

JOHN MUIR: Transcendental Tramp

JOHN MUIR is probably best remembered as America's Premier CONSERVATIONIST. He is often referred to as "Father of the National Park System". The Truth is that Muir's multifaceted Life-experience spanned a number of vocations including Farmer, Inventor, Explorer and writer as well as a plethora of Avocations involving an insatiable thirst for Knowledge. Though his Public Persona ultimately claimed "Muir the Man" it was his designation as "the Gentle Hermit" that sustained his self-esteem.

Unlike MUIR who emigrated from his Birthplace in Scotland, JOHN BURROUGHS was a Native-son born and bred in that part of New York State known as the Catskill Mountains. His primary reputation as a NATURALIST grew from his talent as an ESSAYIST. As such he is frequently regarded as a Latter-day HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Whereas the denizen of Walden Pond erected his cabin adjacent to the lair

Of Loons and Geese, BURROUGHS built his "get-away" on the side of a mountain surrounded by Plants and Trees. His designation for this bucolic Retreat was "Slabsides".

SLABSIDES, N.Y. 1911

John Muir

John Burroughs

JB: WELCOME TO MY ABODE, Doctor Muir
I HAVE LONG ANTICIPATED
THIS HONOR OF HAVING You
- THE FOREMOST American Naturalist,
GRACE My RETREAT.
DO PLEASE ENTER
TO TARRY FOR AWHILE!

JM: Your FLATTERY, Brother Burroughs
WILL CERTAINLY
GET You SOMEWHERE
CONSIDERING You PROBABLY
KNOW MORE OF Me
THAN I OF Myself.