5-3-1856

Letter to John Butler, Eliza (Smith) Butler, Lavina Butler and Erastus Butler from Peter Butler

Peter Butler

Elizabeth ("Lissie") Hutchinson

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Recommended Citation

Butler, Peter and Hutchinson, Elizabeth ("Lissie"), "Letter to John Butler, Eliza (Smith) Butler, Lavina Butler and Erastus Butler from Peter Butler" (1856). Butler Family Letters (Transcripts). 72.
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To Mrs. Church, Sunday May 31st 1836

Dear son and family,

I received your letter of the 23rd inst. but not the draft which I have now received your draft of $400 each made by Thomas F. Atkinson to the order of the Bank for the Bank. The man wanted the duplicate for he said that the draft might be lost and it would cause too much delay to have to send back to the states for the second I have tried to tell all of mine and could not without the duplicate. I must want till I can get the duplicate before I can sell all. I hope you will get all the money and send them me at your earliest convenience.

You wanted me to tell you what to do about selling more of my timber land. I want you to consult William L. James and if you think the place will sell or sell more by selling off the 40 acres or so and not sell all together. Also you can have made up my mind to sell all the old place and divide it among all the children upon such terms as I shall make known to you all in due time. So the more you sell the place for the more you will get. If you can sell more to me and I will tell you how to dispose of the money. I mean all that is not 1/2.
I want you to see the land that I got of Isaac if you don't want it yourself but if you do keep it and if you sell the old place your part may go with the house. I want you to sell the store for the butcher you can get at William Clements' store in that country and think he can make a living on it and he does. I will give him my title but if he don't live on it I shall not give it to him to sell for it would not be doing the best for you.

I am very sorry to hear that there is likely to be trouble about the 1-36-11 N 2 7/8 but you must do the best you can and I will do all that I can for you have nothing undone that looks likely to establish a good title. I want you to keep enough in your hands to compensate you well for all your trouble and expense. One thing I want you to explain to me and that is my two thousand dollars bought 1900 and 1864. F. & Hutchisons left hundred only brought 1357.50. I only ask for information perhaps you had them tax out of there. You can tell them they may think strange and a few words of explanation would let all right.

I was truly sorry to hear that so many of the neighbors have been broken up for it must injure the whole community but a man ought to always make the calculations for such things. Every thing is very high and money now but a recipe must be placed and it would be my advice to you all to prepare for that condition by keeping out of debt and all kinds of difficulties. I have written some two letters to you lately so that it is not necessary to write a great deal more. I am informed that Nelson has had off that mile and Louis Bradley has paid the rent for the old place and if you have not sent it all be sure to keep enough in your hands to pay you well for all trouble and all your expense. I want you to get as much as to write to me and I will answer it at once. Tell John White to try to get time to write me a long, long, long letter. Tell John Haley to write to me if he feels like it. Give my best respects to all the old neighbors. Aunt Nancy, Mr. Phillips, Billy Paul tell him that I sold the old lot the other day for four hundred dollars over decency. Remain your loving father, Peter Butler.
Polk County Oregon Territory  May 3rd, 1856

Dear son and family

I received your letters of the 24th Feb last inclosing drafts I have now received four drafts $495 each. Isaac & Thomas H. Hutchinson both received a draft each for $288 30/100 Isaac sold his for the cash but the man wanted the duplicate for he said that the draft might be lost and it would cause too much delay to have to send back to the states for the second. I have tried to sell one of mine and could not without the duplicate so I must wait till I can get the duplicate before I can sell so I hope you will get all the seconds and send them on at your earliest convenience. You wanted me to tell you what to do about selling 40 acres more of my timber land. I want you to consult William's James(?) and if you think the place will sell for more by selling off the 40 acres do so and if not sell all together if you can. I have made up my mind to sell all the old place and divide it among all the children upon such terms as I shall make known to you all in due time. So the more you sell the place for the more you will get if you can sell write to me and I will tell you how to dispose of the money. I mean all that is not sold I want you to sell the land that I got of Isaac if you don't want it yourself but if you do keep it and if you sell the old place your part may go out of the other. I want you to sell the tax title for the best price you can get except William determines to stay in that country and thinks he can make a living on it and if he does I will give him my title but if he doesn't live on it I shall not give it to him to sell for it would not be doing the rest of you justice. I am very sorry to hear that there is likely to be trouble about the N1/236.11N 2 W?? but you must do the best you can and I will do all that I can for you. Leave nothing undone that looks likely to establish a good title I want you to keep enough in your hands to compensate you well for all your trouble and expense. One thing I want you to explain to me and that is my two thousand dollars brought $1980 and Isaacs & Hutchinsons six hundred only brought $576? tax out of theirs. you can tell they may think? strange and a few words of explanation would set all right. I was truly sorry to hear that so many of the working have been broken up for it must injure the whole community but a man ought to always make his calculations for such things every thing is very high in Illinois now but ?a ?reaction must & will take place and it would be my advice to
you all to prepare for that ?reaction be shur to keep out of debt and all kinds of difficulties I have
writen some two letters to you lately so that it is not necessary to write a great deal now I am in
hopes that Wilson has paid off that note and ? Louis Bradley has paid the rent for the old place
and if you have not sent it all be shure to keep enough in your hands to pay you well for your
trouble and all you expence I want you to tell your uncle Jo? to write to me and I will answer it
imeditately tell Josiah Whitman to try to get time to write me a long long long letter tell John
Haley to write to me if he feels like it give my best respects to all the old kneighbours Aunt
Nancy Mr Phelps Edly Paul tell him that I sold old kit the other day for three hundred dollars war
scirip I remain your loving father

Peter Butler

Brother John:

I receved a few lines from you also a draft of 288,32 Now brother I do not know of yew ever
keeping a single cent for your trouble and expense which our business has caused you and I hope
the next time you get money of own into your hands you will pay yourself well for I considr I
have all right to give you this advice as it is my property which you have the care of besides Mr
Hutchinson told me when he went away to answer letters and do business just like he was at
home Jane Hutchinson has also quit writing to us so we knew nothing about <missing word>
Robert Hutchinson still lives in <illegible> but I think he is rather down in the mouth since the
grasshoppers has eat up everything except his cows he says they eat his apple trees off to the
ground now this will look very unreasonal to you but you have never seen a curse of this sort
sent upon any land. They have destroyed the grass almost entirely. Robert says a great many
cattle have died starved to death the Indians are also at work upon then and I am afraid will not
be sudued very soon we have had a very hard winter and a very backward spring we have not
made all our garden yet and what we have planted is killed mostly by the frost. There was a fine
prospect early this Spring for peaches but they are generally killed by the frost Isaac is not
married yet but we expect he will be in a short time to a Miss Sarah Webb that widow woman’s
daughter who came out with Mason is 52 She has light blue eyes Sandy hair and is about 15
years old. Iky has got one of the best places in this country and is as well fixed to live as any of
you he has one of the prettiest har yever saw but he is one of the driest bodies I ever saw he talks
nearly none

Jimy cam to me just now a making a noise I told him to hush that I had told his uncle that he was
a pretty boy he says ahuh I wish you wouldn’t tell him. That tell him that me and Robert and the
baby has got a little colt. We have one yering cold and two yearlings

Mother says she wants to know what you call your brag boy our littler Robert can talk the
plainest yever heard a child of his age.

Little Jimmy is teasing me to write he has grown like a weed and is as pretty as ever. Tell Lavina
and Erastus I will answer their letters soon

Your loving Sister

Lissie