



Sketch John Muir did of the bur oak shanty. Photo below 1863 of Fountain Lake house with John and sister Sarah and her children in front.

*We moved into our frame house in the fall, when mother with the rest of the family arrived from*



*Scotland, and, when the winter snow began to fly, the bur-oak shanty was made into a stable for Jack.*

11. Bridge in the woods. When Muir lived here, there were not as many trees since the Indians burned the land regularly and wildfires kept the land more open. John Muir rode his pony Jack up and down the hills on this land. *After a quarter of a mile or so of this curious transportation, I cried, "Whoa, Jack!" The wonderful creature seemed to understand Scotch, for he stopped so suddenly I flew over his head, but he stood perfectly still as if that flying method of dismounting were the regular way.*

12. Bench.

13. Bridge over outlet stream. You can see the remains of a beaver dam here and if you look into the water, you'll see bits of shiny marl. Marl is made up of the shells of snails, crayfish and other creatures. The widening of the stream towards the lake was made when people mined marl and dug it out of the lake bed. They spread it on their farm fields for nutrition for the soil. Across the road, Hugh McGwin, son of John Ennis, owned a mill powered by the water in the stream.

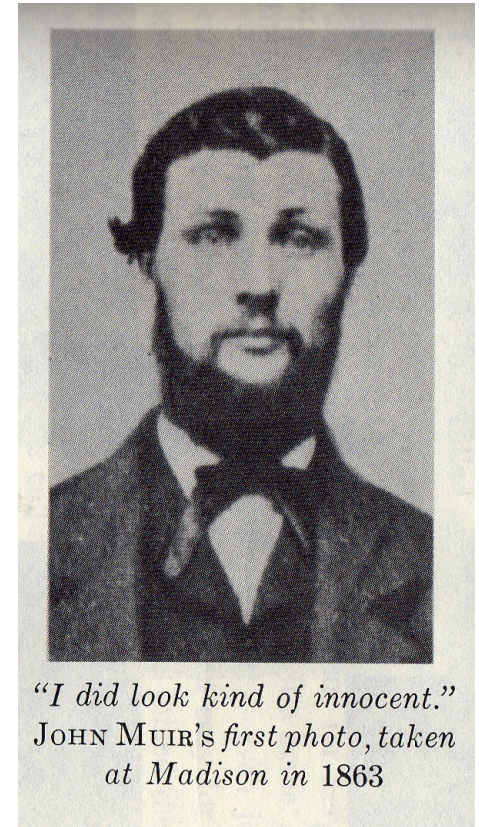
### Some information about John Muir in Marquette County

- John Muir was 11 years old when he emigrated to Wisconsin from Dunbar, Scotland in 1849.
- Father Daniel and sons John and David and daughter Sarah came first to Marquette County. They were on the ship for six weeks and three days. They were planning on settling in Canada. On the ship, they heard about Wisconsin and land that was easier to clear as well as the building of a canal that would ease shipping of their crops (the Portage Canal). They landed in New York and travelled on the Erie Canal to Buffalo. They arrived in spring and had a two story house built by fall when the rest of the family came to join them, arriving November 7.
- Daniel Muir moved the family seeking religious freedom. He disagreed with the Calvinist doctrine of election which declared that only certain people would be saved and everyone else was doomed. He also hated patronage, the practice where the nobility chose church leaders and dictated policy.
- In Scotland, Daniel was an orphan who was brought up mostly by an older sister. He set out on his own and became first a soldier, then a successful merchant who was known for his honesty. He entered into the business through his first wife, who had inherited it.
- The Muir family consisted of: Daniel Muir, father; Anne Muir, mother; Margaret (Maggie) who married John Reid, son of Andrew Reid; Sarah who married David Galloway; John; David who married Catherine (Katy) Cairns; Daniel; Twin sisters Mary and Anna (Annie). Mary married a Hand son; Joanna, born in Marquette County
- The Muirs left Milwaukee and travelled to Kingston where Daniel left Sarah with Daniel and John and went to find land on which to settle.
- Fountain Lake was their first home in Marquette County. The first purchase was for 80 acres of land.
- Daniel went to Milwaukee to buy northern white pine lumber for the frame, two and a half story house. Carpenters who worked on the house called it a palace. It had eight rooms.
- When the Muirs first moved here, there were Ho Chunk (then called Winnebago) Indians living in the area. Just west of the little kettle lake, the Muirs often saw smoke rising from a camp and John writes about plowing through Indian graves on Fountain Lake Farm.
- Daniel soon bought another quarter section of land across the road to the east.
- Daniel Muir purchased what he named Hickory Hill about five miles south of Fountain Lake and built a house there, moving the family from Fountain Lake in 1856.
- Sarah (John Muir's sister) and David Galloway married in 1856 and purchased (or traded) the original 80 acres of Fountain Lake farm.
- John went to the University in Madison, then began his trek across America.
- 1914 John Muir died in California.

