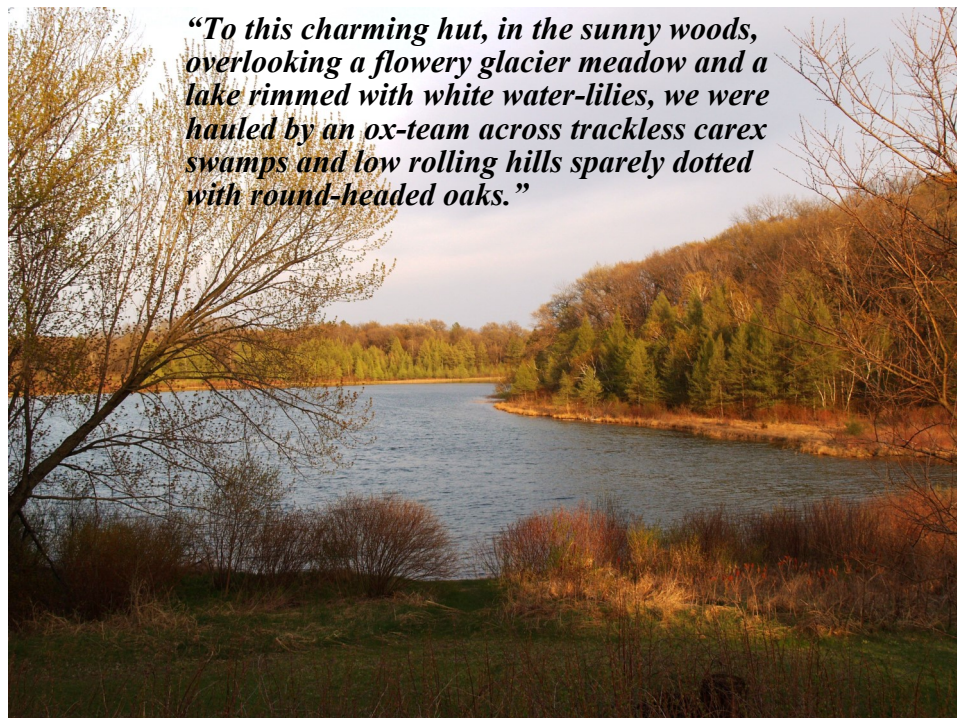


Marquette County, Wisconsin

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 splash 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!”



<http://muirboyhoodhome.toursphere.com>

**Marquette
County
John Muir
Nature and
History
Route**



Home

muirboyhoodhome.toursphere.com



The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.

...John Muir

**Find yourself on the John Muir
Nature and History Route**

Spend an hour or a week exploring 22 sites in Marquette County, boyhood home of John Muir, the great naturalist and "Father of the National Parks."

Family friendly, educational, fun, inspirational. Nature, history, geology, birding and more all there waiting for you.



See places that John Muir fell in love with as a boy. Immerse yourself in landscapes he would have seen. Learn how early settlers like the Muirs lived their lives and formed community.

How it works:

- ♦ Access the Marquette County John Muir Nature and History Route on your PC or mobile phone. Use the QR code here or on any of the 22 signs posted at the sites in Marquette County or go to the address:

