scholarly attention, most notably in the transcription work undertaken by Linnie Marsh Wolfe to support her commentaries and 1946 biography of John Muir (*Son of the Wilderness: The Life of John Muir*). Wolfe's biography, not without its critics, place her at the forefront of commentators on John Muir's contribution to conservation, and her work was recognised by the award of the Pulitzer Prize for biography. Her typescript records of John Muir's journals are an important contribution and they provide the best research source for

(Continued on page 6)

NEWS & NOTES

JOHN MUIR IN THE NEW WORLD

Proposed Film Documentary with Director Catherine Tatge
PRESS RELEASE

Source: Global Village Media/PRNewswire/USNewswire
New York, July 18, 2007

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a grant of \$80,000 to Global Village Media in support of their new documentary, "John Muir in the New World." The grant will be used during the scripting phase of the project. John Muir is one of the tall trees in environmentalism and western ecological thinking. He was one of the first conservationists in American history and is still revered widely as the founder of the conservation movement in this country. It is due to his splendid vision that the American landscape has retained so much of its grandeur. Not only did he have an enormous impact on the American West at the turn of the 20th century, his vision also survived long after his death. His values were taken up as a spiritual standard by generations of American activists. He taught all of us to see ourselves again as creations of Nature.

For these reasons Global Village Media, GreatFull Productions and NewStory Ventures of Seattle are embarking on a two-hour biographical documentary of the extraordinary life and influence of this influential naturalist.

We are also proud to announce that this project has been designated a National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" project and is being supported in part by funds the agency has set aside for this special initiative. The goal of the "We the People" initiative is to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through the support of projects that explore significant events and themes in our nation's history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America.

A production of Global Village Media, GreatFull Productions and NewStory Ventures.

Executive Producers: Stephen Boyd, Peter Evans, Catherine Tatge

Producer: Dan Kowalski, Dominique Lasseur

Director: Catherine Tatge

Writer: Leslie Clark

Advisors on this project include: Harvey Green, Northeastern University, Patricia Nelson Limerick, University of Colorado; Char Miller, Trinity University, Paul Sutter, University of Georgia, and Donald Worster, University of Kansas.

Source: Global Village Media

Contact: Dominique Lasseur, Global Village Media,
Executive Director, (212) 222-5677, or fax, (212) 222-7512,
dlasseur@icpmedia.com.

JOHN MUIR CENTER CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA

The 57th California History Institute,
the legacy of Pacific historians
Rockwell Hunt and Coke Wood,
will be held on campus at Pacific April 25, 26, 2008
and will focus on "John A. Sutter and His World."

Award-winning author and historian, Albert L. Hurtado (B.A., M.A. Sacramento State University; Ph.D. UCSB, 1980) will keynote the luncheon on April 26 with remarks from his new book, *John A. Sutter: A Life on the North American Frontier* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2007). Other Sutter specialists will also present papers. A field trip to Sutter's Old Fort and to the American gold discovery site at Coloma is planned for Friday, April 25.

A registration will be required.

E-mail johnmuir@pacific.edu or wswagerty@pacific.edu if interested in the field trip, attending the sessions and luncheon, or presenting a paper at the Conference.

Pacific alumni are encouraged to attend.

THE JOHN MUIR NEWSLETTER

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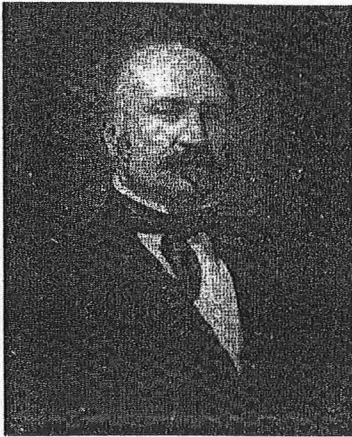
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John Sutter ca. 1850
(photo taken from *John Sutter: A Life on the North American Frontier*)

PACIFIC FRESHMEN EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF YOSEMITE

This past September 14 and 15, approximately 100 of the 800 or so freshmen in the class of 2011 loaded up sleeping bags, backpacks, and hiking boots into three large motor coaches bound for Yosemite National Park. Funded by the Student Life Division of the University, this experiment was designed to introduce incoming freshmen to Pacific's connection with John Muir, the aesthetics of wilderness values, environmental issues in Yosemite National Park, and civic responsibility. Students were escorted around by twenty officers and faculty of the University, including three Vice Presidents and Provost Philip Gilbertson.



Highlights of the two-day experience included a campfire session with Muir-actor-interpreter Lee Stetson, who fielded questions from inquisitive freshmen and long-time visitors to Yosemite. In the voice of John Muir, Stetson provided his usual honest and authoritative reflections on the creation, history, and present conditions of California's most famous scenic wonder. Students also performed community service projects during their

stay, helping to clear Himalayan blackberries from one section of the Valley, measuring giant sequoias, and helping Yosemite Institute personnel take water samples in major waterways within the park. Most students also hiked to Vernal Falls, one of Muir's favorite water features within the Valley.

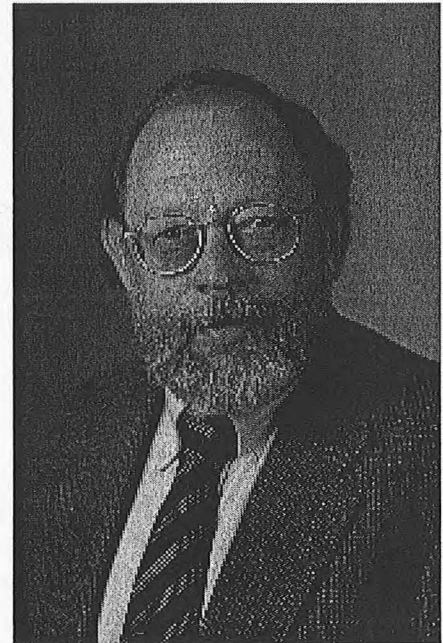
About one in five had been in Yosemite prior to this experience. Most had heard of John Muir or at least recognized him from the California state quarter, schools and other institutions named in his honor, or memories of fourth grade California history lessons. Still, the challenge of meaningful environmental education of students on Muir, his significance and his legacy, is one that demands more resources and focus, even at a place like Pacific, which houses most of Muir's manuscripts.

This pilot trip is expected to be repeated in years to come, with an even larger number of students participating in 2008. A second trip for the class of 2011 to John Muir's home in Martinez is envisioned for spring term and all 800 freshmen are reading Muir in Pacific Seminar I this fall. In addition, Professor Swagerty will be teaching "John Muir's World: The Rise of the Modern Conservation Movement." Trips to Martinez, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and a two-night campout in Yosemite are part of the course.

PROFESSOR DONALD E. WORSTER VISITS THE JOHN MUIR PAPERS AND SPEAKS AT PACIFIC

Donald E. Worster, Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Professor of U. S. History and Director of the Graduate Program in History at the University of Kansas, visited Stockton in early December to complete his research for a forthcoming major biography of John Muir. To be published by Oxford University Press, the new look at Muir promises the most in-depth look yet at Muir's entire life.

Dr. Worster earned his doctorate at Yale in 1971 and has published extensively on the U.S. West, Environmental History of North America, and American social and cultural history. His most recent book, *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell* (Oxford, 2001) won many prizes. Earlier works include *Dust Bowl; The Wealth of Nature; Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas*; and *Under Western Skies*.



LOUIE MUIR'S ONE AND ONLY TRIP TO YOSEMITE

By Michael Wurtz
Archivist, Holt-Atherton Special Collections
University of the Pacific Library

During the first week of July 1884, John Muir and his wife Louie left for Louie's first and only trip to Yosemite. They intended to stay "2 or 3 weeks," but only lasted about 10 days before they returned to their 3-year-old daughter, Wanda at their home in Martinez, California.

Much of Muir's life is well documented through letters and journals, but on this trip, there are only three letters from John and Louie, and one from Louie's parents who were taking care of Wanda. There appears to be no journals or notebooks from the trip and no letters after the trip describing what happened.

Most books that mention the Muirs' 1884 trip to Yosemite indicate that Louie was no mountaineer and that the Muirs spent most of the trip worrying about "the baby" back home. Shirley Sargent and Jean Hanna Clark, Wanda's daughter, published two of the letters from the trip and added a few notes about the journey in *Dear Papa: Letters between John Muir and his Daughter Wanda*. According to Sargent, John Muir had been working especially hard in the spring of 1884 and "needed a vacation, but refused to leave the ranch. Louie talked him into taking her to Yosemite Valley." The two left on or about July 2 and took what was probably a three-day journey via Stockton, Milton, Copperopolis, and Chinese Camp.

Louie's only letter from Yosemite was written July 6 to "Grandpa and Grandma" Strentzel. In it, John and Louie demonstrate how anxious they were about leaving the baby home. "John's eyes fill with tears whenever I speak of the baby," and "he entreats you to keep the baby away from hot water and from those hall doors." Louie emphatically asked for frequent telegrams from her parents, "if [Wanda]

needs me I will come home at once," and even asks for a lock of Wanda's hair.

Although the trip across the central valley and along the foothills was "perfectly awful," Louie found the Yosemite Valley beautiful and adopted her husband's writing style. "The falls are glorious, the beautiful river brimming full, and the moonlight is marvelous on the foaming water and grand rock temples of God."

Despite the beauty in the Valley, Louie was "anxious" about John and hoped that he would stay in the Valley until "he is well and strong again.... I ought to stay 2 or 3 weeks here, but we will see." She ended this letter reminding the Strentzels to "put a large lump of camphor [mothballs] in the piano, the wardrobe, and my large boxes in John's room."

On July 10, John wrote his first ever letter to "Little Wanda." He described the trip to Yosemite, "Mama and Papa got on to the cars and the poogh poogh pulled us to Stockton and there were many mosquitoes in Stockton and they stung Mama, and wouldn't let her sleep." As would be expected in July, the stage ride from Milton to Yosemite was hot, but entertaining. The "squirrels were afraid of the horses and ran into the trees to bark like 'Bruno.' Sometimes we jumped out of the buggy to gather pretty flowers."

