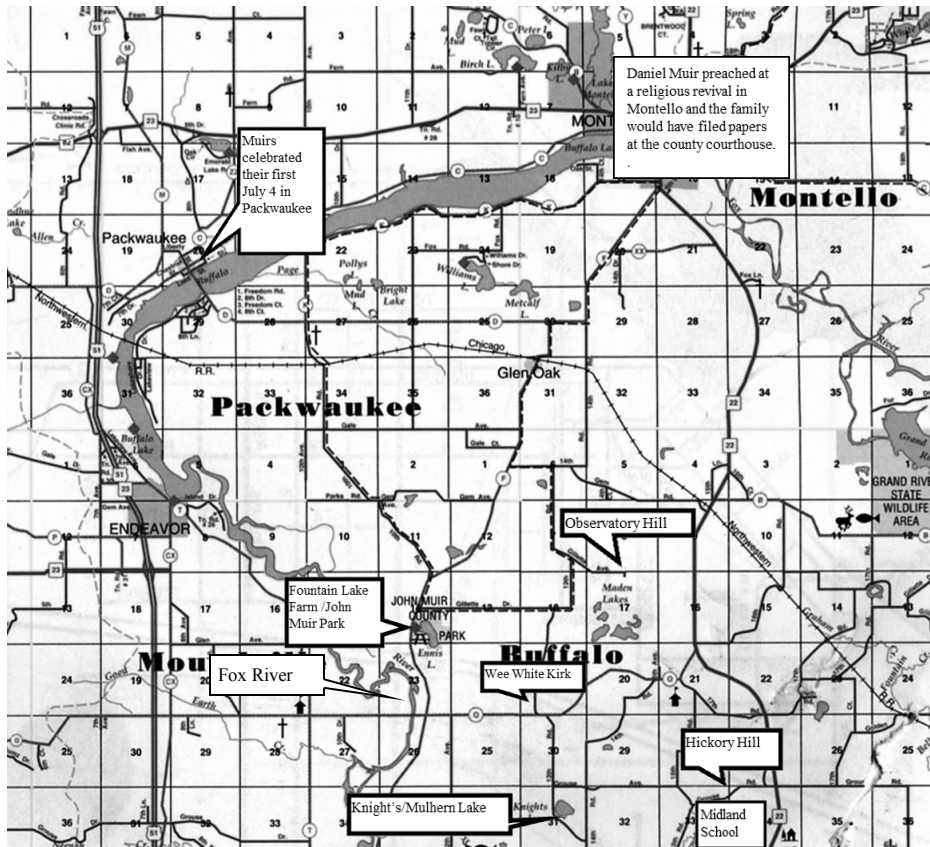


1. Visit Vaughn Hall, home of the Montello Historic Preservation Society and view From the Old World to the New: the Dunbar, Scotland and Marquette County, Wisconsin Boyhood Homes of John Muir. Located at 55 West Montello St. Montello, Wisconsin. Open Summer Fridays 4-7 and Saturdays 10 to 4 and by appointment.
2. Join the Wisconsin Friends of John Muir. Visit their Facebook page.
3. Read *Son of the Wilderness* by Linnie Marsh Wolfe, considered the best biography of Muir.
4. Read *The Heart of John Muir's World* by Millie Stanley, out of print but available at used book sites. Extensive history of Muir in Marquette County.
5. Read *Second Edition of Muir is Still Here* available at www.kathleenmcgwin.com. Extensive information about Muir's neighborhood, as the birds Muir loved and which can still be seen here.
6. Join the Marquette County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail and/or take part in Muir's Birthday Hike in April with the Wisconsin Friends of John Muir.
7. Read the kiosk at John Muir park.
8. Watch for special events each year held at John Muir Park and around Marquette County in honor of John Muir.

