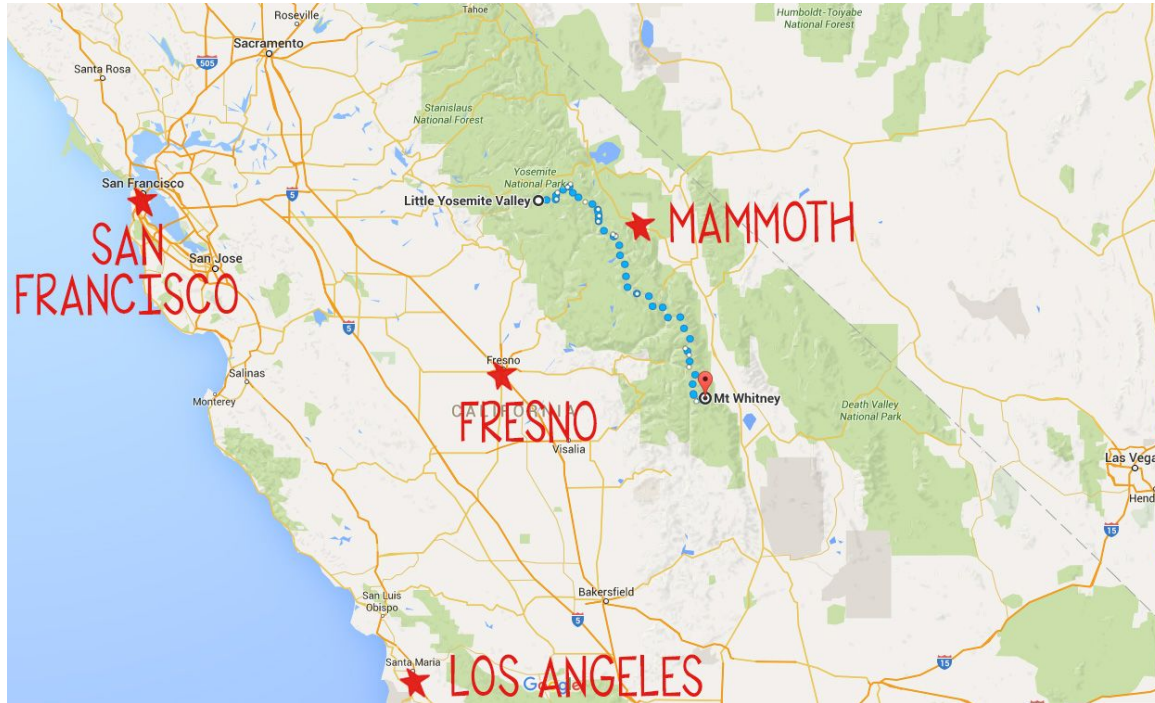


A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, a rocky, light-colored slope descends towards a calm lake. The lake reflects the bright sun, which is positioned high in the sky, creating a strong lens flare and a shimmering path of light on the water's surface. In the background, a series of jagged, dark mountain peaks rise against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Through the Range of Light: Hiking the JMT

Cat Easdon

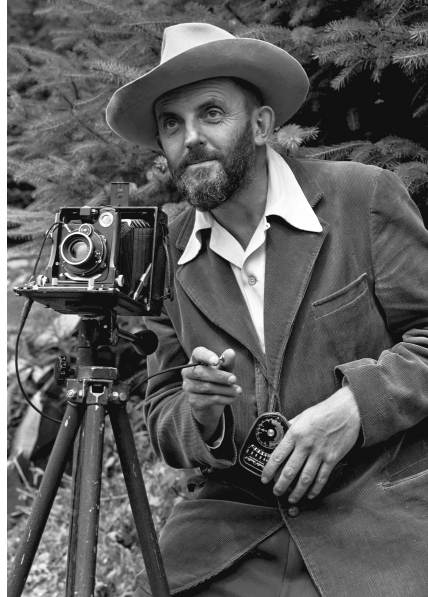
Where?