The first meals in the Valley were culinarily peculiar. John and Louie, "jumped out of the buggy and went into a big house to live till we got home." They were fed, but the bread was sour, the butter old, the meat tough and the coffee and tea bad. They switched to another "big house" (Shirley Sargent suggests that it was Leidig's Hotel) where they were treated to a better, but unusual, breakfast. "An Indian man with long black hair, who never washed his face" had brought trout for breakfast. Much to the chagrin of John, Louie misidentified the trout as catfish even though "catfish have beards and whiskers." Muir noted, "Papa said to Mama, 'What a funny breakfast this is, ice-cream and [fish] instead

of mush and milk' but we had mush and milk too and venison and mutton and ham and eggs and bread."

John Muir wrote much of the Valley's noisy wildlife for Wanda. However, "falling water coming down out of the sky makes a far louder noise and that is the sound we hear most,... but there is no telephone to make baby hear." He enclosed a "pretty flower that opens at night and shines when the stars come into the sky," and he asked Wanda not to fall down any stairs or eat anything that will make her sick. The Muirs mentioned that they had received a letter from Grandpa that everything is going well, so "do not hurry down."

There is a mention of many letters from the Strentzels to the Muirs, but only one exists in the John Muir Papers. On July 14, they reported that the "baby is fine. Perfectly contented, ever since you went away." The home was also fine. They had "brought John's papers and all your most valuable things over here" since there was a questionable former employee and not very good locks on the doors. "Stay as long as you like and see all you possibly can, for you have waited a long while for this pleasure."

The final letter (July 16) from Yosemite may indicate the reason that the Muirs were "coming home to baby tomorrow." According to Sargent, the Muirs chose to hike to Glacier Point from the Valley. "Mama and Papa climbed a high mountain, and mama got tired and so papa walked behind and pushed mama with a long stick this way, and the stick soon began to hurt mama's back, and mama was too warm, and so she took off some of her clothes, and papa tied a skirt on the end of the stick and then it did not hurt anymore." Eventually, a pack train caught up with the Muirs and Louie got a ride on one of the horses.

At the top, they saw many beautiful sights. They saw evidence of bear and "mama was afraid, but papa said the bear is only looking for berries and will not bite." Then they heard that an Indian had just

spotted a bear, and that "mama was scared picking flowers for baby." That was the last description of the Muirs in Yosemite Valley.

Almost two months later on September 3, Muir's sister Margaret Muir Reid wrote to him. "And so you have been to the Yosemite Valley again, and Louie with you. What a glorious time you must have had." She also wondered how Louie handled being away from Wanda. This letter appears to be the only mention of Louie's trip to Yosemite either before or after the event.

Louie never returned to Yosemite Valley, and it is unknown if John had ever invited her again. However, there are also plenty of gaps in the correspondence from the Muirs immediately after this trip, so it is unclear how either of them felt about their only joint wilderness sojourn.



Louie and John's visit to Yosemite in the summer of 1884 may have hit a low point on a hike. John had to use a stick to push Louie up the trail as shown in his letter to their daughter on July 16. (John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library. Copyright 1984 Muir-Hanna Trust)

(Continued from page 1)

contemporary scholars. There are transcription errors in Wolfe's record, but (apart from transcriptions of species names) these are few in number (Muir's handwriting is small and in pencil), and these are balanced by the minor errors John Muir made himself. These errors need emendation and notation, but they do not detract from Muir's 'seeing of the landscape' and its inhabitants, nor his ability to reflect on them.

This section of the transcript is the fifth in a series published in the *John Muir Newsletter* since the Summer of 2005. It provides a 6500 word record of Muir's travels in New Zealand. Muir departed from Sydney, bound for Auckland on January 11, 1904 and wrote his last comments steaming away from the North Cape of New Zealand on 1 March, 1904. The immediate local impact of his visit is almost imperceptible, but the prescience of some of his comments has great interest for contemporary scholars in both the sciences and social sciences. The transcript provided below has emendations marked where appropriate in [square brackets], and the following paragraphs outline some of the areas of interest for contemporary scholars. Place names are corrected, and contemporary species are included where appropriate.

The first question to ask is how had Muir prepared himself for his visit to New Zealand? Was his itinerary determined by chance? Was he aware of what awaited him? New Zealand science was very young in 1904 (the New Zealand Institute was established in 1867), the small country reported less than a million residents in the 1901 Census, and the core railway infrastructure was not yet completed (1908). Yet, Muir could have been well informed; his journal shows he knew the work of leading scientists and botanists of the day (Hutton, February 6; Kirk, February 18 and Cheeseman, February 22) and identified and visited botanical gardens. But was he aware of the work of scientists who visited New Zealand in the preceding century; Joseph Banks, J.R. and G. Forster and Charles Darwin? Had he read Dieffenbach's (1843) *Travels in New Zealand*, von Hochstetter's notable *Geological and Topographical Atlas of New Zealand* (1864), or Buller's *A History of the Birds of New Zealand* (1872)? What did he know of resident New Zealand science, of Haast, Hooker and Hector? The suggestion is that he was well informed, but his mission was global rather than local. Exploration of Muir's library collection and wider works may reveal more, and it is interesting to speculate in turn on what form of publication Muir might have intended for his own journal.

A second question asks: what did Muir find most worthy of comment in New Zealand? Much of his time in the central North Island (18-23 January) is spent in the volcanic regions from Rotorua to Waimangu and the mountains of the Tongariro National Park (established in 1887). His commentaries on the region are full of wonder, nowhere better illustrated than in his account of the time spent in the area around Waimangu, still being re-vegetated after the devastation of the 1886 eruption of Mount Tarawera. Botanically, Muir was fascinated by the growth of the Rata (*Metrosideros robusta*), widespread at the time, but more limited in occurrence now. Muir often referred to its prolific red blossom, but was fascinated by its growth habit. Rata often begins as an epiphyte sending roots down and around the trunk of its host, until it forms a massive, some-times hollow trunk composed of fused roots. Muir first observes Rata in Rotorua (January 17), but returns to its growth habits when in Westport (January 31) and near Kaihu (February 23/24).

As a final question, what concerned Muir about New Zealand's stewardship of its environmental resources? The first ten days of his visit pass without much concern for the impacts of human activity, but on January 26 we read;

Towards Wellington the hills are high, almost mountainous, with flat areas, half swampy, near sea level and rough fields still encumbered with melancholy remnants of a once glorious forest slowly being burnt out of existence for sake of grass.

Muir's reaction to the wholesale transformation of the forest for pasture becomes increasingly obvious, as indicated in the following quotations from January 28, February 3, 14 and 19:

All the way from Picton, even where unsettled, the forest is being gradually and ruthlessly burned for grass to future drouth [drought] and floods ...

All the hills, mountains and valleys between Beasley [Bealey] and Springfield treeless, grassy and rather dry and barren, given up to sheep. Strange contrast to Buller and Otira valleys whose forest exuberance is glorious.

It is interesting to note the efforts of government to plant forest and groves ... in this

bouldery prairie region, while ruthlessly allowing wholesale destruction of native forest where only trees will grow. [This] for the sake of sheep pasture at the rate ... of three to ten acres per sheep, thus making destructive floods sure and selling the country's welfare for a mess of mutton.

Trees on distant mountains and hills, but very large areas cleared by fire for sheep pasture; a dismal policy fraught with ills, in great part irremediable.

Muir's concerns about the destruction of the forest are well founded; New Zealand faced significant soil erosion problems in the years to follow, with major remedial action enacted in national legislation in 1941 and 1967.

There are some oddities in Muir's commentary that will attract the interest of scholars. He carries some markers of his life in California. He can not pass a *Sequoia gigantea* without comment and his fascination with glacial processes allows him to see glacial processes in the far north of New Zealand where fluvial erosion of landscapes produced by volcanic activity are clearly the land-forming agencies. His language is predictable in places; many scenes are described as "charming," but often Muir writes much more lyrically. Muir describes a boat ride on Lake Rotomahana thus:

Desolate shores reeking with boiling and spluttering springs and steam jets, over which the boat was allowed to dance and thump.

The journey through the Buller Gorge is described thus:

In the Buller Gorge the stage dashed through cataracts from overhanging cliffs while bushes, rain laden, were thrashing in our faces. Yet not without pleasurable enjoyment of excitement and wild scenery,

and the braided rivers of South Canterbury in the following terms:

Crossed many streams all of which have channels a hundred times wider than their ragged currents, wandering lost in broad beds of gravel glaciers.

Muir's language is distinctive; it keeps the reader engaged and provides a view of New Zealand that deserves much wider exposure. The Linne Marsh Wolfe transcript makes the difficult source material available, but to date the exploration of this important material has attracted only one scholarly publication in New Zealand (Hall, 1987).

The National Archives of New Zealand in Wellington hold photographic records of many parts of the country that Muir visited in 1904, but none that name him or his party as the subject or contributor. Work continues on establishing direct links from the archives, but we are left lamenting Muir's lack of interest in photography. There is no record of Muir purchasing photographs, as he did in Egypt. His descriptions in text of the Waimangu Geysir site, of the mountains on the volcanic plateau, the Wanganui River, the Buller Gorge, the Hermitage and the bush near Kaihu cry out for a visual record. There are field sketches that complement the text, but any more substantial commentary will need to provide indirect evidence of some of the acute observations Muir offered on the New Zealand landscape and its transformation.

Reference

Hall, C.M. (1987) "John Muir in New Zealand," *New Zealand Geographer*, 3 (2) 99-103.

Acknowledgment

I am grateful to the staff of the Holt-Atherton Special Collections at the University of the Pacific. They hold a remarkable record of Muir's work, along with supporting materials, and manage access to these in a way that serves scholarship well. The prospect of having digital access to these records is even more encouraging for those seeking to understand the contributions of people like John Muir.

In New Zealand I have been assisted by comments from Bruce Clarkson, John Robson, Don Stafford and Michael Roche.

MUIR'S COLLINS PARAGON DIARY, FOR 1904, SHOWING ONE PAGE FOR EACH DAY

January 11, 1904. Sailed for Auckland on the Ventura, one of Claus Speckel's best boats, rather comfortable but with a bad name. [There were] a large number of people on wharf to see friends off. Mr Geo. Webendorfer came to bid us goodbye - a most hearty pleasant man, who came out on the Barbarossa, and with the surgeon accompanied Mr Kling and I to the Black's Spux. Promised to send book - started at 1:00pm. Sea calm, soon the picturesque harbour, and town and wave-beaten shores vanished. Ten of our

Barbarossa acquaintances are on the sharp [ship]. All are happy as usual in setting forth on a new trip.

