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Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Peter Butler

Peter Butler

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Elizabet and the children are fine with us and little James is in fine health and as far as a far the little lake is growing my fear indeed. I believe they are going to sell it. And John your mother help that our must write often and tell us all about all the old acquaintances. He also said that our old place and all about the children as stated go to Grandville and write me. We want them to write to William and tell him to write me a letter. If he is able to write we have heard that he was very poorly. I would probably not have thought the winter. I would like to hear from any of the old acquaintances and if they think it would be able to write. We will write to you as soon as I can. I think I will give a quick account of our trip. Over the plains in one of my letters. You can all avail yourself of its contents and save the trouble of writing separate letters to each one of you. As I said we at your health in Illinois as I have here I would be almost tempted to come back. I must give my love to all who remember me. I often write.

Dunlap, County, Oregon, January 17th, 1855

Dear son and dear daughter

I have the pleasure to inform you that we are all enjoying very good health at this time excepting Jack as he is undergoing my health in the winter. I hope your father is in good health. We are all thinking of you and hope to see you again. If you have indeed forgotten us, it is my duty to say that you have written before this time of though we have not had one line from you and left Kinzelle. This is the third letter that I have written since we got through and now no answer. I wish I want you to collect all that you can and lend it to me allow paying having followed your stock will have you can get a check on Chicago, Ill., 20 dollars on Oregon City and have it to me and if any person cannot pay the money will send good money after all and William and others of the other stuff will bring the bank. They got from you and may take them. Though I had everything I also want you to tell me to do and you know the house that I have. I was in young cattle and sent them now. You have the chance to get money through Hutchinson in any of the following.

[Signature]
you perhaps would like to now how I like the country and what situation I am in at present as to the length of the road, I like it well as well as I expected and some things better. As my children were all here I should be very well satisfied with my quarters as far as I have been able to learn it very well and pleasant. This weather so far as very mild we have had there or even very hard frost and every month very weather we have as good grass now as there is in Illinois in June but there lives very fine in the way without freezing through the winter. This is truly the greatest advantage we have in this country, all friends have all got land except that Hutchinson on the Bonhamite though we are scattered some time or twelve miles apart and we all had land except that I have more in front myself and what Isaac Smith and A. is some two or twelve miles apart, and we all had land except that I have more in front myself and what Isaac Smith and A. is some two or twelve miles apart.

You ask me how I am, I am well, thank God. I have been a little sick but have got over it. I have been a little fatigued, I should have got a claim between the time next March come year if I want one, he wants you to help his land and unless he will make him to pay for the land as he well and you a piece to attorney to make the title well or the best he can. As to my situation we have a tolerable comfortable home.
Dear son and daughter,

I have the pleasure to inform you that we are all enjoying very good health at this time except Isaac, and he is mending my health is better than it has been for fifteen years Your mother is also quite hearty I hope when these line reaches you that you that you will remember us again if you have indeed forgotten us, but I realy suppose that you have written before this time although we have not had one line from you since we left Lanisville, except one letter which I had forgot; This is the third letter that I have written since we got through and recieved no answer, John I want you to collect all that you can and sent it to me after paying yourself well for your trouble. You can get a check or draft E M Clark & brothers or Adams & Co. of Portland or Oregon City and send it to me and if any person cannot pay the money and will pay good young cows or heiffers and William Murphy or any other safe hand will bring them for half they get through you may take them. Though I had rather have the money, I also want you to sell my tax title land down by Bises for what ever you can get in young cattle and send them if you have the chance if John Holiday or Ben Hutchinson or any of the Simkins should come they will be safe You perhaps would like to now how I like the country and what situation I am in at present as to the country I like it full as well as I expected and some things better and if my children were all here I should be very satisfied our winters as far as I have been able to learn is very mild and pleasant This winter as far is very mild we have had three or four very hard frosts and about one month rainy weather we have as good grass here now as there is in Illinois in June our stock lives very fine upon the grass without feeding throughout the winter this is truly the greatest advantage we have in this country our friends have all got land except Thos Hutchinson on the Luckamute, though we are scattered some what Isacc Smith and Ira is some ten or twelve miles apart, I said we all had land except Thos, I have none infact myself for I let Isaac have my claim which I give upward of $2000 for, the reasons that he was sick and the law compelled him to take his claim by the first of December or forever he would have been debared. I thought that I could get a claim between this time next April come year if I want one, he wants you to sell his land in Illinois to
inable him to pay for this and he will send you a power of Attorney to make the title sell for the best price you can: as to my situation we have tolerable comfortable house for this country we have plenty bread stuff potatoes cabbage, turnips beats (etc ???) we have one cow giving milk we have tolerable plenty of milk and butter, we have seven hogs and eight chickins. Thomas Hutchinson is now in Umpquau with his brother Robert and I expect will take a claim there if he can get one I suppose it is about 150 miles from here nearly south all the rest has places in this country and on the same creek, if I take claim I cannot tell where I shall get one, I shall live here with Isaac until he can do without us if he gets married or should make any arrangement between now and next April Year so that he can be comfortable I shall take a claim if not I shall stay here we have heard that James has sold out to Bogges we would like to hear the particulars we want to now what you are all doing and intends to do, if any of you has any notion of coming to Oregon, let us now it and if not let ud now it in short tell us everything which you think will interest us, you have no idea how bad we want to see you all I would be glad to even see your old dog I do not now how to reconcile it to myself never to see you all again in this world. write often and I will do the same, although I have a very bad chance to write and am seldom in a very good situation to write. Elizabeth and her children are here with us and little James is in fine health and is as far as a pig the little babe is growing very fine indeed I believe they are going to call it Robert; John your mother says that you must write often, and tell us all about all the old kneighbors and also all abo our old place tell Laura to write all about the children, as soon as Erastus & Grandville can write we want them to write. Tell your uncle William to write me a letter if he is alive and able to write we have heard that he was very porly and would probably not live through the winter, I would like to hear from any of the old kneighbors if they think worth while to write to me, I will write to all the boys as soon as I can, I think I will give a brief account of our trip over the plains in one of my letters you can all avail yourselves of its contents and save the trouble of writing separate letters to each one of you, If I could have as good health in Illinois as I have here I would be almost tempted to come back, on account of my dear children & old friends give my love to all who inquires after me

John Butler

Your father Peter Butler