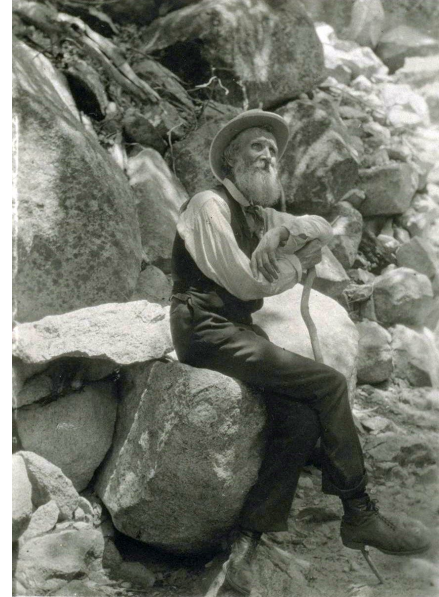
A few of the cast of characters



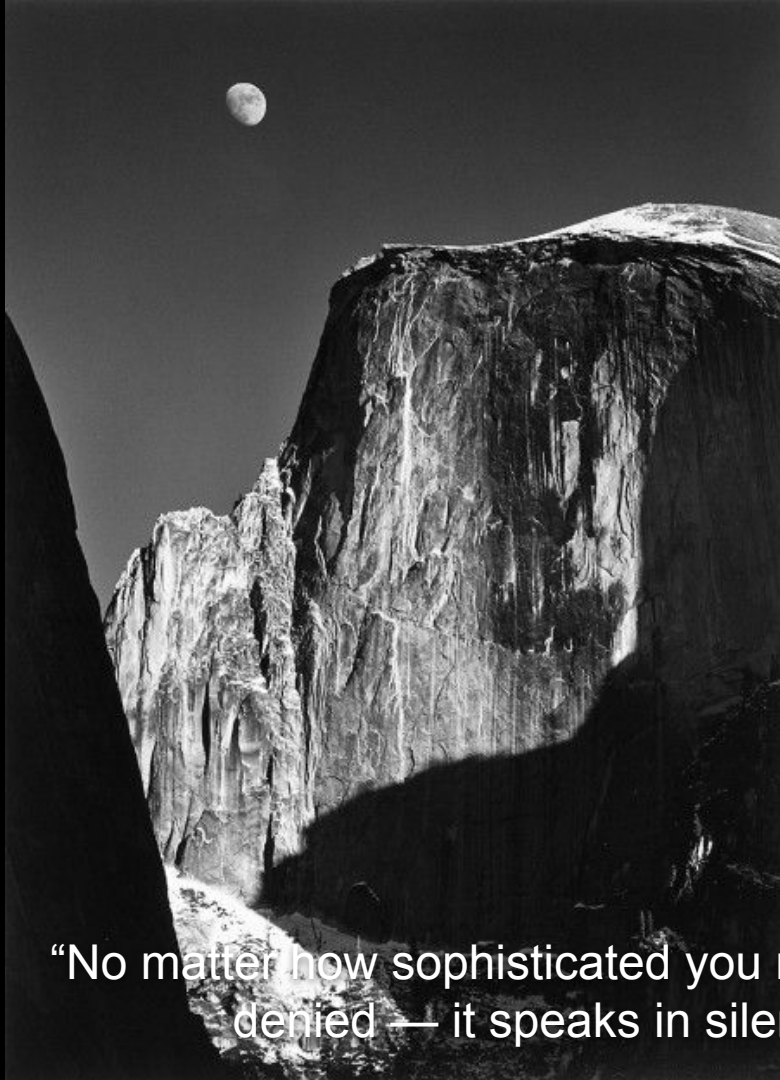
Theodore Solomon, “Little Joe” LeConte, Bolton Brown