January 12. Bright weather, few clouds. Wind freshening. A good many passengers vanishing from sight on account of sea-sickness, though the motion as yet is slight. Many flying fish are seen and small black albatrosses. Occasionally a large one of ordinary kind seen in museums. Met Professor Brigham, Director of Museum at Honolulu; fine vigorous old man of striking appearance, acquainted with Professor Sargent; was his classmate at Harvard. He also knows Miss Graydon, Professor Brewer etc.

January 13. Head wind increasing in force, ship pitching a good deal and fine masses of dusty spray is exploding with a thudding sound on her bows which, driven by wind, keeps the deck wet. Sky is dark, rather gloomy looking out and in. The sick, sicker and many who held out against the first approaches of the trouble have now abandoned the table. Many, however, deny their sea sickness, saying they are only suffering from slight stomach disorder on account of eating too much, indigestion etc. Why are they ashamed of it?

January 14. Dark, cloudy and somewhat rainy. Wind dead ahead and stronger, waves of course, rising, the decks deeply sloppy and gloomy solitude reigns on the grand ship. Tried to call up Mr Dobbie. He came on deck but was soon forced back to bed. About a quarter of the passengers come to table. The wave explosions are fine and make the good ship shudder. Some of the waves also made up of many smaller ones are interesting. How are these waves so much larger than the common formed?

January 15. Land in sight, many picturesque islands. One like a ship with sails set, a schooner. On the mainland notice a few well-formed glacial wombs of residual small glaciers. Scarce a white-cap wave now to be seen. All the sick revive and rise to joyful action as if rising from the dead, so also they greet each other and the land in the pleasant enthusiasm of the newness of life.

Enjoyed long talks with Mr and Mrs Clementine of Boston. Said they would like to follow me etc. Soon made

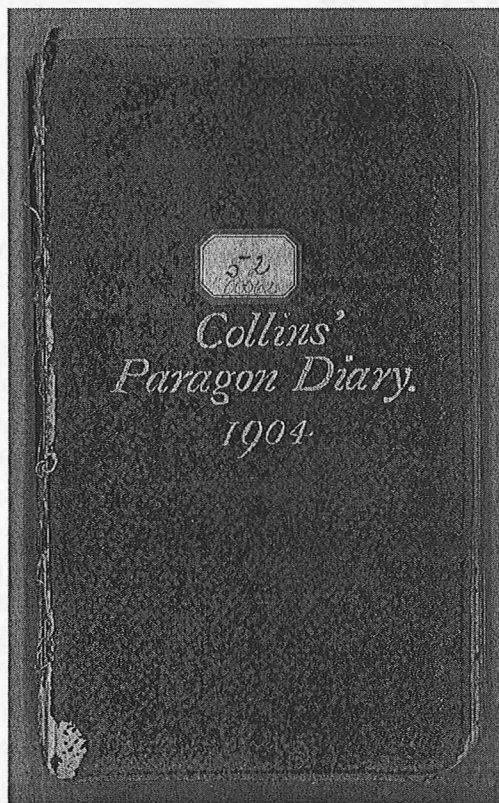
many new acquaintances. Arrived about noon and go to the Central Hotel.

January 16. Start at 10am for Rotorua; arrive at 6:00pm. and put up at Geyser Hotel, two miles beyond Rotorua, near a large group of hot springs and geysers and an Indian [Maori] village [Whakarewarewa]. The Maori, it seems, were not afraid of these noisy, rumbling, thundering or mysteriously sprouting springs, but used them as baths and for cooking etc. Therefore, the sinter formations about them are worn by long trampling. The bushes, however, are so dense and tall about the smaller less violent springs and just beyond the edges of recent sinter pavements. They form a beautiful and protective border, full of flowers and berries.

The railroad [to Rotorua] runs through a level wide valley, fertile and cultivated and many trees planted, oak, elm and pine etc. Just as ascending grade is reached, within 20 or 30 miles of Rotorua, an interesting forest is reached through which the [rail] road runs to within a few miles of the hot spring region. The trees are richly clad and adorned with climbers and epiphytes.

January 17. Rose early and collected a lot of specimens, mostly of shrubs, Melaleuca [maybe Kunzea ericoides or Leptospermum scoparium?] and Gaultheria [spp]. Climbed a knob back of Whakararawha [Whakarewarewa] and the extensive group of hot springs. On the knob a rich lot of ti bushes [tea tree, Leptospermum scoparium] in flower and fruit, mixed with Gaultheria with white and red berries and other heathnodes

[heathworts]. Here and there small trees or high bushes of poisonous plant and one with small red flowers in simple racemes, beautiful prostrate matted plant with white flowers, leaves in four rows making carpet. Charming Lycopodium [spp. L. cernuum on heated soils or fumeroles, L. volubile in scrub margins] lace carpets spreading far and wide. A curious simple heath-like shrub, a few inches high with yellow berries. Common Pteris [pteridophyta] in glorious abundance.



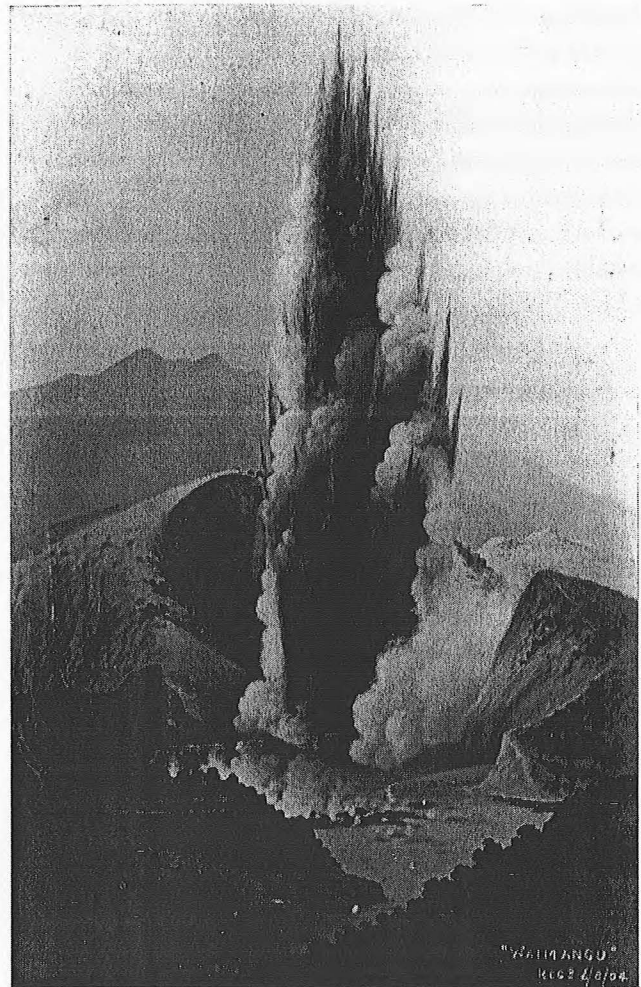
Courtesy of John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library. Copyright 1984 Muir-Hanna Trust

In the afternoon went up to Summit Ridge grove, a patch of ancient forest. In the ridge patch of old forest saw good specimens of the two grand trees *Metrosideros robusta* [Northern Rata] and *Metrosideros tomentosa* [*Metrosideros excelsa*, Pohutukawa]. [Muir's notes from January 10 in diary included here] *Metrosideros robusta* [?] said to have fine red blossoms. Magnificent smooth-barked shafts, much buttressed at base and smooth and round from 10 to 12 feet above ground to branches 50 or 75 feet above ground. Nearly every tree is decked with a handsome, single glossy-leaved climber like *Vaccinium andromedifolia*, red flowers in clusters, clings and climbs from rootlets from all a [?]; stem simple, often for 30 flowers or more, rope-like as thick at top as bottom; branches often equal in size and parallel, gray [grey?] color, wood exceedingly tough, though light, and makes fine elastic canes. This fine bright cheery-looking plant often outlives the tree that holds it aloft and never troubles parting with their bark. Large flakes of it are held by the climber and are swayed by the wind. These trees are also enriched by large masses of lily like plants in forks of branches next [to] the trunks, and by orchids and ferns in great numbers, though they are so well supplied with shining leaves and bright red flowers.

January 18. Started in the morning at 9:00 for Hamarana [Hamurana] Spring across Lake Rotorua did about 9 miles to an old mission station [From Muir's journal, 10 January]. A charming embowered fountain of very cold clear water flowing from lava rock with great force and abundance, giving rise to a small river which flows into lake after short course of half a mile. Banks embowered with fine weeping willows and several species of common ornamental trees and shrubs and herbs of European gardens, planted by missionaries. Some of the willows three or four feet in diameter.

In the afternoon sailed to east side of Lake Rotorua and took a stage for hot mud and water cauldrons and springs at Tikitere. Thence afoot to lovely and magnificent forest. *Metrosideros* with glorious bright domed heads of shining foliage, smooth stems with climbing ferns, orchids, lilies etc adorned. Thence to a little lake and back to Rotorua by stage - dusty - 10 miles.

January 19. Set out south for Waimangu giant geyser ('black water') by stage to Tarawera Lake, through bits of old forest and past two beautiful lakelets, Green and Blue. Crossed Lake in common whale boat - four native rowers, powerful tough fellows - distance eight miles. Then a walk of a mile or two over mud and ashes to Rotomahana Lake, three or four miles wide by whale

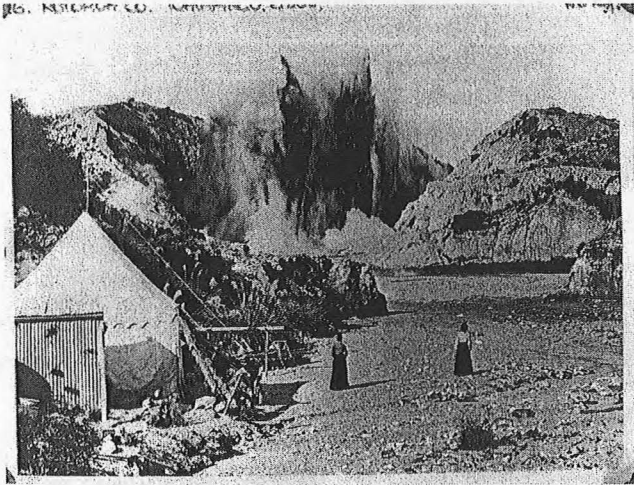


VAILE PHOTO: WAIMANGU GEYSER 1904
Reference number PAColl-0339-01
Part of *Falconer, Rose Mabel, fl 1983: Photographs of New Zealand (PAColl-0339)*
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

boat. Desolate shores reeking with boiling and spluttering springs and steam jets, over which the boat was allowed to dance and thump. Thence along muddy channel of the Waimangu stream from the giant geyser and up 500 feet to hut overlooking the geyser; hard walk of two miles or so. Thence after lunch to Waimangu hotel, one and a half miles of up and down, where take stage to Waiotapu. Arrive at 6:00pm. Tired. Change plants, eventful day. Did not see the great geyser in action, though it displayed its power three times today. The country about it loaded with mud, etc., wonderfully guttered and is rapidly being replanted. Wonderful growth of pampas grass makes all yellow, other grasses and few flowers. Interesting sample of Nature's cultivation and gardening etc.

