3-4-1854

Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Peter and Rachel Butler

Peter Butler
Rachel Butler

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John if you hear from your uncle tell him for me to tell the general prices of tin and all kinds of staple from time to time in Illinois. I want you to go to the register of deed and take any of the particular lots of land which I desire to Thomas H. Veatchman I have to sell them to me in your next letter. I have written to you two I wanted my bunion done for fear the foot may miscare I will write again I wrote to you to buy a draft from your brother in Adams Co. of Portland in Oregon city and船 it to me without you could get a letter of appointment to send me the money. I want all the money which I can get done & pay me all the shares which I had for the claim and still owing $12.00 I trust have the claim sold & he is to pay the money I want to pay first and he will you one I wrote to you to sell my interest in the share of land for $500 and send them to me if you can I could yet the few cattle from the house of cattle in Oregon if not the mining I have is the only stock which will respect to all my old friends I shall be glad to hear from you soon.

Plush County 3d March 4th 1854
Dear Children

I have waited with great impatience for a long time to hear from you but at last the last mail brought me the pleasing intelligence of your health and welfare I was also happy to hear that you were all still in the hands of the living but I was very sorry to hear of so many of my old acquaintances having left the world although I probably would have never seen any of them again in this world but I was happy to hear that they were dead and gone but we must all die in a very short time at most and the great thing is to be prepared for that time to come when it may. I was very glad to hear that James's family was well although they have not trouble themselves to write to us since we have been in Oregon. John I want you to write to me and tell me how James has done with the store you say he has quit the store, but you don't say where. He made any thing so long, I want to know all about it how he said and what he said or whether he got any thing and what he said if you the letter I want to know all the particular. So what was the cause of his getting in debt? give me all the particulars.
about the whole transaction tell me what
he is doing and what he talks of doing here.
I fear he will not do very well for he is
not very strict if he could command the cap-
itate to lay in a stock of goods he would proba-
ble do well trading but if he must depend
on his own judgment. I hope he may as he now
has friends on honorable canvass
You will naturally want to know how we are all
plased with the country. I am not able to speak
to state definitely that we are pleased at present
for this reason we have had a hard winter on
the fall after the same rain in the whole farm
prosper was covered with the finest snow that I ever
had in my life, our horses fared as just as I
ever saw horses fed on corn. We made little hay
because of my mother's affliction I don't object that
I shall see her again, and if he is still living
when we receive this letter I want you to go up to
his house and read it to him and tell him to give
up all earthly things and try to seek the power
of him who knows our only help and ask
him earnestly I don't want to see you all too
soon, that it seems like I cannot even be safe
without seeing you but you and James
must write often and give us all the same facts
that you can and tell us what you have from
Williams, Jacks and friends, and all our old
neighbors and friends tell us of all the unfor-
tunate changes mentioned. God Bless them near to me
Polk County O.T March 4th, 1854

Dear Children

I have waited with great impatience for a long time to hear from you but at length the last mail brought me the pleasing intelligence of your health and welfare. I was well pleased to hear from you indeed and especially to hear that you are all still in the land of the living, but I was very sorry to hear of so many of my old acquaintances having left the world although I probably would have never seen any of them again in this world yet I was sorry to hear that they were dead and gone, but we must all die in a very short time at most and the great thing is to be prepared for that hour let it come when it may. I was very glad to hear that James’s family was well although they have not troubled themselves to write to us since we have been in Oregon. John I want you to write to me and tell me how James has done with the store you say he has quit the store but you don’t say whether he made anything or not. I want to know all about it how he sold and what he got or whether he made anything and whether he is bound for the liabilities. Also what was the cause of his quitting in short give me all the particulars about the whole transaction tell me what he is doing and what he talks of doing here [after] I fear he will not do very well farming for he is not very stout if he could command the capital to lay in a stock of goods, he would probably do well trading but if not he must exercise his own judgement. I hope he may as he ever has pursued an honorable course

You will naturally want to know how we are all pleased with the country. I do not deem it prudent to state definitely how we are pleased at present for this reason we have had a hard winter in the fall after the rains set in. The whole country was covered with the finest grass that I ever saw in my life our horses fattened as fast as I ever saw horses fed on corn & oats, but about the first of January it set in cold and we had a great deal of frost and snow which killed the grass very much and froze out the wheat considerably it killed all most all the oats, they having been sewed in the fall the best time to sow oats in this country. the old settlers say that this has been a very
unusual winter. these are some of the reasons which induces me to withhold my opinions concerning the country for the present, when I give my opinions I want to have them made up on facts ascertained by my own observation

I was very sorry to hear that William had managed his business in the way which he did it would not have hurt much worse to have heard of his death I often told him that it would not do to manage his business in the way that he was managing this is twice he has been broken up by the same means I done all that I could to keep his head above the waves before but this time it is out of my power to heal him. I want you to write all the particulars about how he is fixing his business I hope he may yet try to pay every cent which he justly owes and then promise a different course and if he lives and dies in poverty let him live and die honorably. I was very sorry to hear of my only brother's affliction I don't expect that I shall ever see him again, and if he is still living when you receive this letter I want you to go up to his house and read it to him, and tell him to give up all earthly things and try to seek the favor of him who turns none empty away who seeks him earnestly. John I want to see you all so very badly that it seems like I cannot ever be satisfied without seeing you, but you and James must write often and give us all the satisfaction that you can and tell us what you hear from William's folks and Joseph's and all our old neighbors and friends tell us of all the important changes in Illinois for Illinois seems near to me

John if you hear from your uncle Jesse McGuire or your aunt Hannah Furgeson tell us what you hear, tell us the general prices of land and all kinds of stock from time to time in Illinois I want you to go to the recorders office and take down the particular lots of land which I deeded to Thomas H Hutchinson & Isaac and send them to me in your next letter. I have written to you how I wanted my business done but for fear the letter miscarried I will write again I wrote to you to buy a draft from Clark & brothers on Adam's & Co of Portland or Oregon city and send it to me without you could get a private opportunity to send me the money. I want all the money which I can get for I paid out all the money which I had for this claim and still owe $1200 I let Isaac have the claim and he is to pay for it but I have to pay first and he will pay me as soon as his land in Illinois can be sold I wrote to you to sell my tax title land for cattle and send them to me if you could get the chance but if you have not sold it do not sell for cattle for the price of cattle is going up in Illinois and going in Oregon so that they wont be any driving sheep is the only stock which will pay to drive at present give my best love and respect to all my old friends. Your loving father & mother

Peter Butler

Rachel Butler

I will write to James in a few weeks which will be more satisfactory than to write now write to me and tell me where to direct a letter to William