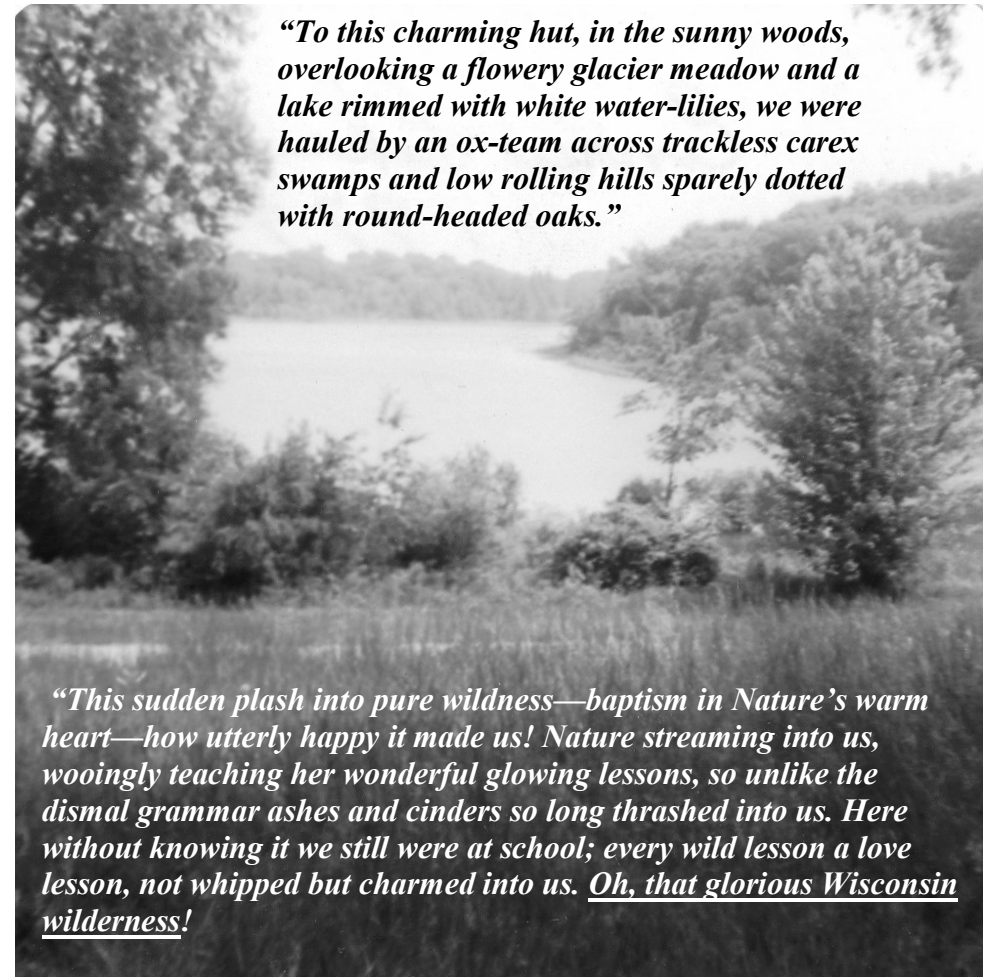


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Marquette County, Wisconsin

John Muir's boyhood home, his neighborhood



"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."

"This sudden plash into pure wildness—baptism in Nature's warm heart—how utterly happy it made us! Nature streaming into us, wooingly teaching her wonderful glowing lessons, so unlike the dismal grammar ashes and cinders so long thrashed into us. Here without knowing it we still were at school; every wild lesson a love lesson, not whipped but charmed into us. Oh, that glorious Wisconsin wilderness!"

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For lodging information:
www.marquettecountywisconsinlodging.com

Fountain Lake, (Ennis Lake), Muir Park, Fox River and Ice Age Trail



An 11 year old John Muir moved with his family from Dunbar, Scotland, to Marquette County, Wisconsin in 1849. Father Daniel Muir along with Sarah, John and David, came first and first built a bur oak shanty, then a two story house. On the south end of the Muir's Fountain Lake Farm there was an Indian mound and a distance in front of it, a row of thatched-roofed Indian graves. John recalled with regret in his adult years that he, like other settlers, plowed the graves under. He wrote, *"we ploughed them down, turning the old bones they covered into corn and wheat."* Indian mounds were located throughout Marquette County and date as far back as archaic culture (about 800 BC) when conical mounds were built.

The Fox River is what linked the Great Lakes to communities all along its route and, after the Portage canal was built, linked Green Bay all the way to the Wisconsin River and to the Mississippi. It was vital to commerce when the Muirs moved to Marquette County. At first, ferries were licensed to transport people across the river at various points. Then bridges of all sorts were built. Although the Portage Canal was not fully functional, in 1856 the steamship Aquila travelled from the Mississippi River all the way to Green Bay. The voyage of the Aquila was big news and it's quite possible that a young John Muir ran to the river's edge to watch its progress. Ships like the one in this photo regularly travelled the Fox. See the Fox River at the junction of County O and F.