January 20. Go by stage to Wairakei [Wairakei]. Could not get rooms and drove to Spa hotel at Taupo. 8 miles or 38 in all, starting at 12:00pm and arriving at

6:30pm. None of the geysers etc at Warotapu [Waiotapu], Wairakee [Wairakei] or [Whakarewarewa] can be compared with those of Yellowstone, except Waimangu. They are remarkable for beauty of vegetation about them. Those of the Spa (or Taupo region) are ranged along the magnificent Waikato River, the finest thing about Taupo, the little geysers and blow hole all toys compared with it. A broad flood gliding from Lake Taupo with majesty, like the Yellowstone from



WAIMANGU GEYSER ca 1903-4
Reference number 1/2-038135-F
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

its lake, breaking into rapids and surges here and there, but mostly calm, full of swirls, little green islets here and there, daintily placed like [along?] the banks, for the climate is fine and there are no floods to spoil them. Some [have] only a few grass or lily tufts, others with one Ti tree Lithospemum [tea-tree, or Leptospermum scoparium, maybe Kunzea ericoides?]. Thus with groves the Ti trees still in glorious bloom. Many heathworts, also Gaultheria.

January 21. The Spa has many fine baths. Before breakfast went to the geysers afoot, saw the curious Crows Nest geyser play. Glorious vegetation. In ravine near riverbank some of the Ti tree Lithospemum [tea-tree, Leptospermum], usually bushes, became trees a foot in diameter, 30 feet high. Their stems covered with ferns or orchids.

After breakfast to the rapids. A fine view of jagged beaten, and folded and over-folded surges and currents. Rain all way back, six miles. Great wealth of blooming Lithospemum [Leptospermum]. In the afternoon went back to Wairakei and sauntered from geyser to geyser, wonder to wonder etc. Had guide who told stories for laughing purposes. Got back to Spa in driving rain, stopped on the way to allow some of the party to climb a

hill to visit the great blow hole through which issues a flood of dry steam.

January 22. Start at 6:30am for Taupo lake steamer, 25 mile sail, smooth, glassy, reflecting low mountains, hills and cliffs about it. Very beautiful sheet of water, 1400 feet above sea level. The river to which it gives birth, the Waikato, is two times the size of McCloud. Banks very richly embossed, cliffs (even where sheer) covered mostly with ferns and mosses. The various species of Leptospermum all seen at their best here, and now most are in full bloom, amazingly numerous flowers, white with red centers, more or less, twigs generally also red. Some seem silvery white on account of hairs, silky on twigs and the edges of leaves. Some grayish on account of the tone of the bark and great quantity of seed cups. Some are trees 30 feet high, a foot or more in diameter, flaky bark and branches exceedingly rich in leafy sprays like hemlock or cedars of the Himalaya and so arranged as to give great expression and character. There are four or five species and [they] cover enormous areas. Charming plants.

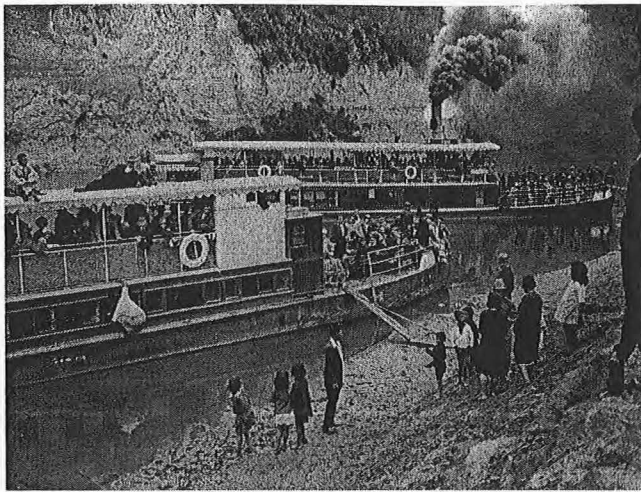
About half of day driving across a brown moor full of charming plants. Wiry grass in large tussocks make brown some [seem?] pure desert.

January 23. [Waiouru] The mountains are clear this morning at 4:30am., except a few shifting bars on Shasta-like mountain, and one across the volcano Ngouruhoe [Ngaruahoe], 7,500 feet high, near top. Yesterday the volcano showed gloriously against the sky for hours, pouring forth [an] immense volume of steam which immediately curdled into glorious cumuli visibly rising and rolling away on the wind to enrich the other cloud furniture of the sky.

The snowy Shasta-like mountain Ruapehu 8,878 feet high, a grand object with its snow and glaciers (at least two on north-east side, a mile long), makes a noble show, the main kingly feature of the landscape, and which beguiled the long stage ride from Tokaanu to Waioura [Waiouru], 44 miles. Never shall forget the brown plain, brown with grass in magnificent hummocks which shine in wind, and many other grasses not quite so wiry and tall, and heathworts. When this cover is removed, the wind blows the soil away.

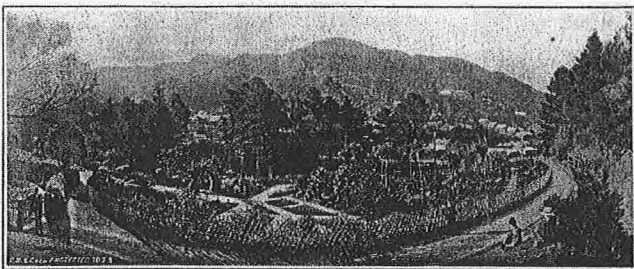
Most of today's journey was through noble forest to Pipiriki, 42 miles. Hard ride, but scenery of exuberant forest and fern-lined deep narrow dells and gorges surpasses all have seen elsewhere. The noble Rata flowers red now in glory.

January 24. Go up the Wanganui in steamer about 20 miles. Start at 9:30am. Current very rapid, in half a dozen



STEAM BOATS ON THE WHANGANUI RIVER 1907
Reference number 1/2-041898-F
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

spots had to be warped up by wire cable and capstan. Between rapids long tranquil reaches. Returned in an hour and a half, landed at Mourn [Maori] villages. Saw Barlett pears nearly ripe, and apples, quinces etc., in village without cultivation. Happy looking people, flocks and fields. River banks very steep and richly fern thatched, two or three species beside the tree form which made delightful growth on mountain slopes one above another. Visited cave, charming embowered arch cave, the tree climbers hanging in festoons from roof, the roots apparently changing to leafy stems. Trends of river glacial, the channel eroded by water, depth of 200 feet. **January 25.** Start this morning down river at 8:45am for a rail road town [Wanganui]. Expect to reach Wellington by rail tomorrow at noon. Yesterday was



Graphic Studio VIEW OF BOTANICAL GARDENS, LOOKING TOWARDS TENAROKI ROAD. Copyright
BOTANICAL GARDENS, WELLINGTON, [ca 20 February 1905]
Reference number 1/2-031329-F
Part of C B and Company Ltd: Photographs from the publication "Panoramic photographic pictures of Wellington and vicinity" (PACOLL-4785)
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

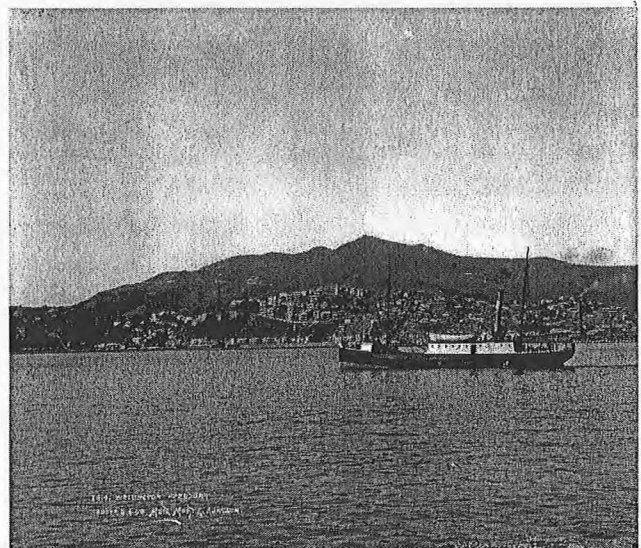
interested to find unmistakable traces of glacial action in general sculpture of the mountains and trends of main valleys. The post-glacial weathering on soft sandstone has eaten deeply into the icy records. Some of the small streams have sawed narrow slots of channels 100 feet

deep or more, five or ten feet wide buried in foliage, the sides thatched with charming ferns but nothing in the canyon fairy dell kind can surpass those of the grand forest region between the glacial Ruapehu and Pipirika [Pipiriki].

Hill or mountain side covered from top to river with fern trees over bushes and ferns, the fairy cave in fossiliferous rock sandstone, draped in climber shrub and the fern-thatched river precipices and glorious shaggy Rata forest in bloom, the grand features of the upper Wanganui. Climbed Rata tree in evening and was soon laden with scarlet flowers. The sail today down to Wanganui City is less interesting. The Roto rotonsta [Metrosideros robusta, Rata] just coming into bloom, the tomentosa [Metrosideros excelsa, Pohutukawa] just out. Take train at Wanganui. It is rich country hereabouts and the wheat harvest now on.