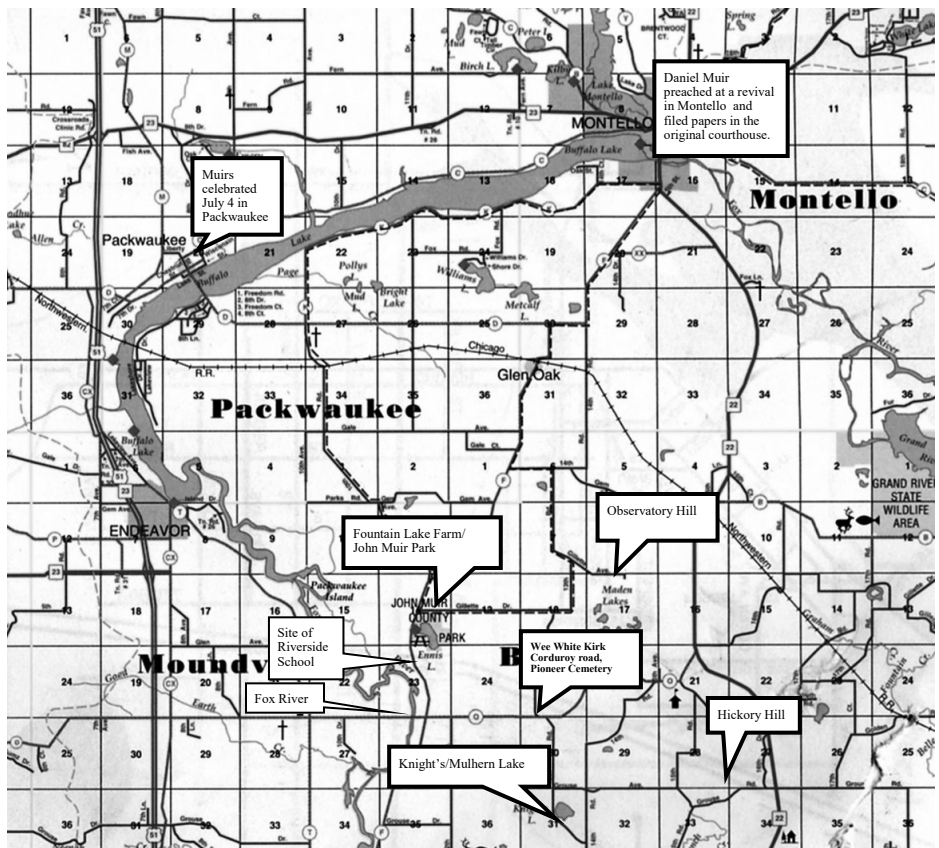
<http://muirboyhoodhome.toursphere.com>

- ♦ Print out worksheets, family fun activity sheets, and other tour maps if you wish, before visiting the sites.
- ♦ Read about the history, environment, plants, animals and more at each site. Use the many links to visit other websites that add more information about the site.
- ♦ Visit one site or all 22 in any order you wish in any time frame that fits your schedule.



Learn more about John Muir in Marquette County

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.
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 Reader's Realm Bookstore in Montello and on Amazon. Extensive information about Muir's neighborhood, including 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. Find out more about John's life in Marquette County on the Marquette County John Muir Nature and History Route <http://muirboyhoodhome.toursphere.com>
9. Watch for special events each year held at John Muir Park and around Marquette County in honor of John Muir.



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Fountain Lake, (Ennis Lake), Muir Park, Fox River and Ice Age Trail Site 1 Site 8



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, and sites 8, 10, 11, 19, 20 and 21A on the John Muir Nature and History Route mobile app.



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 (site 6). In 1972 a large portion of the County Park 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 Muir Fountain Lake home site, privately owned, was listed on the National Historic

Registry. The lake is called Ennis Lake for neighbors of Muirs, 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.

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 Louden 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** (Church) and it still stands today on 13th road, the road that was partially a **corduroy road** built by John Muir, David



Gray and David 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. Asahel Knight settled in a log cabin on the lake in 1849 with his wife and young daughter. He was in Marquette County until at least 1870. The land changed hands and in 1902 the Mulherns purchased it.



Hickory Hill..... Site 4 Hickory Hill is privately owned. Do not trespass.



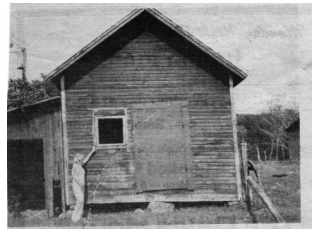
“After eight years of this dreary work of clearing the Fountain Lake Farm, fencing it and getting it in perfect order, building a frame house and the necessary outbuildings for the cattle and horses,---after all this had been victoriously accomplished, and we had made out to escape with life, ---father 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



Muir 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. The 5th generation of Kearns still works the farm.

“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.