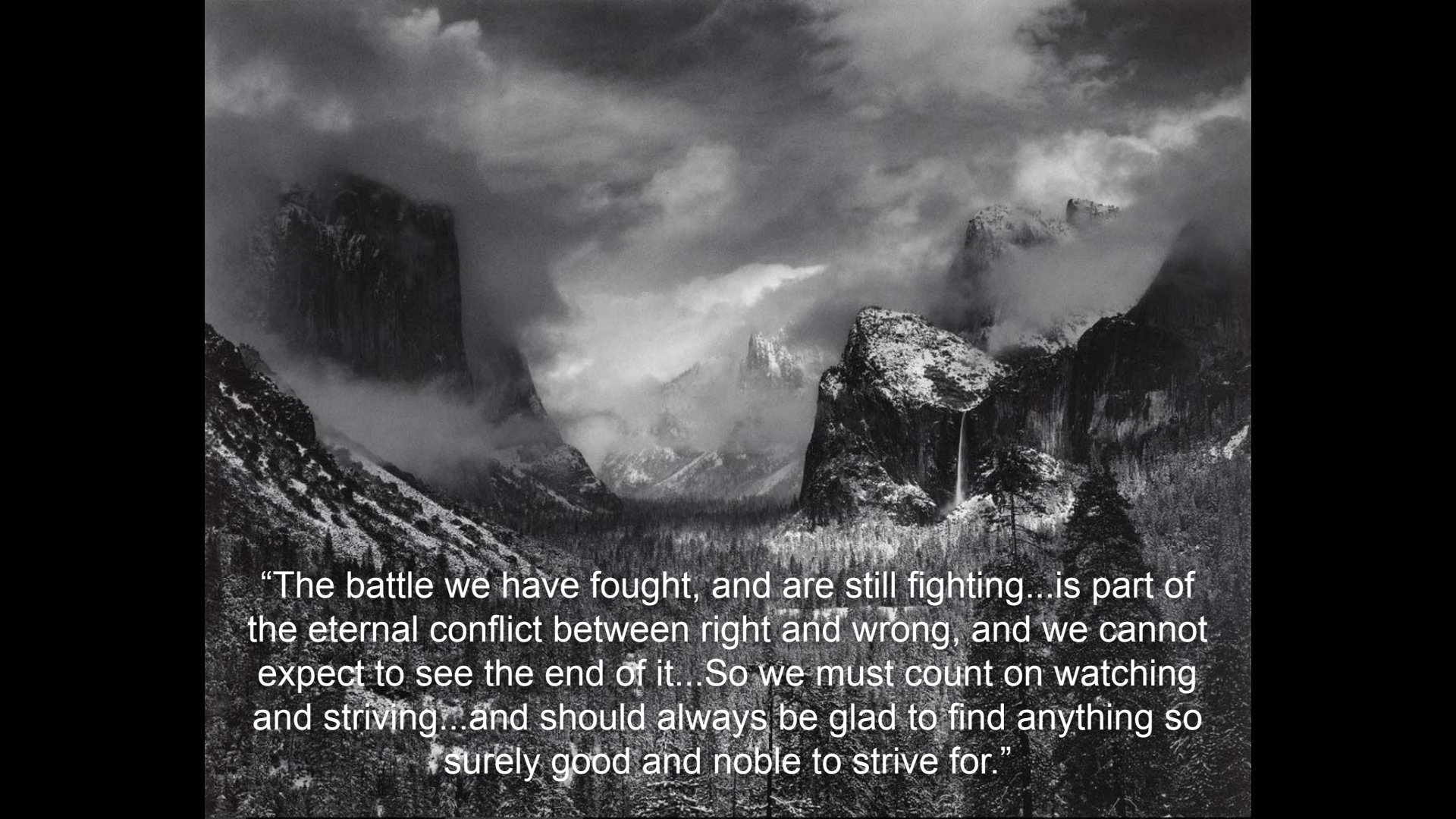
Ansel Adams



John Muir (Gandalf)



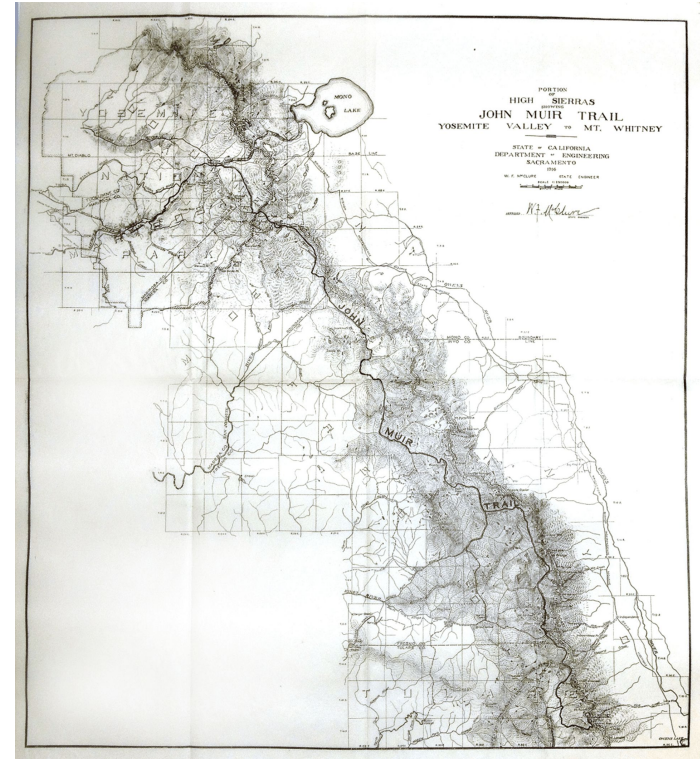
“No matter how sophisticated you may be, a large granite mountain cannot be denied — it speaks in silence to the very core of your being.”



