2-5-1858

Letter to John Butler from Rachel Butler and Margaret Smith

Rachel Butler
Margaret Smith

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My brother cannot fill this sheet I thought so well of scattering thoughts but let you know I have not forget you yet I often think how pleasant it would be to see you all according to plan but we will treat you to some of the prettiest apples you can see and I will cook you some pancakes for dinner we have bushels in the garden now. I don’t and hardly pick up courage to write you about the death of our dear brother. Mother has told you all the particulars I was there when he dyed he suffered equally he said to me when I went a few days and my sufferings will be and I said I hope you will be better off he said as I cannot get well death is near to me he made a will and asked every thing to Sarah as long as she remained his widow he has a farming west barn and a nice young orchard he is considerable sick I do not know how much I think of many words he deserves all its Sarah she was so kind and good to him. She has some of his belongings in the house and renting his farm. Rufus is going to school in Dorchester he joins with others and is Simpson Kelly is teaching he get one hundred dollars a month the children all send their love to you all I want to see you so much my health is some better but rest is all well except May she has a very severe throat John is a promising little boy he like wagon he halves it all the time it is old time miss go to bed you must all write of you.

Peggy Smith Feb 5th

I now seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along my health is as good as common it has been a mild of few winter and less rain than common we have had green vegetables all winter I had some pretty double Pinks in full bloom at Christmas. The health of this country is not very good they was an influenza went through the country last fall and nearly every body had it and a good took the typhoid fever they has been a good many deaths. Eliehah’s family has had the worst time of everything was taken sick in July Sarah first and then Charles Will he departed this life 1st of Oct he suffered the most I ever saw a child living life. Eliehah was taken before Charles he was not able to be a courtly little and when the little boy was at the worst time was confined she had a daughter and called it Rachel. Eliehah has had rather poor health for two or three years in July he was taken down with a bad cough it still grew worse he had four different doctors but they didn’t seem to do him any good he wore away by disease for about five months he departed this life 25 of January
he suffered a great deal. He never saw he was nothing but a mere skeleton when he dyed. He was willing to dye but said he was too old. The time came he said a few days before he dyed he wished he was in Abraham's bosom and then looked at Sarah and said you will all soon come. I stayed with him almost all the time he was sick. John came to see him the night before he dyed he could not walk or leave his bed but he was able to talk to those about him. He wanted them to converse on scriptures. He said he wanted him to choose a subject that would be calculated to draw him nearer to his God. John & Elizabeth his daughter spoke on the subjects of the death of John and his little boy was buried by the side of his father. Sarah was very kind to him. He sat on him as close as every body could. He died very hard.

Judge Taylor dyed a short time ago and they have appointed the council to fill his place. He has not returned from the legislature yet, so I do not know whether he will accept or not. I thought my troubles was more than I could bear, but I still increase your troubles. I am writing this to tell you that Uncle Elijah and Aunt Peggy have broke a good deal. Uncle Elijah was complaining last Sunday he talks in public yet. Margaret Mason has sick spells every few weeks. They don't expect her to live long. Mr. Mason was a spendthrift over Newton's Butter head and fell and broke one of his legs. He has to go on crutches. Badger Healy was buried not long ago and a good many more. Wilson ground the church seems to be prospering well. They have over a hundred members. Bedford and Mary was married over a few weeks ago. Uncle Elijah died the night of Aunt Patsy Stilson. I have got to swim. I have got to pass off the time. John I would like to see you very much and talk to you but as I am deprived of that satisfaction, I want you to write to me often as you can. When you write tell me which one of Joseph's children it was that dyed. I think it a long time between letters give my respects to all of my old neighbors and my children. I want you to write and tell me all about all the folks. I would like to know how Ann Nancy Butter gets along. I want to know how her and all of her children are getting along and whether she has anything about Pete or John Chapman or not. We have told her that Ezekiah骨骼 said all right. I would add more. Rachel Butter.
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Title: Letter with no addressee from Rachel Butler written from Peggy Smith's

Date: February 5 [1858?]

Transcription:

at Peggy Smiths Feb 5th [no year listed]

I now seat myself to write you a few lions to let you know how I am getting along my health is as good as common it has been a mild open winter and less rain than common we have had green vegetables all winter I had some pretty double Pinks in full bloom at christmas.

