

A Chronological Saunter with John Muir

*"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown,
for going out, I found, was really going in." ~Journals, 1913*

- 1838 John born in Dunbar, Scotland (mother Ann and father Daniel)-sister Margaret (1834); sister Sarah (1836)
- 1840 Brother David born
- 1843 Brother Daniel born
- 1845 Enrolled in Dunbar Grammar School (Latin, French, Math, Geography, Natural History)
- 1846 Twin Sisters Mary and Annie born
- 1849 (11) Family emigrates to America (NYC then Wisconsin—Fountain Lake, Marquette County)
 - from 11-21, works as unpaid laborer on family farm
 - invents and builds wooden clocks, etc; teaches himself at night
- 1850 Sister Joanna born (last of 8 children)
- 1856 Family moves to Hickory Hill farm nearby
 - digs a well, almost dies
- 1860 (22) Leaves home to exhibit inventions at Wisconsin State Fair
 - meets Jeanne Carr, wife of professor Ezra Carr—University of Wisconsin (Lincoln elected president)
- 1861 Enters U. of Wisconsin for 2 ½ years
 - teaches school in Winter
 - learns geology from Prof. Carr
 - (War of Secession begins)
- 1863 Leaves U. of Wisconsin-returns to Fountain Lake
 - travels on foot along Wisconsin River to Mississippi River
- 1864 (26) Travels to Canada—works in sawmill and rake factory for 2 years (Lincoln gives Yosemite to CA as State Park)
- 1865 Asked to teach Sunday School—teaches botany instead of bible (End of War of Secession; Lincoln assassinated)
- 1866 Returns to America—works in carriage factory in Indianapolis
 - publishes first essay, *"The Calypso Borealis"* (Boston Recorder)
- 1867 Temporarily blinded in factory accident
 - walks 1000 miles to Florida and Cuba
- 1868 (30) Sails to California—saunters from SF to Yosemite (April-June in mountains)
 - works on Delaney ranch
- 1869 Summer in Sierra—works as shepherd (2000 sheep)
- 1870 Winter in Yosemite—works in sawmill; meets Joseph LeConte, geology prof.
- 1871 First saunter to Hetch Hetchy Valley—Emerson visits
 - publishes first California article, *"Yosemite Glaciers"* (New York Tribune)
- 1872 Writes articles on Yosemite—meets Asa Gray, Harvard botanist; meets William Keith, artist
 - Yellowstone becomes first National Park
- 1873 Winter in Oakland—climbs Whitney and visits Kings Canyon
- 1874 Climbs Shasta—meets Louie Strentzel; meets John Swett, State Super. of Schools
- 1875 Writes articles in Bay Area—climbs Shasta and Whitney again; three month mule trip to southern sierras
- 1876 (38) *"God's First Temples"* published in Sacramento Record Union
- 1877 Small boat and raft trips around CA—explores San Gabriel Mts.
- 1879 Engaged to Louie—first trip to Alaska (with Rev. Young); discovers Glacier Bay and Muir Glacier
- 1880 (42) Marries Louie (33)—second trip to Alaska (adventure with the dog Stickeen)
- 1881 Third trip to Alaska (on steamer Corwin)—daughter Wanda born
- 1882 Rancher and fruit farmer in Martinez for 8 years
- 1885 Father Daniel dies (Kansas City, MO)
- 1886 Daughter Helen born

- 1888 (50) Puget Sound and climb of Mount Rainier—**Picturesque California** published
- 1890 Fourth trip to Alaska
-Yosemite named a National Park; John Strentzel dies
- 1892 Finds the Sierra Club—first president
- 1893 (55) East Coast trip—NYC (meets John Burroughs), Concord, Walden, etc
-Europe trip—Scotland, London, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, France, Italy
-campaigns for Mt. Rainier to be a national park
- 1894 First book, **The Mountains of California**, published
- 1896 Works with U.S. Forestry Service surveying Western States
-fifth trip to Alaska; mother Ann dies; honorary A.M. degree—Harvard
- 1897 Honorary L.L.D.—Univ. of Wisconsin
-sixth trip to Alaska
- 1898 (60) Works with U.S. Forestry surveying North Carolina and East
- 1899 Mount Rainier named a National Park
-seventh trip to Alaska (Harriman expedition with John Burroughs)
- 1901 **Our National Parks** published—Teddy Roosevelt elected president
- 1903 Roosevelt camps with Muir
-world tour from London around to New Zealand and Hawaii
- 1905 Louie dies
- 1906 SF Earthquake—city needs water: politicians plan to dam Hetch Hetchy Valley
- 1907 Begins fight to save Hetch Hetchy
- 1908 (70) Muir Woods established
-dictates *My Boyhood and Youth* as a guest of Harriman in Klamath Lake, OR
- 1909 **Stickeen** published—travels with John Burroughs in Grand Canyon
- 1911 Travels to NYC, Washington, DC, Boston
-**My First Summer in the Sierra** published
-honorary L.D.—Yale
-sails from NYC for a one year trip to South America and Africa
- 1912 Travels Africa (returns via NYC); **The Yosemite** published
- 1913 Hetch Hetchy dammed; **The Story of My Boyhood and Youth** published; honorary D. of Law—UCB
- 1914 (76) Meets Ryozo Azuma, the “John Muir of Japan”
-dies in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve
(World War I begins)
- 1942 Daughter Wanda dies (60)
- 1964 Daughter Helen dies (78)

Primary Source: Sierra Club John Muir Exhibit website, “Biography”—“Chronology”