“The battle we have fought, and are still fighting...is part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it...So we must count on watching and striving...and should always be glad to find anything so surely good and noble to strive for.”

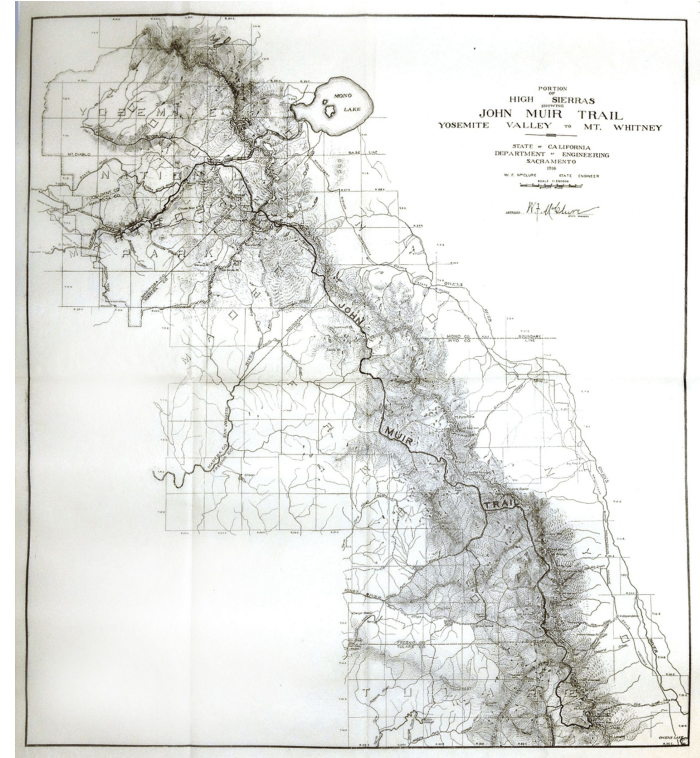
History

- 1848: **California gold rush** begins
- 1851: Mariposa Battalion enter Yosemite Valley pursuing Ahwahneechee
- 1860: California Geological Survey appointed to explore the range: Josiah **Whitney**, Clarence **King**, Joseph **LeConte**
- 1869: **John Muir** begins wandering the Sierra
- 1873: Mt Whitney first climbed
- 1884: **Theodore Solomons**, age 14(!), has a vision of a high-elevation trail following the crest of the Sierra
- 1892 onwards: Solomons, “**Little Joe**” **LeConte** and the **Brown family** scout for navigable routes