The health of this country is not verry good they was a influansy went through the country last fall and nearly evry boddy had it and a good took the typoid fever they has been a good meny deaths. Elijahs' family has had the worst time of enny they was taken sick in July Sarah first ann next then Charles Willet he departed this life the 21 day of Oct he sufferd the most I evver saw a child in my life. Lijah was taken before Charley he wasnot able to be about but very little and when the little boy was at the worst Sarah was confined she had a daughter and called it Rachel. Elijah has had rather poor health for two or three year. in July he was taken down with a bad cough it still grew worse he had four different doctors but they didnott seem to do him enny good he wore away by degreese for about five months he departed this life the 25 of January.

he suffered a great deal and spit up the most bad stuff I ever saw he was nothing but a mear skeleton when he dyed he was willing to dye he said he long to see the time come he said a few days before he dyed he wished he was in Abrehams bosom and then looked at Sarah and said you will all soon come I staid with him almost all the time he was sick. John E [Murphy] come to see him the knight before he dyed he coulnot talk above his breath but whispered to him and said he wanted him to converse on scriptures he said he wanted him to choose a subject that would be calculated to draw him nearer to his god. John E preached his funeral he spoke on the subject of Lazruths deats and his sisters weping for him. him and his little boy was buried by the side of his Father Sarah was very kind to him she wated on him as close as enny boody could she took his death very hard.

Judge Tayler dyed a short time ago and they have appointed Ira in his place but he has not returned from the legislator yet so I do not know whether he will except of it or not. I thought
my troubles was more than I could bare but they still increase your Fathers hat hangs on the nail he hung it on the knight before he dyed & was taken sick.

Uncle Elijah and Aunt Peggy has broke a good deal Aunt Peggy's about but rather feeble Uncle Elijah was complaining some last Sunday he talks in Publick yet. Margaret Mason has sick spells evry few weeks they dont expect her to live long Ira Mason was a jumping over Newtons Butler head and fell and broke one bone of his leg so he to go on crutches. Badfor[Bedford] Haley was baptized not long ago and a good menny more William Ground the church seame to be prospering well they is over a hundred members. Bedford and Mary was married over a few weeks ago Uncle Elijah tied the not. tell Aunt Patsy Shelton I have got to smoking to pass off the time. John I would like to see you very much and talk to you but as I am deprived of that satisfaction I want you to write to me often as you can. when you write tell me which one of Josephs children it was that dyed. I think it a long time between letters give my respects to all of my old neighbours and my children I want you to write and tell me all about all the folks I would like to know how Ann Nancy Butler gets along. I want to know how her and all of her children is getting along and whether she know ennything about Pete or John Chapman or not we have not tell her that Ezeriah Peckenpaugh staid all knight at with us long ago he has improved a great deal he is cute smart I add no more

Rachel Butler

Addition to Feb 5 Letter at Peggy Smith's

as Mother cannot fill this sheet I thought I would write a few scattering thoughts to let you know I have not forgot you yet I often think how pleasant it would be to see you all a coming to pay us a visit like you use to I want to see you all very much and talk to you if you will come to see us we will treat you to some of the prettiest apples you ever saw and I will cook you some greens for dinner we have bushels in the garden now. John I can hardly pick up courage to write to you about the death of our dear Brother. Mother has told you all the particulars I was their when he dyed he suffered a great deal he said to me when I went a few more days and my sufferings will be to an end. I said I hope you will be better off he said as I cannot get well death is no terror to me he made a will and willed evrything to Sarah as long as she remained his widow he has a firstrate farm a good barn and a nice young orchard he has considerable stock I do not know how much I think if enny woman deservs all it is Sarah. she was so kind and good to him. she talks some of building in Monmouth and renting her farm. Rufus is a going to school in Monmouth he bords with Tommys folks Tompson Haley is teaching he gets one hundred dollars a month the children all sends their love to you all they want to see you mitely. my health is some better the rest is all well except Mary she has a very sore throat little John is a promising little boy he has a little wagon he halles it all the time it is bedtime I mus go to bed you must all write ofens

Margaret B Smith