January 26. Stayed last evening at Palmerston [North], arrived at 9:00pm. and started this morning at 6:30am. for Wellington, arrived at 12:30pm. Palmerston North is an agricultural and grazing center; a rich, generally level area with few trees and rolling hills very green, grassy. Towards Wellington the hills are high, almost mountainous, with flat areas, half swampy, near sea level and rough fields still encumbered with melancholy remnants of a once glorious forest slowly being burnt out of existence for sake of grass.

Wellington a good substantial looking town at head of a wide glacial fiord, high hills on either side, some residences on top, brick covered with cement the



MUIR AND MOODIE FL 1898-1916:
STEAMSHIP WAKATU, WELLINGTON HARBOUR, 1904
Reference number MM-2814-1/1-G
Part of Burton Bros (PAColl-3055)
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

favourite building stuff.

January 27. This forenoon visited the botanical gardens, a place unworthy of name, being mostly a frowsy hill top covered with manuka (*Leptospermum*, tea-tree), hacked and torn, and a few odds and ends of trees. Saw two *Sequoia gigantea* which were smothered beneath other trees, a *Cryptomeria*, *Chamaecyparia lawson* sp. [*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*], and *Pinus insignis* etc., none of them labelled, and in hollow spots at foot of hills, and lot of common garden flowers. All the hills are dry and brown like those of California in summer.

At 4:00pm, or a little later, we sailed for Nelson to begin our trip on the South Island. Steamer Penguin arrived at Picton at 9:15pm at the head of a long picturesque fiord [fiord]. Stayed nearly all night to discharge freight and suit tide.

January 28. Lovely calm morning. Left Picton at 2:00am. The north end of the South Island has been carved and frittered into fiords and islets by glaciers, making charming scenery, mostly heavily timbered except the small islets and outer fronts of promontories. Gulls follow and scream for breakfast. Spangles dance to the sun on ripples made by the ship, not a white wave in sight, not even on rocky shores. Timbered slopes in distance bring up grand flowery pictures for the botanist and nature lovers.

After charming sail over calm waters arrived at Nelson about 1:30pm., having to wait an hour for the tide. Nelson small place (7000) with background of mountains brown and dry like California foothills. Trees only along top. All the way from Picton, even where unsettled, the forest is being gradually and ruthlessly burned for grass to future drouth [drought] and floods.

January 29. Cloudy. Rain last night for three hours. Start for Longford at 7:55 pm [am]. A strip of good farm land extends along coast hereabouts, between the mountains and the shore. The farmers' homes like those of England. Glad to see *Sequoia gigantea* common as ornamental tree and thriving. Saw a row of fine vigorous saplings 50 or 60 feet high at the Nelson Botanical Gardens last evening. A good beginning has been made, but water supply deficient.

Arrive at Motupiko, end of railway, about 10:00 pm. [am.] and start for Longford, 42 miles, arrive at 7:00am [pm.] well soaked in driving rain. Had outside seats for which we paid extra. Got corner of plant press wet and had job lasting until near midnight drying them at fire. Rode through magnificent forest in the afternoon

covering mountains to top say 3000 or 4000 feet as we followed in.

January 30. Rain all day. Pouring as we climbed into coach and on top; occasionally almost faired for a few minutes, then clouds sweeping along mountain side darkened and on wild corner another torrent driven in our faces as we rode on top of high coach above the driver. In the Buller Gorge the stage dashed through cataract from overhanging cliffs while bushes, rain laden, were thrashing in our faces. Yet not without pleasurable enjoyment of excitement and wild scenery. As a gorge the Buller is not very notable. In a few places where the river brushes sheer cliffs of breccia the road runs in a mere groove blasted from the front, like tunnel open on one side. Beautiful mountain slopes richly forested. Red and white Rata in glory of bloom. Enjoyed ride in spite of storm.

January 31. Rain in afternoon. Rained most of the night, clearing this morning. Nobody hurt by cold wet ride as far as I know. In the afternoon hire coach and go botanizing on the broad tangled river delta as far as the ferry, six miles pushing through the brush here and there from road. Found white Rata in great abundance covering stumps, logs, trees dead or alive, a charming plant in wealth of bloom and glossy firm leaves and in its influence covering all decay and sign of death in bright life. Another species with very small leaves has red or pink flowers, both stamens, pistil and petals pink. Also climbs to top of tallest trees. The larger red Rata very abundant, taking possession of trees gradually as vine, ending by extinguishing its supporters. Found also fine orchid epiphyte, white flowers in panicles, and fern [firm?] handsome leaves forming tufts, pendant wind shaken. Fine rich almost impenetrable forest. Handsome pigeon and little fussy bird, I [a] fantail, white. The best trees white (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* Kahikatea), black (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*, Matai) and red (*Dacrydium cupressinum*, Rimu) pinus.

February 1. Travelled from Westport and Junction Anahonga [Inangahua] to Reefton, a distance of 65 miles; start at 7:00am. and arrived at 6:00pm. First half journey through partially cleared valley between grandly tree-clad hills and mountains. The latter half forested on lowlands, also with few exceptional spots won at great price from the tangled woods. The ma[in] species on low grade here is the black pine (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*, Matai), then the red pine (*Dacrydium cupressinum*, Rimu). In the Buller valley or gorge had fine weather. The Rata in bloom made music to the eye in many places, clinging to

rocks and throwing forth its tasselled glossy leaved branches and sprays from rock or tree, living and dead alike.

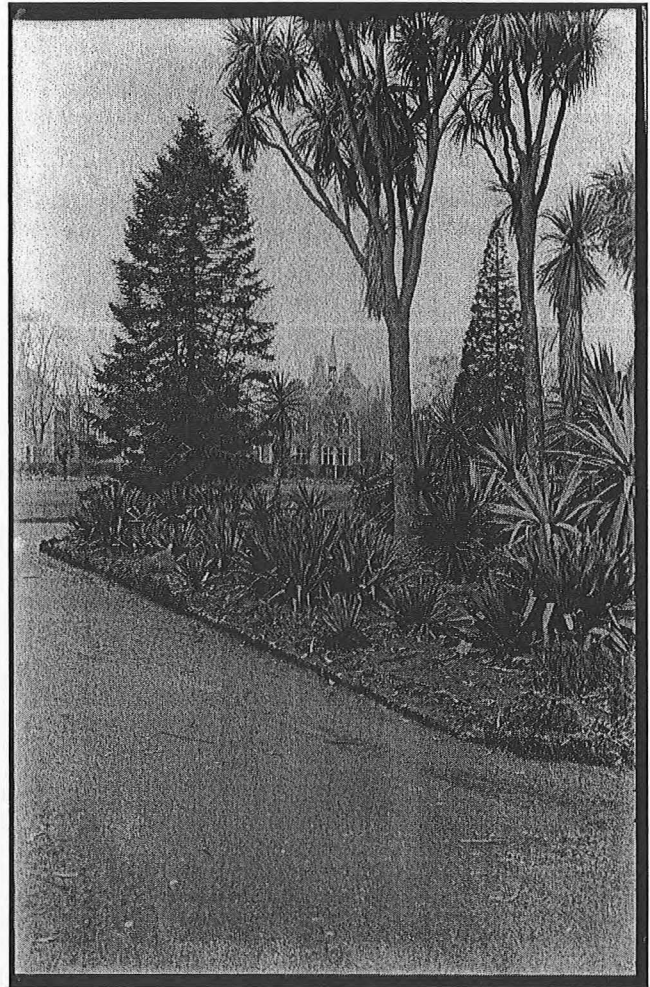
February 2. Reefton (with its little mill stamping quartz) to Otira by rail a distance of 70 miles, thence to Beasley [Bealey] by coach 20 miles. First part of rail journey a long dry meed passed through, the[n] followed forest nearly unbroken and many mills at work on the so-called pines. To Otira, which is situated at the foot of a pretty, high mountain with snow and seven or eight small glaciers which came into sight as the summit (3000 feet high) is approached and passed by stage coach.

The ride on top of the coach from Otira is glorious with fine mountain slopes densely clad with the best of the Ratas, whole forest burning red as if on fire, and beyond and above the Rata[s] dense growth of beautiful beeches, [Nothofagus] *Fagus solandri*, [Nothofagus] *Fagus menziesii* and others; charming glossy leaved evergreens, very dense in growth, leaves small, very numerous, handsome, horizontal, palmate sprays and branches piled one above another with massive and picturesque effect. Good view of icy mountains from near Beasley [Bealey].

February 3. Long 44 mile stage ride to Springfield, thence to Christchurch by rail. Arrive 6.30pm at Coker's Hotel. Scarce a tree seen all day except those planted on the Canterbury Plains. Pines and cypresses mostly from Europe and California. Saw millions of these in long windbreak belts and in groves. All the hills, mountains and valleys between Beasley [Bealey] and Springfield treeless, grassy and rather dry and barren, given up to sheep. Strange contrast to Buller and Otira valleys whose forest exuberance is glorious. The Canterbury plains are in part very fertile, in part great cobbly washes from the mountains.

February 4. All our party vaccinated 10 [m] l apiece, so as to secure entrance to Australia. Hope the thing will take. Went to Cook's office to learn about times of steamer sailings etc., and to Botanical Gardens where my heart was gladdened by sight of *Sequoia gigantea*, the finest I think I have ever seen away from home. Perfect spiry [spiny?] cones, several dozen I think. A few of *Sequoia sempervirens* also, but these seem to suffer from drouht [drought]. *Umbellularia* [sp.] and *Madrono* [*Madrona*, *Arbutus menziesii*], fine specimens doing well. Also *Pinus insignis* and *Cupressus macrocarpa* and even a Manzanita tree, *Arc-galuca* [*Arctostaphylos glauca*] to represent Californian, Japanese and European trees, and shrubs well represented and a block of generous size is

devoted to the flora of New Zealand which to me is most



CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

[ca 1800s-1920s]

Reference number 1/1-005462-G

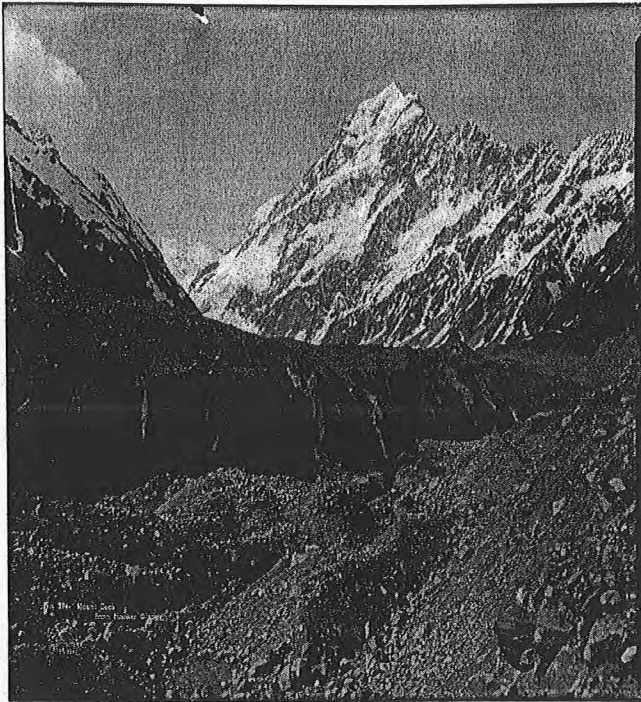
Part of *Webb, Steffano, 1880?-1967: Collection of negatives (PAColl-3061)*

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

interesting. A fine stream, the Avon, flows through the garden.