Making of John Muir Park: 1946 Syl Adrian, owner of Indian Echoes began his research on Muir in Marquette County and began advocating for a park. In May 1957 John Muir Park was dedicated as a county park. John Muir is remembered and commemorated with a Montello granite marker donated by the Montello Granite Company. The inscription was authored by Ranger Mac, the Public Radio personality beloved by school children at the time. The original park land acquisition was made possible by local families who owned the land Muir loved, volunteers, and county funds. In 1965 Adrian solicited a large donation for the county and with added State funding purchased another portion of land. The Wisconsin Historical Marker on Highway 22 was dedicated Sept 1969. In 1972 it became a State Natural Area. The Sierra Club purchased additional land in 1988 which is now the restored prairie at John Muir Park. The Ice Age Trail loops around Ennis Lake. In July 1990 the home site, privately owned, was listed on the National Historic Registry.

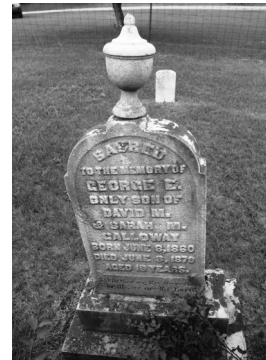
The lake is called Ennis Lake for the Ennis family whose house sat just about where the granite marker now stands. The lilacs by the parking lot in the park are remnants of this old homestead. Ennis descendants still live in the area.

the founder of the Disciples of Christ, the sect that Daniel adhered to, encouraged people to drop infant baptism because it was not in the Bible. Thomas Campbell and his son Alexander were from Ireland originally and Thomas preached Unity, Peace and Purity to change the church based on the Bible, not on man's rules.

- As more settlers moved in, the Disciples of Christ and other sects met together to listen to "preaching elders." Daniel was one of the best liked and was invited to many communities to preach. He never asked for payment. On Sundays he arrived to worship in "blacks, fringed plaid and chimney-pot hat." (Linnie-Marsh Wolfe) He spoke quietly and gave hour and a half long sermons after hymn singing and three quarters of an hour long prayers.
- The lake began being called Ennis Lake when John Ennis bought land and built his home close to where the granite marker now stands in Muir Park. The Ennis' were from Ireland and settled in Marquette County around the same time as the Muirs.
- In 1857, John attended the Eddy school, a log school house later rebuilt and named the Brown-ing school (the brick schoolhouse still stands south of St. Andrew's Catholic Church west of Highway 22.). It was in the south east corner of Marquette County near the home of Alexander Gray and next to the home of Bradford, Daniel and William Brown whose step father was an Eddy.
- John Cairns, brother of Katy who would marry David, and John were the culprits who put sod over the chimney of the school when they came late for a spelling bee, forcing those inside to come out.
- John Muir took his whittled inventions to the State Fair in Madison in 1860, taking a train from Pardeeville.
- John Muir left Marquette County for the University of Wisconsin in 1861.
- Daniel Muir and wife Anne left Hickory Hill farm to the care of Margaret (Muir) and John Reid in 1861 and moved to Portage.
- John visited Marquette County in 1863 after he travelled by foot along the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi. He stayed with sister Sarah and her husband David until 1864 when he left to join his brother David who was in Canada.
- In 1865, Daniel and Anne returned to Hickory Hill farm from Portage.
- After returning from Canada, David became a partner in a dry goods store in Portage while Dan attended medical school and Annie and Joanna became teachers. Johanna eventually moved to Kansas City, Missouri where father Daniel eventually moved to after leaving Ontario (see below) and where he died in 1885.
- John settled in California and in 1871 tried to buy Fountain Lake farm to preserve it, but failed.
- Daniel Muir sold Hickory Hill farm to the McKays in 1873 or 1874 and moved with Anne to Portage and then left for Ontario to preach. Anne stayed in Portage. (The McKays owned the land for only a short time.
- David Galloway died in 1884. Some say he died of a broken heart after losing his son George.
- In 1885 John visited his father in Kansas before his death and returned to Portage and Marquette County and visited childhood friends.
- In 1891, Margaret and John Reid moved to California to work on John's ranch. David moved there in 1892.
- Anne Muir died in Portage in 1896. Before her death, John visited her and again came to Marquette County and tried to buy Fountain Lake but failed. It's on this trip he asked a young boy who was plowing in a field who owned the land. That young boy was Sam McGwin who was son of Mary (Ennis) and Hugh McGwin. He was born in the Ennis house that stood just about where the granite marker is in John Muir Park.
- 1899, Sarah moved to California.
- 1903, sister Annie Muir died in Portage, the last of the Muir family in Wisconsin.
- 1914 John Muir died in California.