For more information go to [muirboyhoodhome.com](http://muirboyhoodhome.com)

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## Marquette County Ice Age Trail Guide for John Muir Park



*"I did look kind of innocent."*  
JOHN MUIR's first photo, taken at Madison in 1863

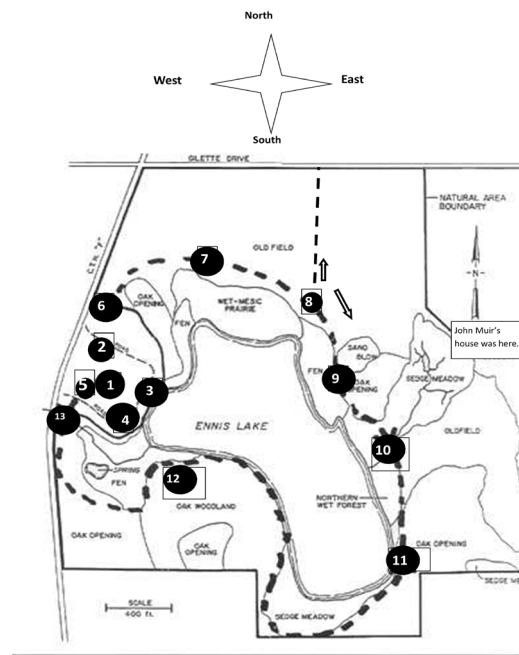
This guide is available on the Marquette County John Muir Nature and History Route Mobile App at <http://muirboyhoodhome.toursphere.com> along with more information about John Muir,



Fountain Lake and other sites in Marquette County. Use this QR code to take you to the mobile app on your phone or on your computer.

**Guide to Ice Age Trail in John Muir Park**  
*Italics are Muir's own words from The Story of My Boyhood and Youth, his autobiography.*

1. Parking lot.
2. This Montello granite monument was installed for the dedication of John Muir Park in 1957. The words were written by Ranger Mac (Wakelin McNeel), a popular radio personality on Wisconsin Public Radio who promoted conservation and nature education for kids.
3. View of Ennis Lake at the boat launch. The Muirs called this Fountain Lake for the springs along its shoreline on the other side of the lake. The name Ennis comes from generations of the Irish family Ennis who lived on this side of the lake and later owned the Muir land as well. John Muir taught himself to swim in this lake. It is a kettle lake, formed from a giant block of ice that dropped from the bottom of the last glacier that covered this land. *Oh, that glorious Wisconsin wilderness! Everything new and pure in the very prime of the spring when Nature's pulses 64 were beating highest and mysteriously keeping time with our own! Young hearts, young leaves, flowers, animals, the winds and the streams and the sparkling lake, all wildly, gladly rejoicing together!*
4. Sierra Club sign. John Muir was one of the founders and the first President of the Sierra Club. The Madison Chapter of the Sierra Club purchased a portion of the land in the northwest corner of this park to preserve it and donated it to the DNR who gave it to Marquette County. It is now restored prairie.
5. The lilac bushes were planted by the Ennis family whose home once stood here. Like the Muirs, they immigrated from Ireland and settle here shortly after the Muirs. Sarah Muir planted lilacs, too, in front of their home across the lake.
6. North trail head. This informational



- kiosk was installed by the local chapter of the Ice Age Trail and jointly maintained by them and Marquette County.
7. Restored prairie. This is part of the State Natural Area, protected by the DNR. Big blue-stem, Indian grass, blazing-star, and prairie phlox are present in the low prairie, which grades into a spongy sedge meadow and tall shrub community. *The first spring, while some of the birds were still building their nests and very few youngones had yet tried to fly, father hired a Yankee to assist in clearing eight or ten acres of the best ground for a field.*
  8. This is where the new portion of the Ice Age Trail branches north and takes you across Gillette Road into a newly restored prairie. The land was once owned by Daniel Muir. John would have plowed the prairie plants under to plant crops.
  9. Bench on Ice Age Trail. *The love-song of the frogs seemed hardly less wonderful than those of the birds, their musical notes varying from the sweet, tranquil, soothing peeping and purring of the hylas to the awfully deep low-bass blunt bellowing of the bullfrogs.*
  10. Bridge over inlet stream. Look to the northeast from this bridge and you can see a house on the hill. That house sits on the footprint of the Muir house. It is private property. The meadow at the base of the hill is where John Muir discovered orchids blooming and is one of the reasons that he tried to buy this land three times in order to preserve it. *To this charming hut, in the sunny woods, overlooking a flowery glacier meadow and a lake rimmed with white water-lilies, we were hauled by an ox-team across trackless carex swamps and low rolling hills sparsely dotted with round-headed oaks.*