History

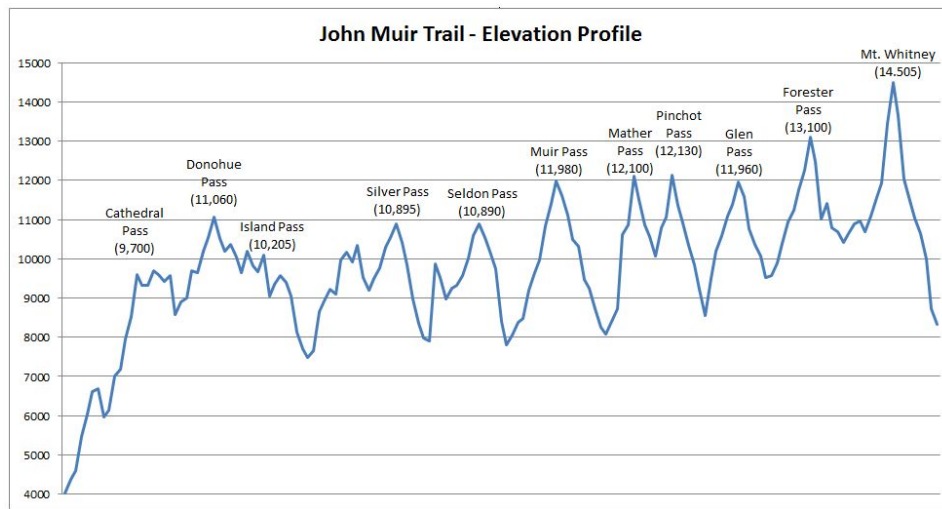
- 1903: John Muir goes camping with President Theodore Roosevelt and persuades him to **establish Yosemite National Park!**
- 1915: State funding procured in Sacramento. California Governor Hiram Johnson dedicates the trail to the late John Muir ***“for his inestimable service in making known to the world the wonders of the mountains of California.”*** Dynamiting begins!
- 1916: Ansel Adams gets his first camera and visits Yosemite
- 1930: Trail officially opened
- 1930s: Adams helps lobby Congress to establish Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
- 1938: Golden Staircase completed





Le route

- 211 miles (340km), plus detours
- 14000m total ascent
- 9/10 mountain passes
- Mostly wild camping
- 10 days with no resupply
- High! 2000-3500m, last 30 miles all >3000m
- Highest point Mt. Whitney (4421m)
- FKT: François D'Haene did it in 2d 19h 26m!! (supported)





- ~240 miles
- 21 days (~4 rest)
- July 25th - Aug 14th 2015
- Only one trip to hospital (pretty good by my standards)
- “Solo” hike - but spent 0 nights camping on my own??







Black Bears

The health and well being of Yosemite's bears depends on you.

Do not feed bears or allow them to take your food. Human food rewards bears for unnatural behavior and makes them more aggressive around people. Aggressive bears are often killed to protect park visitors.

Do not approach or surround bears. Scare away bears that approach you by clapping, yelling, and throwing small rocks toward the bear.

Report all bear encounters to park ranger.





























JOHN MUIR
... repair of house.
Park established.
... dent Howard Taft.
... ern
... uth America and Africa.
... and Youth
... omia.
... e Gulf, Steep Trails,
... the Corcoran

Introduction

John Muir's Abiding Light

Not like my taking the veil—no solemn abjuration of the world. I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.

—John Muir

The South Tyrolean alpinist Reinhold Messner—climber extraordinaire, first to solo Mt. Everest without oxygen—was once asked by an American tourist alarmed at the blight of resorts, spas, and tourist attractions that littered the European Alps, why they had suffered so much more commercialization than the mountains of the American West. “You had Muir,” he replied. Messner did not elaborate, nor did he need to. Most of the Western world knows John Muir as the founder of the environmental movement, the nineteenth-century mountaineer and writer whose articles and political advocacy during the last decades of the nineteenth century galvanized Americans to begin to conserve their rapidly vanishing wilderness. With little more than his pen and an inexhaustible passion for the wild, Muir led the way in reversing the industrialized West’s unbridled exploitation of nature. In 1892 Muir helped found the Sierra Club to advance the cause of conservation—the first of its kind—and since that time, millions of acres of America’s wetlands and forests, deserts, and high mountains have been set aside for the enjoyment, health, and—decidedly for Muir—the spiritual well-being of the American people.

Muir was emphatic about the sacred quality of nature and its restorative effects upon the overly civilized and consequently diminished human spirit. “Get up into the mountains and get close to the heart of the world,” he proclaimed with the fervor of an old





















A wide-angle photograph of a high-altitude mountain landscape. The foreground and middle ground consist of steep, rocky slopes with sparse, low-lying vegetation. Two small, dark blue lakes are visible: one in the middle ground on the left and another in the foreground on the right. In the background, a range of jagged, snow-capped mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear, bright blue sky.

One epic quest through Mordor not enough? Why don't we go there and back again - and again, and again?

The Triple Crown

