

# **Wild Nature is Where You Find It**

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Yosemite Valley is known and loved by multitudes.



But Muir also knew and loved another valley.

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“Those who submissively allow themselves to be packed and brined down in the sweats of a stage-coach, who are hurled into Yosemite by ‘favorite routes,’ are not aware that they are crossing a grander Yosemite than that to which they are going.”

But Muir also knew and loved another valley:

“If you wish to see how much of light, life, and joy can be got into a January, go to this blessed Hollow. If you [are] ... so tired of the world, here will your hard doubts disappear, your carnal incrustations melt off, and your soul breathe deep and free in God’s shoreless atmosphere of beauty and love.”

But Muir also knew and loved another valley:

“the Merced Yosemite of the plain – Twenty Hill Hollow.”

– John Muir

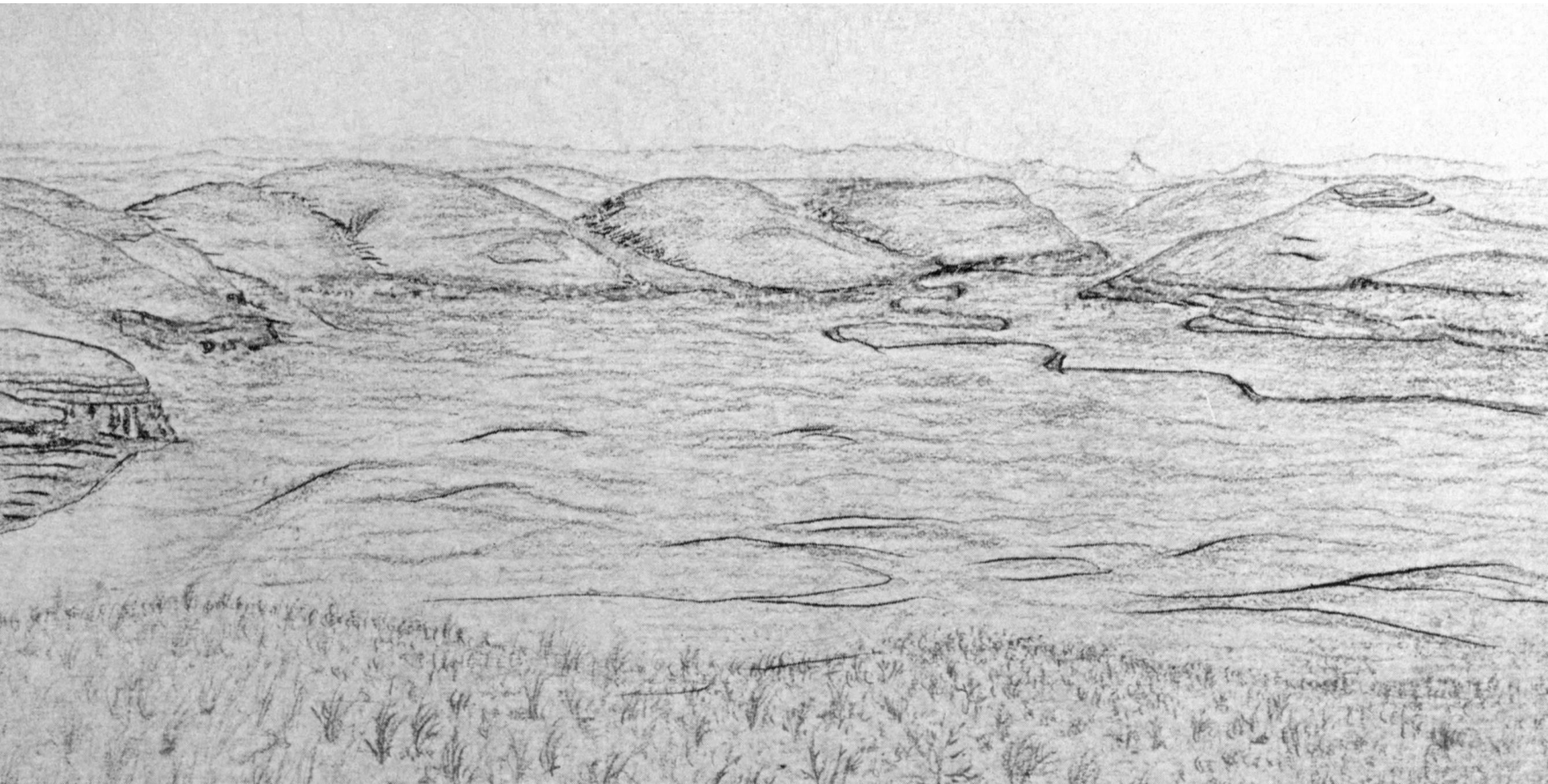
“Twenty Hill Hollow”

*The Overland Monthly*, July 1872

So where is this valley that Muir considered  
“grandeur [than] Yosemite”?

“It is situated about midway between the two rivers  
[Merced and Tuolumne], and five miles from the  
Sierra foot-hills ... about six miles from Snelling’s.”

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“grandeur [than] Yosemite”?





So where is this valley that Muir considered  
“grandeur [than] Yosemite”?

It was lost!

So where is this valley that Muir considered  
“grander [than] Yosemite”?

Rediscovered by Robert Bauer in December 1995.

Robert Bauer,

“Shepherd of the Plains: John Muir at Twenty Hill Hollow”  
(MA Thesis, California State University, Stanislaus,  
April 2001)





Did Muir really write that this ...



was grander than this ...



or this?



Did Muir really write that Twenty Hill Hollow was  
“grander” than Yosemite?

He did.



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He did.

Because grandeur is not merely a matter of stupendous vistas. It’s also a matter of observation, of consideration, of “light, life, and joy”.

Did Muir really write that Twenty Hill Hollow was “grander” than Yosemite?

He did.

Because grandeur is not merely a matter of stupendous vistas. It’s also a matter of observation, of consideration, of “light, life, and joy”.

It resides not only in cliffs and meadows and forests, but also in your own heart.

“The question is not what you look at, but what you see.”

– Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*, 5 August 1851