- 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 where they met William Gray, relative to Phillip Gray from Edinburgh (an Alexander Gray and wife Jane settled from Scotland in the Town of Buffalo, too.) 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. Daniel believed in liberty and equality of all men. This was a deeply ingrained belief in Scots Highlanders.
- 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. It was located across the street from the Gilrye (Anne's family's business). After his first wife died, he eventually began to court Anne.
- The Muir family consisted of:
 - Daniel Muir, father
 - Anne Muir, mother
 - Margaret (Maggie) who married John Reid, son of Andrew Reid, from Marquette County
 - Sarah who married David Galloway from Marquette County
 - John
 - David who married Catherine (Katy) Cairns of Marquette County
 - 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. Alexander "Sandy" Gray helped him and helped move the family from Kingston. Fountain Lake was ten miles northwest of the Gray farm.
- Fountain Lake was their first home in Marquette County. The first purchase was for 80 acres of land. The site of the actual house is now on private property just north east of Ennis Lake in John Muir Park. The site of the home is on the National Historic Registry. John Muir Park is county-owned. Part of the park is dedicated State Natural Area and a portion of the Ice Age Trail loops around the lake.
- 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 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. David also farmed 80 other acres of Daniel Muir's as well as 80 he'd gotten for his parents. The 80 he'd obtained for himself next to now Hickory Hill, he traded to Daniel.
- It's not known exactly when, but Daniel Muir took his children to Knight's Lake (now Mulhern Lake) to baptize them. Although they had been baptized as infants, Thomas Campbell,

Corduroy Road, Wee White Kirk, Pioneer Cemetery, Knight's (Mulhern) Lake



Those first few years after 1849 saw many changes in the Town of Buffalo neighborhood in Marquette County. Settlers' lives had both joy and sadness. John wrote in *My Boyhood and Youth*, "*An acre of ground was reserved and fenced for graves, and soon consumption came to fill it. One of the saddest instances was that of a Scotch family from Edinburgh, consisting of a father, son and daughter, who settled eighty acres of land within half a mile of our place. The daughter died of consumption the third year after their arrival, the son one or two years later, and at last the father followed his two children. Thus sadly ended bright hopes and dreams of a happy home in rich and free America.*" Life was hard for settlers and many in the Town of Buffalo where the



Muirs settled moved on or succumbed to disease, accident, childbirth difficulties or other tragedies. John Muir called the cemetery next to the Wee White Kirk the "pioneer cemetery." His sister called it the Loudon Graham Cemetery when she wrote to John about the death of their brother-in-law. Besides two nephews and a brother-in-law of John Muir's, the cemetery holds the graves of many of the most influential people in the young John Muir's life including the Duncans who encouraged him to take his inventions to the State Fair and the



McReaths whose pet raccoon Muir wrote about in his autobiography.

Daniel Muir was a preacher of the Disciples of Christ which met in people's homes and in other gathering places. In 1851, a United Presbyterian Church of North America was organized in the Town of Buffalo. Daniel Muir was an often-invited preacher around the area, according to research done by Linnie Marsh Wolfe and people liked his low-key, sincerely felt (but long) sermons and the fact he didn't expect a payment for his work. In 1865 the UP

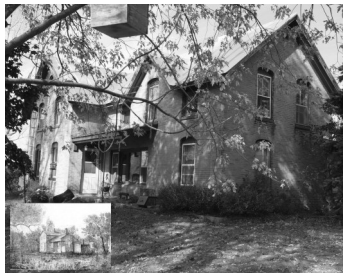
congregation built the Wee White Kirk and it still stands today on 13th road, the road that was partially a corduroy road built by John Muir and Davy Gray and Davy Taylor. Muir credits Gray and Taylor with teaching him about poetry and literature. Taylor is buried in the cemetery at the Kirk. When first built, the only benches were around the outside of the room. Pews were added later. Also, only singing was allowed. The melodeon was a later addition.



Corduroy roads were built of logs, usually Tamarack, laid across low, wet spots. Dirt and other debris were used to fill in the spaces between the logs to make them smoother to drive across.

Knight's Lake is named Mulhern Lake today. It is where Daniel Muir conducted full immersion baptism for his children. The Disciples of Christ believed that because infant baptism was not talked about in the New Testament, only adult baptism was the true baptismal rite. Knight's Lake was the site of full immersion baptisms for many years.

