12-25-1853

Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Eliza (Butler) Ground and William Ground

Eliza (Butler) Ground

William Ground

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Dear Uncle and Aunts,

It is with pleasure that I take the present opportunity of writing to you to inform you that we are all well. I have enjoyed very good health since I left home. I have never felt so hearty in my life as I do now. Cut back every day, I look pretty well and hearty.

I think this is a very good country, although there has been some children ill in this vicinity. Two of the families close to our place have been ill. The diseases are mostly taken from the springs, although there has been a good family here who have been ill.

I am very happy to know that you are all well. I hope to see you soon. I miss you all very much.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Edgar Butler

Edgar of grounds.
December 28, 1853

Bloomington

Dear Redler and Sister,

We all arrived at Oregon Sag and found we were somewhat tired but we are getting a little used to it. We are all well and happy. The children all look healthy. 

My father has sent us a little money from his claim, which was three miles to the southwest. We can hear the steam boats and the mill wheel every time they come up.

So now.

William B. Ground

P.S. I will give you an account of the prices shortly. 

- Flour 
- Cattle
- Pork
- Eggs
- Chicken

They were all a dollar when we first came here. I know of one woman here that has made $4.00 off of her crops and chickens. So you can’t wait. He has got him a claim.

His claim is worth $1,000 dollars. We are looking forward to the future. The mountains are beautiful. We have seen many bears and deer crossing the cascades mountains and we enjoy the views.
Dear Brother and Sister

We all arrived at Oregon safe and sound we were somewhat tired but we are getting a little rested we are all well and harty. The children all look hearty especially Peter he is as fat as a pig his cheeks is red as a rose and his eyes as black and bright as you please. The trip was tolerably tiresom but not so much as I expected to find it. I was well most of the way through though I was very weak along the snake river I did not have to lay down to rest every time whilst I was getting breakfast that was more than I could do in the spring and summer at home or feeling like it at least the fore part of the trip is nothing if the weather was warm and pleasant the weather was very cold and wet for a long time after we started the latter part of the trip is hard there is so many long steep hills to climb up and down. Crossing the cascade mountains used me up worse than all the rest of the trip we saw a great many curiosities on the road we did not suffer much for the want of wood and water we fillet our water cegs where we did not expect to find water and we sacked up wood a nook to do us two hundred miles there was no timber in that distance except one lone tree so we had wood and sage brush all the way to cook with we found a great many currants on the way they was very exceptionable they was the best I ever tasted there was red yellow and black ones in the mountains we found raspberry dew berries and thimbles berries we live close to a lake there are hundreds of geese and ducks swimming in it our folks kills one every once in a while and sometimes a pheasant. We have all of the cabbages beets squashes and such things as we can use one of our neighbours tells us to send two to his garden and help ourselves. He wants the cabbage cur off over the stalks so that he can raise another crop on the same stalks they have excellent cabbage and beets here. I think that people can have plenty here to live on with but very little work though I cannot help thinking a great deal about old Illinois I would like to see it about this time the connection are all well.

Tomas Hutcheson is gone to the umqua with his brother Robert to look at the country he has been gone over a month Mack Timmons lives three or four miles from here they say he is rich he has
seven sones charles wells lives out here one of his sones was at our house yesterday. hendrilks lives in oregon the singing teacher this is a great place for wild roses the prarrds are red with the berrys at this time the snow drop goes wild here thousands of them. we want you to write to us we allway like to have from you all and all the old neighbours give my best respects to mutilda smith James and mary Butler and all inquiring friends and tell them to write.

John M & Eliza Butler
Eliza A. Grounds

*Addition to letter*

Bloomington
Dec the 26th 1853

Dear Uncle

It is with pleasure that I take the present opportunity of writing to you to inform you that we are all well. I have enjoyed very good health since I left home I never felt so hearty in my life As I do now at least every body looks hearty hear. I think this is a very healthy healthy country, although there has been four children died in this vicinity two of the hooping cough and two of the flux brought in this country by emigrants this is a good farming country every thing except corn and I have seen some pretty good corn hear any farmer can raise enough to fatten his own meat on a small piece of ground there is the prettiest wheat raised hear I ever saw grass is green the whole year around it is now after christmas and the stock is out feeding themselves to there own gratification yesterday (christmas) was the coldest day we have had this winter it was rainy and the blew from the south but it would not be counted a cold day in Illinois father has got him a claim within a mile of uncle Jras a mile and a quarter of uncle lides. I believe I cant think of any more at present you must write as soon as you get this you must excuse my bad writing for this is a bad pen and I wrote in hurry

so no more

William B. Grounds

PS as there is a little room yet I will give you an account of the prices mare from $1.50 to $2.00 dollars cows from 65 to 1.00 dollars Pork $20.00 per hundred wheat 2.00 per bushel chickens about 75 cts apiece eggs 50 cts per dozen Butter 50 cts per pound potatoes 50 cts per bushel they were a dollar when we first come here I know of one woman here that has made $4.00 off of her cows and chickens this last summer my father says he is so busy he can't write with his claim is within three miles of the willamette we can hear the steam boats whistle every time they come up mother has sent you th eleaf of a fir tree

no more

W.B.G.