11-9-1856

Letter to Brother and Sister from Joseph Butler

Joseph Butler

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July 12, 1856

Dear Brother and Sisters,

I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all in usual health except cold I went to St. Joseph yesterday to carry the full lots of our townships, it was very cold and I have taken cold and don't feel as well as common a day as the health of the country is very good. This fall I don't know of a single Iowa that is not in all the country; I have not had time to go over and look up my place but I will go before long and write again. You wanted me to come or write what I would have done with land that belongs to the estate. As far as I am concerned would like to save the land sold, I suppose you would like to have me come back there to live, but I don't look at that myself at you. As now suppose I would sell my land here for 60 or 75, I see some and come over here and pay $30 per acre what could I expect to gain by it, and I think it is not well I would prefer this country to that any how to live in for it is much healthier than that, and is deranging much faster than Illinois did at the same age.

If you sell at public sale I want you to let me know a while before and if I can I will come over at that time. Tell William to buy a part of the old place if he wants to but I
I wish he could do much better to take the money and come out west in the South part of the State or the North part of Texas. He can get land for one fourth what he would have to pay in Hall County but I want him to do as the others do, for that is the way I do.

James Butler was all right with us on his road out west some three weeks since he told me all about the old friends and neighbors I was at work about two miles from home a week before last and on Saturday morning as I went to the work I came across a very fine buck and shot him he weighed after he was skinned about one hundred and eightythree and a half. Had about ten lbs of bacon in him.

Our election is over and this county give fifty-five majority for Buchanan. I am inclined to think Buchanan is elected but I fear it is not the case if all the reports are true that are circulated by the Black Republicans. I don't believe one half of them.

I suppose you have heard about our increase in family and as you told me about your lake if you want to know what she looks like you must come and see I think she looks very well considering for parents and friends.

Your friend and Brother until death.

Joseph Butler.
Dutch Creek Iowa, Nov 9th 1856

Dear Brother and Sister

I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all in usual health except colds I went to Sigourney yesterday to carry the pollbooks of our towns life, it was very cold and I have taken cold and dont feel as well as common today; the health of this Country is very good this fall I dont know of a single case of sickness in all this country. I have not had time to go over and look up [word?] but I will go before long and will write again. you wanted me to come or write what I wanted done with land that belongs to the Estate I as far as I am concerned would like to have the land sold, I suppose you would like to have me come back home to live, but I dont look at that matter as you do suppose I would sell my land here for 16 or $14 per acre and come over there and pay $30 per acre what could I expect to gain by it and that is not all I would prefer this country to that any how to live in for it is much healthier than that and is improving much faster than Illinois did at the same age If you sell at public sale I want you to let me know a while before and if I can I will come over at that time tell William to buy apart of the old place if he wants to but I think he could do much better to take the money and come out west in the south part of this state or the west part of Missouri. He can get land for one fourth what he would have to pay in that country but I want him to do as he thinks best, for that is the way I do. James Butler was all right with us on his road out west some three weeks since he told us all about the old friends and neighbors I was at work about two miles from home week before last and on saturday morning as I went to my work I came across a verry fine buck and shot him he weighed after he was skined dressed one hundred and eighty three lbs. had about ten lbs of tallow in him. our election is over and this county give sixty five majority for Freemont. I am in hopes that Buchanan is elected but I fear it is not the case if all the reports are true that are circulated by the Black Republicans I dont believe one half of them.
I suppose you have heard about our increase in family and as you told me about your babe if you want to know what she looks like you must come and see I think she looks very well considering her parents and friends

Your friend and Brother until death

Joseph Butler