Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Joseph Butler and Jane Butler

Joseph Butler

Jane Butler

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Dear Brother & Sister,

I received a letter from you some two weeks since and would have answered it sooner but I have been waiting to get a Post office in Wallingford a little town over a mile and a quarter south of my house but have waited in vain. I was very glad to hear from you but was sorry to learn that you had had so much sickness in your family and also to hear of poor Berryman Russell's death. We have had some sickness—my in laws neighborhood and some few deaths. Mrs. Henderson had one child die last summer with the Black dropey. we have had no sickness in our family this season of any note. the health of the country is very good at present. I have not heard from Oregon for several months from William. I would like to know when he is and what he is doing. If you hear from him let me know the particulars as soon as possible so I am anxious to know something about him.

The snow had a heavy fall earlier so far but it is a little more pleasant today than it had been for three weeks we have tolerably good sleighing snow about from Thursday.
We had fine crops this season. I had the best crop of corn that I ever raised in my life. I have not sold my corn yet. I have only eight bushels to sell. I expect to sell the corn and take them to Musketta. Farm has been selling here at three and a half dollars apiece. I think it would go down the price. Last week a guess wanted me to come and see you this winter but I don’t expect to get there this winter. But if everything goes right I think we will be over there sometime next summer or fall.

We have four horses. I will have four horses. If I keep my health, I have a good farm or a good rent. Through our neighborhood I think it will run about five miles from my house. It might be closer. There has been five or six rent farmers one through my farm on an outside and five acres, one and two miles on the four and a half and one on five. All the expect to be at work. I am sure to work hard through this winter. The contract is to work as far as Washington in one year from the winter. The contract is one as far as Washington. I trust we will have better times when we get a rain after.

I have not noticed my farm yet. If I do I shall settle someplace in town I expect.

Joseph Butler

Eliza Butler

P.S. I have not sold my farm yet. If I do I shall settle someplace in town I expect.

Joseph Butler
Dutchcreek Iowa Jan 6th 1856

Dear Brother and Sister

I received a letter from you some two weeks since and would have answered it sooner but I have been waiting to get a Post office in Valleyrand a little town one mile and a quarter south of my house, but have waited in vain. I was verry glad to hear from you but was sorry to hear that you had had so much sickness in your family and also to hear of poor Berryman Murphys death. We have had some sickness in our neighborhood and some few deaths R.J. Henderson had one child to die last summer with the head dropsey. we have had no sickness in our family this season of any note. the health of the country is verry good at present- I have not heard from Oregon for several months now nor from William I would like to know where he is and what he is doing. if you hear from him let me know the particulars as soon as posable for I am anxious to know something about him

We have had a verry cold winter so far but it is a little more pleasant today than it has been for three weeks. we have a tolerable good sliding snow about five inches deep We had fine crops this season. I had the best crop of corn that I ever raised in my life. I have not sold my pork yet I have only eight head to sell I expect to butcher mine and take them to Musketine pork has been selling here at three and a half and four dollars per hundred gross weight I heard it was not worth from six to seven dollars meat in Musketine I think I will go down there this week you wanted me to come and see you this winter but if every thing goes on right I think we will be over there some time next summer or fall We have our hous finished except painting that I will do next spring if I keep my health we have a fine prospect of a rail road through our neighborhood I think it will run about five miles from my house it maybe clooser there has been five or six routs surround one through my farm one in one mile and and a half one in two miles one in four and a half and one in five miles they expect to be at work on it along through here
next summer it is to be finished as far as washington in one year from this winter. the contract is
let as far west as Oskaloosa. I think we will have better times when we get a railroad
I and property is on the rise here farms that sold some two years ago for $1000 sell now for three
thousand or more horses and worth from $100 to $125. every thing else in proportion. flower
$4.00 per hundred wheat $100 per bushel corn .20 cents oats 20 cents I have killed three deer this
fall and winter I want you to write ofen dont put it off as long as you did before and write all that
you hear from Oregon that is all the important news, and all so from William, I am all ways glad
to hear from you, this leaves my family in good health

Your Brother

Joseph Butler
Jane Butler

to: John M. Butler
   Eliza Butler

P.S. I have not sold my farm yet if I do I shall settle some place in Iowa I expect

Joseph Butler