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John Muir was one of the most influential conservationist of his day, and his beliefs and influences still remain today. Muir grew to a position that allowed him to have a say in the conservation of nature and make decisions that important figures trusted him to make. He started out as a young school boy who loved to climb, to a man with an adventurous spirit. And finally became an old man who fought for the forests and landmarks he loved so much. During his life, he took on leadership roles that he didn't particularly want but accepted because of his influence on other conservationists and because others believed in what he said and trusted in his opinions and decisions. Muir is remembered for the way his writing about nature was able touch the hearts of so many people.

His books and essays tell about the spiritual beauty of nature that inspired its readers to help in the conservation. One of his most important allies, President Theodore Roosevelt, was touched by Muir's reading and helped him in the conservation of nature greatly. Roosevelt went on a four day hike with Muir to talk about the conservation of Yosemite Park. By the end of their hike they had agreed that the federal government should become a part of the protection of the park (Worster 366-368). The government aid that Muir sought, possibly saved Yosemite because without proper protection it could have been taken over by civilians and destroyed. In 1892, Muir received a letter from William Armes was asking to form a hiking club. Muir wrote him back that it would be more than that, it would have the goal of defending and preserving the Sierra (Worster 328-329). Muir became the president of the Sierra Club soon after it started and throughout its rein, many parks were created and preserved to this day.

Muir is remembered for his guardianship, that he put upon himself, of the forests and all that he did to protect them. But people now a days can remember him through his books and essays on all of his grand adventures. Muir was the man who climbed a giant sequoia in the middle of a windy thunder storm just for the experience of what trees go through (Muir). He was adventurous, carefree, and somewhat arrogant when he was young and all he really needed was nature. In his writings, he wrote about all of his great adventures that would bring him to deaths edge but that didn't scare him because nature's beauty and melodic hymn would bring him right back.

Muir was also known for the way he wrote and all of his beliefs about nature. "Suddenly he was lifted up, thrilled to the point of tears by its unexpected beauty, 'So perfectly spiritual, it seemed pure enough for the throne of its Creator'," (Worster 94). Muir's writings about the way he felt about trees and valleys and everything he loved about this world showed his passion and greatest attribute. To Muir, nature was spiritual and Holy. He traded out God for nature because nature was God's gift to the world that Muir couldn't be without.

John Muir was very influential during his life time and has become even more throughout his death. He had a connection with nature that may never be possible again and used it to inspire countless others. Without him, many parks and landmarks may not have been saved or preserved so that future generations will be able to see the beauty of this world like Muir did. His legacy still plays a role in many conservation acts because of the committees and clubs he was in that he played a major part in. For example, the Sierra Club currently has 1.3 million members that still help preserve the worlds national parks ("Sierra Club"). He has been an animate figure in the conservation of nature and will continue to be for a long time.

Bibliography

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View John Muir Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. John Muir (1838-1914), botanist, geologist, natural historian, conservationist, philosopher, writer, and self-confessed 'tramp', is one of the 'the grandest character[s] in national park history' (Mills 1916, p. 25). In addition to being one of the founding fathers of the United States National Park System, and being especially associated with the creation of the Yosemite National Park, Muir influenced the nature and direction of the conservation and national park movements throughout the world (Fox 1981; Nash 1982; Cohen 1984; Worster 2008). As Powell (1977, p. 108) argued We know that when John Muir made his return visit in 1893, he made a point of visiting the grave of William Wordsworth in the Lake District. Wordsworth is often credited with being the true inspiration for the National Park Movement, and it cited as being a favourite not only of Muir, but also of Emerson, and Thoreau. Indeed in 2013 the Harold B Lee Library in Utah held an exhibition, 'William Wordsworth and the Invention of the National Parks' which included a copy of Muir's 1901 publication, 'Our National Parks.' We are happy to announce that the public will be able to access the grounds of the John Muir NHS, starting on Monday, June 22nd, 2020. Specifically, in this initial phase of reopening, visitors will have access to the grounds of the park. The name of John Muir as one of the earliest conservationists, naturalists and natural philosophers is forever entwined with California - he is the man behind the creation of the Yosemite National Park and the namesake of the John Muir Trail in Sierra Nevada - but Muir was 30 years old before ever set foot in the state. In fact, Muir was a Scotsman, and despite the fact that he lived in the United States for almost his entire life, he never lost his accent, nor did he lose his fundamental identity with the wild East Lothian countryside and the rugged Scottish coast upon which he was born. Given its natural wonders, it should come as no surprise that the area attracted some of the 19th century's most famous conservationists, including Muir and his good friend Theodore Roosevelt. John Muir (April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914) was one of the earliest and most influential American conservationists, sometimes called the Father of the National Park System. Muir's vision of nature as a treasured, God-given resource transcending its utilitarian value helped define the modern environmental and ecological movements. Muir warned against reckless exploitation of the natural world and emphasized the aesthetic, spiritual, and recreational value of wilderness lands.