February 5. Bought tickets to Mt Cook and eight day trip with 200 miles of stage riding and, strange to say, I must go alone after constant company since landing in Egypt. All are tired and care too little for mountains. Had another walk in park or garden and called at the museum also. Have appointment to meet Dr Hutton (Curator of the Museum) and Mr Taylor (Director of Gardens) tomorrow at 10:00am. and 2:00pm.

February 6. Saw many fine things. In museum noticed two rounded granite stones which had been ground in potholes of the Muir Glacier. Had pleasant chat with Dr Hutton. He has a really interesting collection, though not



MOUNT COOK FROM HOOKER GLACIER [ca 1905]
Reference number 1/1-006950-G

Part of *Birch, A E: Scenic negatives and prints taken by Thomas Pringle (PAColl-1781)*

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

very large. He knows Keeler and Merriam. Spent pleasant hour or two in the morning, and mean to return.

Mr Taylor became more and more hearty and kind as he noticed the interest I felt. Showed me his best treasures, gave me specimens and names of many New Zealand plants I had been admiring ever since I made their acquaintance in the wilderness, and many others I had not seen before from New Zealand and foreign countries. Walked and talked for four and a half hours until Mrs Taylor came seeking her lost husband in alarm.

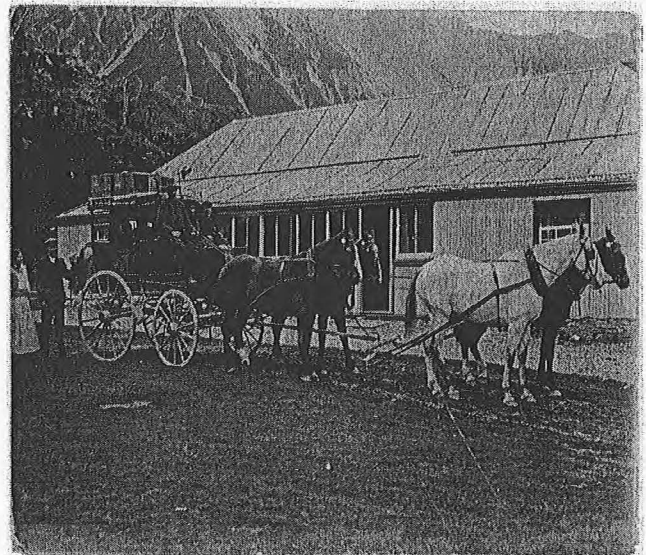
February 7. Rain most of day. Went to Botanical Gardens and Museum in the afternoon, both of which were open, though trains do not run on Sunday.

February 8. Start at 11:00am for Fairlie and Mt Cook Hermitage. Arrived at Timaru at 2:30pm, and at 4:50pm started on another train to Fairlie. Arrived 7:25pm. Crossed many streams all of which have channels a hundred times wider than their ragged currents wandering lost in broad beds of gravel glaciers. When the forests are destroyed most all of the bottom lands will be lost in gravel floods. All the finely cultivated Canterbury Plain seems to be underlain by glacial drift in endless abundance and coming to the surface here and there. Wheat just ripe on the main plain and in hills adjacent along line of railway to Fairlie. No trees in sight, save those planted; hill and dale covered with brown

bunch grass. All except valleys is given to grain. Many pines killed by frost last winter; also gusty [?] *Eucalyptus globulus*. Minus 12 degrees Fahrenheit.

February 9. At Gladstone Hotel, Fairlie and start for Hermitage by stage at 7:30am. Foggy and cloudy, but calm and likely to clear. Hills gradually rise into mountains on either hand, all treeless bunch grass region, brown and dry like the great basin country of Nevada. Soon the clouds lift, revealing the main range with its glaciers beautiful, but from here (20 to 25 miles from Fairlie) at elevation of 2500 feet, not very imposing. At noon we were as near or nearer Mt Cook than in the evening at Pukaki, 30 miles distant at the outlet of Lake Pukaki.

Fine view from end of the lake of snowy Mt Cook



COACH LEAVING THE HERMITAGE, MOUNT COOK [ca 1906-1908]
Reference number PA7-08-29

Part of *Collett, P.J. fl 1976: Chiefly stereographic photographs taken by Michael Collett (PAColl-3345)*

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

and companion peaks with their many small glaciers. Successive terraces show clearly the different elevations at which the lake stood, by cutting back falls through different formations etc., [with an?] enormous extent and depth of water-washed and reformed moraine material. Charming white mat [*Raoulia?*] of compositae among tussock grass; called Maori carpet, *Carmichaelia nana* (*senecio cassinioides*).

February 10. Mt Cook Hermitage (42 miles) arriving about six o'clock, shiny mountains in sight all the way. The road traces the right bank of the river that drains the Mt Cook mountain group, or rather its valley, which is from three to six miles wide. Reckoning its flat, gravelly, quick-

sandy, flood-swept bottom which if it could be crossed near the Hermitage, would shorten the trip from Fairlie [by] about 40 miles.

Lunched at the restaurant. Here the government has planted a large number of trees - spruce, pine, larch and birch etc., many of which are killed by fire. Indeed, all of the trees of the grassy, so-called "dessert south" region require constant care against fire. No wild native trees until near Hermitage - all yellow tussock grass.

February 11. The Hermitage a good rest place as well as a central home for mountain climbers, clean and well conducted in every way, situated at the head of the main valley at the base of Mt Cook, on moraine [at] near point of confluence of the Mueller, Hooker and Tasman glaciers. Alpine in all features except vegetation, which is unlike any other I have seen in contact with glaciers and icy torrents on moraine and moraine soil. Instead of the dwarf spruce, pine, familiar heathworts, saxifrages etc., [we found] *Phyllocladus*, *Dacrydium*, *Olearia* [species] and beech trees (dwarf, prostrate or erect in sheltered spots). One of the most interesting of the trees or bushes is the grass tree, *Dracophyllum longifolium*, another is a *Senecio* sp. with silvery leaves. Of herbs, the sturdy yellow-stemmed *Aciphylla squarrosa*, dreadfully thorny leaves, common on all moors, grassy and hummocky, as well as about glaciers. The *Dianella nigra* with lovely blue berries like jewelry, a white gentian, a white *Gnaphalium* (called Edelweiss) and a large noble white-rayed *Compositae* with silvery leaves.

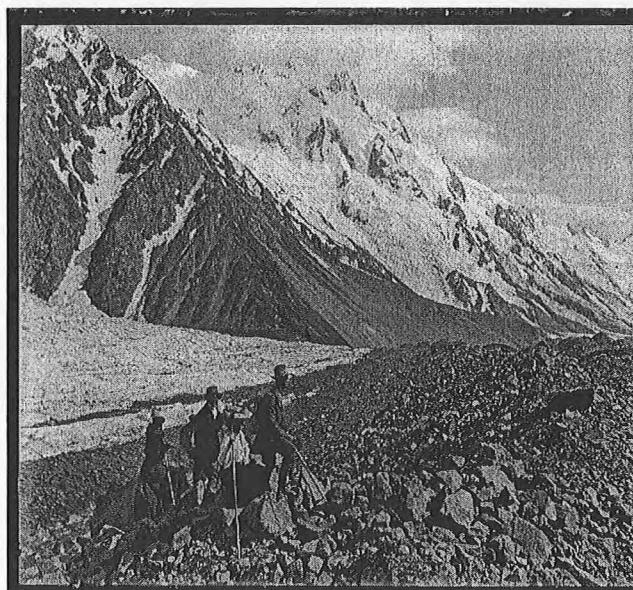
February 12. Start on the return journey after only one day at the Hermitage, and a rainy one. Went yesterday, in spite of rain to Mueller Glacier. In jumping on boulder-clad snout, found my feet had not forgot their cunning. One of the most influential bushes or trees here is the mountain pine, *Halocarpus bidwillii* forming yellowish mounds of small sprays and branchlets like those of the juniper. Also the alpine *Totara Podocarpus nivalis*, [a] small thickset rigid tree, six or eight feet high. The above named trees and bushes make dense chaparral on damp moss[es] that are old enough to be well settled [and as] difficult to press through as most of the *Sierra Ceanothus* sp.

Mt Safton [Sefton] has seven or eight hanging glaciers which make a fine display from the Hermitage and the largest of them keep up [a] thundering of avalanches and form reconstructed glaciers at the foot of cliffs. The Tasman glacier is like hundreds or thousands in Alaska; to see much of it requires three or four days.

February 13. Leave Pukaki to drive once more over the broad grassy moory yellow plains, wholly given up to sheep. Some winters are very cold here, ten or twelve degrees [Fahrenheit] below zero, with snow three feet deep, when many sheep die, 12,000 or more in this region last winter. These strange yellow-brown, boulder strewn plains, hills and mountains belong to the government, and are leased to sheep and cattle men at a penny or two per acre. Two or three acres [are] required per sheep.

The handsomest and most interesting plant of these plains is a white flower, prostrate matted *Compositae*, spread in charming mats between the tall dense tussocks of coarse grass; *Raoulia glabra* is called Marconi [Maori] carpet.