Packwaukee Site 11 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.

Montello became the County Seat after Green Lake was separated from Marquette County. It is 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 Site 3 on the mobile app

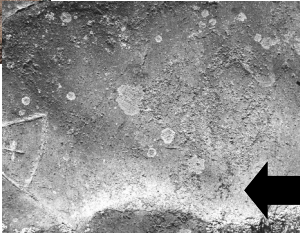


The holidays of 4th of July and the 1st of January, Muir says, were spent on “the Observatory,” now called Observatory Hill, reading books or visiting other boys. You can see striations on the rock from the glacier moving over the rhyolite outcrop, below. Today it is a State Natural Area.

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.



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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.”

Riverside School See it at Site 12

The axe and plough were kept very busy; cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs multiplied; barns and corncribs were filled up, and man and beast were well fed; a schoolhouse was built, which was used also for a church; and in a very short time the new country began to look like an old one. The Story of My Boyhood and Youth

Although young John Muir only attended school for a few months in Marquette County, schools and learning were very important to him and the settlers. School districts were carved out of township lands as soon as settlers began building homes and raising children in the new state of Wisconsin. The Muir family had connections to at least two schools that the children attended. John attended a log school after the family



moved to Hickory Hill. It was called Midland, then Browning. Like most schools at the time, the first was often built of logs, then was replaced with a frame building. A school was also built close to the Fountain Lake Farm. That school district was formed in 1853. Although John did not attend school here, his family would have attended worship services there since schools were also used for churches. John's sister Sarah and David's children attended Riverside School. The little school building is renovated and is on the grounds of the Marquette County Historical Society in Westfield. A bell tower was added sometime during its lifetime and a replica sits atop the school today. The photo above, left, shows how it looks now.

John Muir makes reference to schools both in *My Boyhood and Youth* and in letters that are referred to in Millie Stanley's *The Heart of John Muir's World* and in Linnie Marsh Wolfe's biography of Muir. This is some of what we know.

Research done by the late local historian Fran Sprain shows that School District Number 1, Midland, was the first district established in Marquette County. The first school building was located at Barry's Corner, a mile west of later school buildings. Desks in this log school were attached to the walls and made of rough lumber. Students sat on benches facing the walls. District 1 was divided as more settlers moved in and the frame school was erected on the Sandy Gray, later Daniel Brown farm. In 1862 a larger school was built that housed hand made seats and desks arranged in rows. Early in the history of the school, Katie Cairns was a teacher. Katie married John Muir's brother David. Sometime between 1896 and 1900 the frame building was covered with brick. It still stands south of St. Andrew Catholic Church just off State Highway 22 and is used by the Amish community as a school.

The Buffalo Town Board voted money to start a library that was first housed in Phillip Gray's Home near Fountain Lake. David Gray helped choose the books. That was in 1854. In *My Boyhood and Youth*, Muir says, "Three or four years after 1849 more settlers came and a school house was built that was also used as a church." We can surmise that this was District 5 school house. District 5 was established in 1853. That means John Muir's younger sisters and brothers could have attended Riverside School before the family moved to Hickory Hill in 1856. Sarah Galloway, John Muir's sister, writes later, when she and husband David owned the Fountain Lake Farm, that Anna, their daughter, went to religious meetings at an old log school house near Fountain Lake.

The schoolhouse stood on the crest of a hill just south of what is now John Muir Park. From references mentioned above, we can conjecture that District 5 first had a log school house, replaced sometime later with the present one room school building that is restored on the historical society grounds in Westfield. The “old log schoolhouse near Fountain Lake” that Anna went to, may have been standing at the same time the new Riverside School building was built, so the exact year of the Riverside School building is still open for research and discussion. We believe it was built around 1865.

James Whitehead, son of Benjamin Whitehead, and friend and correspondent with John Muir, recalled going to school with the younger Muir children. It’s likely that Whitehead, who lived where the Moundville Town Hall (building is formerly Pleasant View School) is located on County Road O, attended Riverside or its log predecessor school. Pleasant View was established later.