Hickory Hill..... Hickory Hill is privately owned. Do not trespass.



“After eight years of this dreary work of clearing the Fountain Lake Farm, fencing it and getting it in perfect order, building a frame house and the necessary outbuildings for the cattle and horses,---after all this had been victoriously accomplished, and we had made out to escape with life, ---father bought a half-section of wild land about four or five miles to the eastward and began all over again to clear and fence and break up other fields.....” The Hickory Hill home still stands today,



privately owned by an Irish family that has farmed the land there for five generations. It has been added onto and is covered in bricks now, but the character of the original home is still present. The corner of the basement, right, where John Muir worked on his inventions after father Daniel let him rise early and do whatever he wanted to before working on

the farm. The barn that the Muirs built also still stands, now raised for dairy cows on the bottom floor. When the Muirs built it in 1857, it would not have had the lower floor. The Kearns raised the barn in 1907. The upper floor is for hay and the lower floor for milking and stalls. They are called bank barns for the soil that was banked up to provide access to the upper loft. The Kearns family originally from Ireland bought Hickory Hill in 1873 or 1874.



“One morning, after the dreary bore was about eighty feet deep, my life was all but lost in deadly choke-damp.....” John recalls in *My Boyhood and Youth*, his near-death experience digging the 80 foot well at Hickory Hill. After Daniel hauled John up barely conscious, word got around the area and Scottish neighbor William Duncan taught John and his father Daniel how to check for choke damp by dropping a candle tied to a rope down to the bottom to see if the choke-damp would put it out and to stir up the air with branches. This photo shows a windmill today over the well that John dug. The Kearns family dug the well even deeper. The windmill stands 50 feet tall.

Midland School was called, at different times, the old log school, Eddy School, and Browning School. The brick building is now used by the

Amish but owned by the congregation of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church. When it was a log school and located farther west, John Muir attended it for several months.

Packwaukee Packwaukee was the site of Native American habitation for thousands of years. Fur traders used the location and it was an important stop on the Fox River for steam boats. Early settlers travelled to Packwaukee to celebrate the 4th of July and the Muirs were there as well as David Taylor and David Gray, Muir’s friends. You can see a historic granary in the park there that originally was located on the land owned by Daniel Muir. It’s now the Packwaukee Museum.

Montello became the County Seat where folks travelled to register land sales and other business. Daniel Muir attended a religious meeting here. Today, the Montello museum has an exhibit about John Muir.

Observatory Hill



A geodetic survey marker from 1889. Below, the arrow points to the three toes of the 5,000 year old petroglyph.

Observatory Hill rises 300 feet above the surrounding land and 1500 feet above sea level.



In the 1800s, the US Government built a tower on Observatory Hill on the east side. The Smith family who lived at the bottom of the hill had a contract to light a lantern every night that hung in the tower. It was a marker for night time travelers and eventually blew down in a storm and was not rebuilt. In 1882 a quarry company leased the mineral rights to Observatory Hill and began to quarry, but it never did more than take out a few blocks. Marquette County settlers visited the hill for scores of years holding Sunday School picnics, family holiday trips and picking ferns from its glades to decorate their churches. An old settler recalled finding a cedar tree with JM carved into it from one of John Muir’s visits. After Muir became famous for his writing about California wilderness, the man went back to find the initials, but the tree no longer stood there. Observatory Hill is a rhyolite outcropping dated to 1.76 billion years ago.

Dr. Jack Steinbring, Professor of Anthropology who identified the petroglyphs on Observatory Hill writes, “Solidly pecked and heavily weathered petroglyph at the summit of Observatory Hill, Marquette County, Wisconsin. Triangle with “x” is an elevation mark. It appears to have been made across an extremely weathered petroglyph. The larger petroglyph appears to be an ‘anthropomorphic thunderbird.’ It has wing-like appendages and three-toed feet. This specimen exhibits minute pecking, and most resembles those identified within early Archaic iconic traditions. The Observatory Hill petroglyph is similar to one in Washington State Park in Missouri. Evidence is growing rapidly that this correspondence of mounds, petroforms, trails, and other ceremonial or ritual features in Marquette County has probably been ignored because petroforms are the most fragile and susceptible to removal, and because associated mounds have been destroyed by cultivation. There is a potential in this slowly emerging pattern of a very large scale and sophisticated system of cultural exploitation. It is uniquely suited to the archaeology of landscape.”