Arrived at Fairlie about 6:00pm in driving cold rain which had lasted for two or three hours. Noticed large

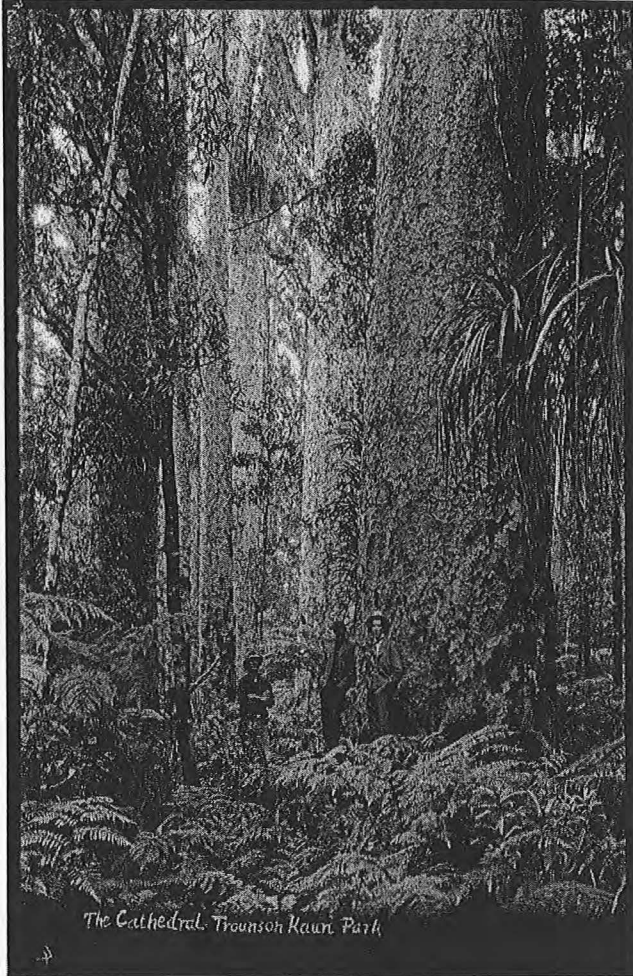


GROUP ON TASMAN GLACIER,
with the Hochstetter Icefall to the left, January 1907
Reference number: 1/2-060511-G
Part of Gifford, Algernon Charles, 1862-1948: *Albums and photographs*
(PA-Group-00040)
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

number of coniferous trees, planted by the government, frost-killed and fire killed; also gums on Canterbury plains.

February 14. All day at Fairlie because the trains which are owned by the government are not run on Sunday. Still raining. It is interesting to note the efforts of government to plant forest and groves (of conifers chiefly, and eucalypti) in this bouldery prairie region, while ruthlessly allowing wholesale destruction of native forest where only trees will grow. [This] for the sake of sheep pasture at the rate (in some hilly mountain regions) of three to ten acres per sheep, thus making destructive

floods sure and selling the country's welfare for a mess of



The Cathedral, Trounson Kauri Park

THE CATHEDRAL,
a group of kauri trees in Trounson Kauri Park,
Kaipara district, Northland [192-?]
Reference number 1/1-004515-F

Part of Arnold, John Bernard, fl 1925-1952: Photographs of kauri trees in
Trounson Kauri Park, Kaipara District, Northland (PAColl-7250)
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

mutton. The difficulty encountered by the government in protecting their plantations from fire indicates plainly the cause of these large and influential prairies. They, on a large scale, resemble the Yelm prairies of Washington, *Sequoia* sp., *Pinus insignis* and *Cupressnum marcoparpa* are common.

February 15. Arrive at Christchurch at 6:15pm, having missed [Messrs] Kling and Liddle who were to Timaru (100 miles) to meet me by taking an early but slow train. Have been wonderfully fortunate even after leaving the Sargents at Shanghai in finding pleasant and kind traveling companions; the Bells in Egypt, Messrs Kling, Liddle, Shiels and the Hustedes from Port Said to New Zealand. The officers of the *Barbarossa*, especially the surgeon. Officers and many passengers from Shanghai to

Singapore. Dr Smith to India, officers etc. Bombay to Suez and Barry (Reverend, wife and daughter) etc.

In afternoon go to gardens and enjoy repeated views of hearty young *Sequoia* etc.

February 16. At gardens until 12:15pm with Mr Taylor revel[ing] in native plants. Went to his cottage and had refreshments. Thence to Dr Jennings for examination as to vaccination. Reported had taken well, and gave me paper to certify the fact, assuring me that I was immune from smallpox for the rest of my life.

February 17. All morning with Mr Taylor, revel[ing] in New Zealand plants at the Botanic Gardens. In the afternoon packed and start for Auckland. Sail from Lyttleton at 10:00pm on steamer *Mokoia*.

February 18. Beautiful picturesque shores, green water. Arrive at Wellington at 11:00am. Leave at 6:00pm. Went up town to the Government Printing Office and was glad to obtain a copy of Professor Kirk's *Forest Flora* [1889], also of his *Students' Flora* [1899].

February 19. The coast in plain view all day, picturesquely boldly sculptured by ice. Trees on distant mountains and hills, but very large areas cleared by fire for sheep pasture; a dismal policy fraught with ills, in great part irremedial. Arrived Napier, a small thriving town with artificial harbor made of concrete blocks of great size, and magnificent beach, and boulevard (a mile or more long) lined with row of *Auricaria excelsa* [Norfolk pine], a lofty sheer bluff. Leave at 8:00pm.

February 20. Arrive at Gisborn [Gisborne] about 10:00am, discharge cargo and passengers and take on some by tender while at anchor, a mile or so from shore. Hereabouts the same sad signs of disforestation are visible on all the available hills and mountains. The water along the shore is very beautiful in color; green pure and lively blue and purple.

February 21. Arrive at Auckland this morning about 10:00am and drove to Central Hotel. Great crowd here. Dried plants and got ready to go north tomorrow into kauri forests.

Auckland has no botanical garden, but pleasant little park on hill top, with statuary and a few good trees and flowerbeds. Will probably have to go north alone as Mr Kling has decided to go home via San Francisco.

February 22.

Cynthia dealbata – tree fern silver bark

Dicksonia linata

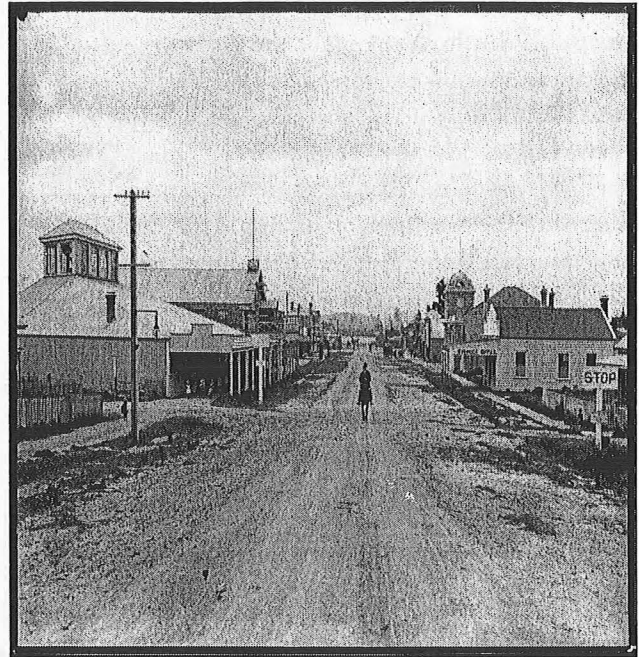
Cynthia madularis, largest 70 feet high

Dicksonia squarrosa

Cynthia Cunninghamii
 Dicksonia fibrosa
 Alsophylla colensii
 Tomaria (tree-like) discolour
 Tomaria (tree-like) Fraseri
 SH [T F] Cheeseman, Auckland Institute

[Cyathea and Dicksonia are families of tree ferns. The species should read as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Cyathea dealbata | Tree fern white-silver |
| Cyathea medullaris | Largest tree fern to 70 feet, black |
| Cyathea cunninghamii | Gully tree fern |
| Cyathea colensoi | Golden tree fern (originally Alsophila colensii) |
| Dicksonia lanata | Prostrate tree fern |
| Dicksonia squarrosa | Slender tree fern |
| Dicksonia fibrosa | Wheki or woolly tree fern |
| Blechnum discolour | |
| Lomaria (tree-like) discolour | |
| Blechnum fraseri | Lomaria (tree-like) fraseri] |



STREET IN DARGAVILLE ca1900
 Reference number 1/1-006351-G
 Part of Northwood Brothers: Photographs of Northland (PA-Group-00027)
 Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand



BULLOCK TEAM AND TIMBER WORKERS ALONGSIDE A KAURI TREE
 14 October 1897
 Reference number 1/2-020852-F
 Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

Had a pleasant ride to Helensville through rather frowsy farm and dairy country once covered by dense Kauri [Agatha australis] forest, as the fossil gum shows, though not a tree survives. Traces of gum prospectors and diggers are to be seen almost everywhere, over hill and dale. Farm houses and villages are usually ornamented by foreign trees, Pinus insignis, Cupressus macrocarpa

and gums.

From Helensville to Dargaville in eight hours by steamer, a fine sail. Found pleasant companions. Stopped four miles below Dargaville on advice of a friendly Kauri man. Pinus insignis and Cupressus macrocarpa grow very large here, some three feet in diameter, dark green, wide spreading. Also noticed two magnolias in bloom, grandiflora [Magnolia grandiflora] in garden. Grand forest of black pine (Prumnopitys taxifolia, Matai) across the Wairoa River.

February 23. Started for Kaihu at 10:30am, arrived after noon few minutes. After luncheon had instructive walk in woods where lumbering is going on. A rough hillside, densely forested with Kauri. Rimu [Dacrydium cupressinum], white pine [Dacrycarpus dacrydioides, Kahikatea], Totara [Podocarpus totara], Tarara [Taraire, Beilschmiedia tarairi], "cedar", tree fern, pukatea [Laurelia novae-zealandia] etc., etc. tied with vines. Large Rata tree, cone vine, now five feet in diameter and covered with two other species of Rata, or one. Another formed smooth trunk, four feet in diameter, with thick grey papery bark around nine inches in diameter, which gap contains the dead tree, up which the Rata had climbed, and (as if afraid the poor tree might escape) the gap is crushed by many cross-belts attached to the two sides.

