Butler Family Letters (Transcripts)  

4-17-1854

Letter to John Butler from Peter Butler

Peter Butler

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Received the letters from you all on the 17th and 19th and the 22d of last month. The latter containing a draft for $2000 which I enclose herewith.

The former containing a draft for $1000 which I enclose herewith.

I am greatly pleased to hear from you all once more in these times of peril. I am glad to hear that you are all in good health and that the exception of your son, you stated your letter to me that you had sold eighty acres of timber land for ten dollars. I am well satisfied with what you have done. You also asked me whether I wanted any more timber wood. I think I might be in the market for more at present, for it may be that timber may not come back as well as it did last year. I need to come with help, and to the timber. I must come to a close farewell for the present.

I am, your affectionate son,

Oregon, April 17, 1854

W. H. Bullock
Upon such terms as I will make known to them at the proper time or in your letter you can have the land that I got in charge at what suit any other person will give me and you part of the money for this purpose will enable you to pay for it and much rather you should not it being want it? than any other person that is a stranger to you. I agree in your letter that you was expecting William Young every way William wrote to me that he had been out going to Illinois and had sent a copy but he may have change his mind. You wanted me to tell you what arrangements I made with him I believe that all the arrangements I made with him was that I wrote to him that if he went back to tell that he could have the old place but if I took a notion to sell that I would have him some way or other. I will give him some money to assist him in buying him in this home and to the selling that it place to him. Leave it entirely with you and what ever you do will be satisfactory to me. You state in your letter that you would send a draft on a letter directed to the other if you sent it at that time it failed to get there but probably you sent it in Illinois and it may come hereafter. You also state that you have sent me the Monmouth Review I have received it and am very much pleased to get it. It is still how any friends in Illinois at your command and the Review to the sick. Edwards and Edgar Smith say for it with my name. John has also made it to me or them I have written to you by my hands and off an end any thing should happen that he may meet there I want you to send forty dollars to Alexander Campbell and direct him to pay it to the credit of James Harvey of Plumb Valley post office with this letter. I want you to get the receipt Mr. Harvey pays the money here we have not heard anything from them &c. The 21st of March he was in Toledo we heard then but since he was not very strong for he was compelled to lie in hospital which was not the best thing for his want to eat I have just heard this morning that Capt. Kelley of Yamhill county was killed last night on a deer with I have not heard the particulars as I do not know whether they lost any more or not we shall have now we have the most血珠江 burned over in Oregon that once I lived off my life the Indians are much better now and wanted the whites and they are bound to give us some more and some more. I am very much bound to the Indians now to save high mountains in many parts of the country with what is called canyon and between in some places just wide enough for a stream of water some of which is very deep and running with great rapidity but in some places there is narrow bottom in certain and some times only on one side and these bottoms are covered with mud which is thick so thick that it is impossible for a man ride there or indeed walk over and the brand contains nothing in the bush and in the white man is away he is shot down and there is not chance to get through the country except through these canyons.
Dear Children

I avail myself of the only means which I have of informing you that we are still in the land of the living and have nothing more to complain of than what is incident to persons of our age we are quite well, but are still going down the steep of old age with as much speed as the wheels of time can roll us on we received your letters of the first and ninth of Feb lost the former containing a draft for Isaac and the latter containing a draft to me, Thomas H. Hutchinson Also received his draft; we were much pleased to hear from you all once more in time but more particularly to hear that you were enjoying usual health with the exception of colds, You stated in your letter that you had sold Eighty acres of timbered land for four thousand dollars, I am well satisfied with what you have done, You also wished to know whether I wanted any more timber sold, I think it might be best to sell no more at present, for it may be that Thomas may never get back and if he don't I think that Elizabeth will not be satisfied to stay here and if she comes I will have to come with her, but if he gets back I think that I had best have the place put in as good repair as the rent of the farm will pay for this year and then sell it and if the purchaser don't want all the timber it can be sold in small lots and if I sell the old place for a good price I expect to give each one of my children a part of the proceeds upon such terms as I will make known to them at the proper time, an in that event you can have the land that I got of Isaac at whatever any other person will give and your part of the money for the old place will enable you to pay for it. I had much rather you should have it (if you want it) than any other person. (that is a stranger) You stated in your letter that you were expecting William every day William wrote to me that he had given up going to Illinois and had rented a farm be he may have changed his mind. You wanted me to tell you what arrangements I had made with Wm I believe that all the arrangement I made with him was that I wrote to him that if he went back to Ills that he could have the old place, but if I took a notion to sell that I would assist him in some way. so if I sell I will give him some money to assist him in buying an other home and as to the renting of the old place to him I leave it entirely with you and what ever you do will be saths factory to me. you stated in your letter that you would send a draft
in a letter directed to Isaac, if you have sent it at that time it failed to get here, but probably you sent it subsequently and it may come hereafter. You Also said that you ha sent me the Monmouth Review, I have received it and am very much pleased to get it if I still have any funds in Illinois at your command send the Review, to Lea, Elizah, Edward, and Isaac Smith and pay for it with my money and send the receipts to me or them, I have written to you by mr Burbanks and if in case any thing should happen that he never gets there, I want you to send forty dollars to Alexander Campbell and direct him to place it to the credit of Amos Harvey of Plumb valley post office, Polk County Oregon and send me his receipt Mr. Harvey pays me the money here we have not heard anything from Thomas H Hutchinson since the 4th of March he was in tolerable good health then but said he was not very strong for he had been compelled to live on horse meat which was n't the best thing in the world to eat, I have just heard this morning that Capt. Emery of Yamhill County was killed while out on a scout, though I have not heard the particulars so I don't know whether they lost any more or not we shall hear soon we have the most dreadful Indian war in Oregon that ever I heard off in my life. the Indians are much better armed and mounted than the whites, and they are equally as good marksmen, and from the situation of the country and the superior knowledge the Indians have of it, they have greatly the advantage of the whites I will give you a little idea of the country there is exceeding high mountains in many parts of the country with what is called canyons between in some places just wide enough for a stream of water many of which is very deep and runs with great rapidity, but in some places there is narrow bottoms on wither side and some times only on one side and those bottoms are covered with underbrush so thick that it is impossible for a man ride through or indeed walk very fast and the Indians conceal themselves in the bush, and in the white man is aware he is that dawn, and there is not chance to get through the country except through those canyons it is very hard matter for the volunteers to get the Indians where they can get a shot at them for if they think the whites has any chance they will scamper off on their fat ponys while our men are thrashing their poor broken down horses further and further in the rear, the Indians have killed a great many more whites than the whites have killed of them, they cut off the pack reins and steal hundreds of our mens horses. The whites will ultimately whip the Indians, but they will loose many noble fellows first I have written to you that Isaac had got home I believe he is not as anxious to go a second campaign as he was the first, though he only got frost bitten a little and that was not quite as bad as if he had been wounded or killed. I will write to James by the next mail and if I find out that William is there I will write to him, I want you all to write as often as you can you can make arrangements so that one can write every month, one write one month and another the next so we can hear if anything should happen to any of you, our friends are all well as far as I know except Elyah he eas complaining some with his side for the last two or three weeks though he is about and attending to his busineys I must come to a close farewell for the present

Peter Butler