John Muir walked a little over a mile to attend the log school with school master George Branch. That was in 1858, after the family had moved to Hickory Hill. He attended with Bradley Brown who walked across the field to the school. This log school was later replaced in the district with a frame building. The school was called Midland and later called Browning School. John’s mother wrote to him in 1860 that there was a prayer meeting every night at Midland School.

John Muir wrote a poem about a log school. Here are a few stanzas.

Old log schoolhouse, warped, and gnarled, and leaky;
Opening thy crooked ribs and seams and knots
To rain and snow and all the winds of heaven
To keep thee sweet and healthy! Many a storm
Hath played wild music beating on roof and gable,
Loosely boarded, telling all the weather,
As if some wondrous instrument thou wert,
Speaking aloud, through all times and seasons,
Thy parts of speech so strangely varied, mixing
With stranger speech within, called English grammar.
While yet the trunks of which thy walls are built
Stood on the hills with outspread leaves and branches,
A shelter, then, thou wert for gladsome birds,
That made sweet music ring about their nests.
And still a noisy nest thou art and shelter
For callow, birdlike children soft and downy,
Logs woven about them, piled and jointed,
Crossed like sticks and straws, and roughly plastered
With clay and mud like nests of mason Robins.

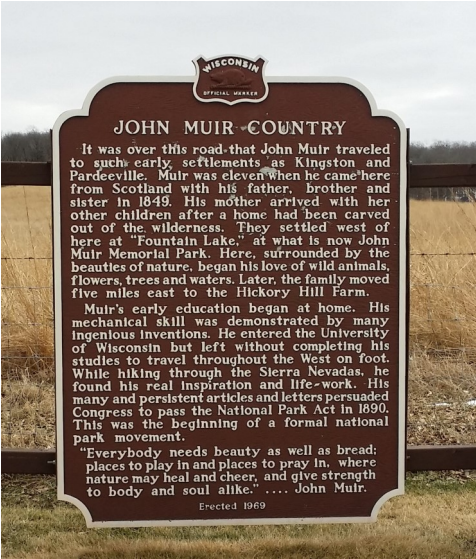
.....
Hath hacked small readers voices and the nerves
Of teachers, in tones strident, rough, and rusty,
In lessons never-ending, never-mending
With grammar, too, old schoolhouse, thou hast suffered,
While Plato, Milton, Shakespeare, have been murdered,
Torn limb from limb in analytic puzzles
And wondrous parsing, passing comprehension,
The poetry and meaning blown to atoms--
sacrifices in the glorious cause
Of higher all-embracing education.

.....
James Whitehead recalled his first day of school in 1855 which, we believe, was in Riverside School. “...again I see myself a boy of eight—barefooted, sunburned, with dinner pail in hand, and a younger sister by my side, on my way to school. ... Pushing forward, I boldly opened the door and took the hindmost seat I could find, hoping thus to escape the observation of the scholars, not one of whom I had ever seen before....The boys, of course, acted with proper decorum, but the girls opposite,....turned boldly round in their seats which caused my cheeks to burn with shame..... Amid this suppressed tumult of thought and passion, the teacher called on me to read.Never have I, since attaining the years of manhood, though I have frequently tried, been able to read that piece with anything like the satisfaction to myself as upon the occasion referred to.”

Frequently asked questions 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 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, 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 Browning 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.



Don't miss sites 2 and 6 on the John Muir Nature and History Route.

The restored prairies on either side of Highway 22 at the John Muir Wayside, Site 6, will give you a view of landscapes early settlers would have seen in 1849 when the Muirs arrived.

At the Muir/Eggleston US Fish and Wildlife Area north of Muir Park, you'll find information about geology, ice age, settlers and the birds John Muir wrote about seeing here in Marquette County and many that you can still see today.



"Come, bairns, and admire the work of God displayed in this bonnie bird. Naebody but God could paint feathers like these. Just look at the colors, hoo they shine, and hoo fine they overlap and blend together like the colors o' the rainbow."

Daniel Muir in The Story of My Boyhood and Youth.