February 24. Rain all day with short intervals of almost imperceptible drizzle. Went again into the bush to see the grand trees and shrubs and ferns, enjoying the weather. The road makers were using most precious material in most extravagant quantities: tree ferns and palms, 15 to 50 feet high with glorious foliage were piled into gullies as filling mixed with a dozen other sorts of trees, dirt, rocks etc. Saw trees fall. Found two sorts of climbing Rata on one vine, as if grafted; found one just commenced to grow in young palm. Many of the Kauri are dead, though no sign or tittle [little?] of fire is to be seen on them. All the woodsmen say they were killed by fire; a smoke is sufficient they say. Soon, in gathering Kauri, the entire forest is destroyed, burned and the soil is already avalanching.

February 25. At noon still raining. Fine in the deep woods to see the vegetation enjoying it. On dead tree large masses of liliaceous plant flourishing. Lily gardens in tree tops. The one with vine-like roots and stems which climbs up or down with large masses of leaves at intervals of a foot or two [Freycinetia banksii] is the most wonderful looking, queer as Rata. The upper part of stem, the largest all with ring leaf soars around them. Have not seen flower. Some gum gatherers, schoolboys, showed me the heart of a palm [Nikau, Rhopalostylis sapida] and gave some to eat. It is very good, something like coconut. Fern buds and heart also good. No poison berries in these woods say my young guides.

February 26. Fair at last. Took another walk into the forest after drying plants. Collected fine lot of ferns. The Trichomanes nephroides a curious species, common on stones and trees. Ferns on ferns. These tree ferns, the smallest about a foot high, the tallest 20 to 100 feet high with hard handsome wood pinnae three feet long, black stalks twelve feet long, very graceful. The other about 20 to 30 feet high, pinnae 18 inches to 24, stalks six feet long, extremely white, silvery below with rich brown sporangi, very beautiful. Left for Dargaville at 2:30pm.

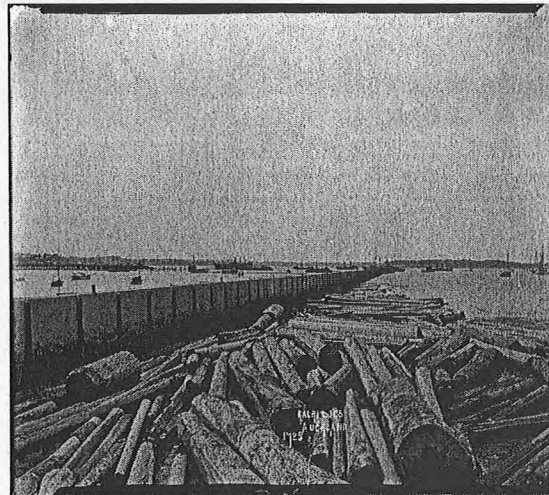
February 27. Arose at 5:00am and enjoyed fine sunrise, a strip of rosy red sky along horizon on which a

tall Takitea [Kahikatea, white pine, Dacrycarpus dacrydioides] forest was outlined. The broad river in front of it, dark sky above; later gold yellow. Take steamer at 6:00am for long sail down river and across the Kaipara Harbour to Helensville then rail to [Auckland].

February 28. Fine day spent on drying plants and studying them. Walked in the park; fine view of harbor, hundreds of inhabitants enjoying rest, scenery and social benefits of the park or garden, but it is a poor affair for so rich a town. Not a label to tell the name and home of a single plant. Noticed a row of Piuri [Puriri, Vitex lucens] in flower and fruit.

Life size statue in bronze of Queen Victoria in centre of the gardens is very fine, erected by her devoted subjects of the colony.

February 29. Engaged passage on the Zealandia to Sydney; start at 5:30pm. Glad to get done with rapid survey of New Zealand, though it has been absorbingly interesting, especially its fast fading forests. These form a noble addition to my many noble tree pictures gathered in other lands. **March 1.** Seas calm, smooth but with the falling swell of a recent storm. In the morning, after breakfast, we were off the north end of [the North] Island – North Cape and Cape Maria van Diemen both in plain sight at once. So also the rocky islet landmarks called the Three Kings. Sky cloudy, albatrosses (the medium sized one, with black wingtips) very abundant and following the ship. Also small dark lead coloured species. Magnificent breadth of moon-silvered waves this evening.



AUCKLAND HARBOUR WATERFRONT,
with kauri logs [ca 1910]
Reference number 1/2-000125-G
Part of Price, William Archer, d 1948: Collection of post card
negatives (PAColl-3057)
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

About the author and cartographer:

Lex Chalmers is a Geographer who has spent more than 50 years in the spaces and places that John Muir visited in 1904. He works at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, with teaching and research interests in environmental education. His established interest in John Muir was stimulated in 2007 by the visit of Bill Swagerty to New Zealand, and a reciprocal visit to the Muir archives in the Holt-Atherton collection at Stockton.

Max Oulton produced the map of John Muir's travels in New Zealand from the Linne Marsh Wolf text. Max is a Cartographer at the University of Waikato.

John Graves, Writer

Edited by Mark Busby and Terrell Dixon. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007. 266 pages. Cloth \$34.95. ISBN 0-292-71494-7. Reviewed by James E. Bishop, University of Nevada, Reno

In the introduction to this volume, Mark Busby writes of Texas author John Graves, "through all of his writing, Graves demonstrates how a writer with a clear sense of purpose, a respect for the bounty of the natural world, an understanding of the depth of simplicity, and a strong grip on language can step forth and move people in ways that last" (24). Busby's reverent introduction is characteristic of the seventeen essays that comprise this collection. While there is some analysis of Graves's literary works, most of the essays here celebrate Graves's life and his significant contributions to literature.

Graves is best known for his 1960 book, *Goodbye to a River*, which chronicles his canoe trip down the Brazos River, which was to be changed forever by a series of dams. He also is the author of several other books: *Hard Scrabble* (1974), which honors the arid land where Graves made his home; *From a Limestone Ledge* (1980), a collection of essays that grew out of a regular column that Graves wrote for *Texas Monthly*; and a memoir, *Myself and Strangers* (2004). Among his readers, Graves is known for his muscular prose style and his often contradictory representations of people and nature.

John Graves, Writer is divided into three parts. In the first, Graves discusses his life and his writing in a pair of interviews. In the second, friends and admirers of Graves reflect on his literary achievements and his legacy. The third and longest section consists of nine essays that consider Graves's books from a range of critical perspectives.

In illuminating Graves's life and work, the essays in this collection vary in their effectiveness. Rick Bass's "tribute" to Graves is both eloquent and moving, as it describes Graves's work as "a conduit between us and our ancient attachment to the land and the older, more enduring world of stone and sky, antler and bone, feather and toil" (81). James Langston's defense of Graves's treatment of gender—a common target of criticism by feminist readers—would be more persuasive if it acknowledged some of these critiques in more detail. Dickie Maurice Heaberlin's "Of Dachshunds and Dashes" claims that Graves's use of parenthetical constructions is emblematic of his dexterity as a writer. Heaberlin whimsically likens Graves and fellow writer E.B. White to dachshunds in celebration of their independent spirit—a comparison that is perplexing.

Readers of *The John Muir Newsletter* will be interested in contributions by Alex Hunt and Terrell Dixon, each of whom claims Graves as an environmental writer. Many critics—and Graves himself—have insisted that Graves is neither a nature writer nor an environmentalist, since he tends to describe environmental problems in their full complexity, rather than in polemical terms. Hunt, however, helpfully points out that "[t]hese assumptions—that to be 'inconclusive' precludes being a nature writer or that to be an artist precludes being an activist—seem unfortunate and narrow, as does the sense that nature writing provides answers rather than mere entangled questions" (108). Dixon, meanwhile, argues that even Graves's mocking treatment of "Saint Henry David Thoreau" demonstrates genuine kinship between Graves and Thoreau, and that the digressive structure of *Goodbye to a River* in many ways mirrors Thoreau's treatment of his own experiences on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. Although Graves resists many of the labels that readers have placed upon him, he clearly belongs to traditions of both Texas writing and writing about nature. *John Graves, Writer* makes a compelling case that Graves deserves greater attention from readers outside Texas, particularly those concerned with the relationship between humans and the natural environment.

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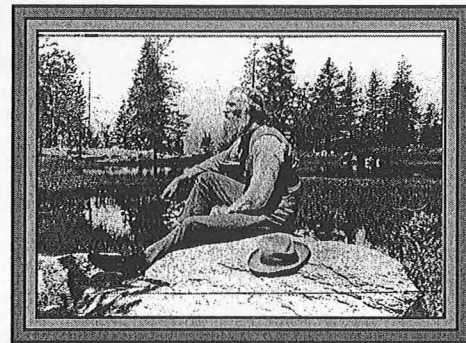
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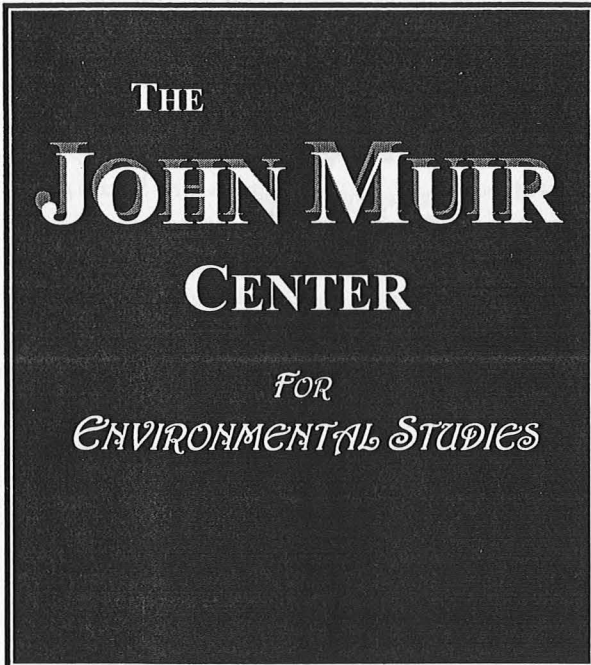
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☞ CONTENTS THIS ISSUE ☞

❖ JOHN MUIR'S WORLD TOUR (PART V) ❖

❖ NEWS & NOTES ❖

❖ LOUIE MUIR'S ONE AND ONLY TRIP TO YOSEMITE ❖

❖ BOOK REVIEW OF *JOHN GRAVES, WRITER* ❖

