3-31-1857

Letter to Brother and Sisters from Isaac Butler and Sarah A. Butler

Isaac Butler

Sarah A. Butler

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March 31st, 1857

Dear Brother and Sister,

I did not get a letter from you as soon as I expected. It is now the 31st of March and I am writing this letter in the hope that it will reach you before the close of the month.

Isaac McElrath

George McElrath

Here is a summary of the events that have occurred in the past month:

- The winter has been quite cold and the snow has lasted for two months, with the ground not fully cleared of snow until the end of February.
- There have been some changes in the local population, with some families moving out and others moving in.
- The economy has been stable, with prices remaining relatively constant.

I have been busy with my farm work and have been able to harvest a good crop. I have about 20 hogs, which are valued at $20 each, and 20 sheep, which are valued at $15 each. I have also planted 50 acres of corn, which should yield a good harvest.

Our community is doing well, with a strong economy and a growing population. We are improving our roads and buildings, and the area is becoming more productive.

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are doing all that is necessary to maintain your health and happiness. Please write and let me know how you are doing.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
give us a good Steady market and Oregon
in a few years will tell for its self
This is a great fruit country which more
can dispose all kinds of Stock do well
here and most all kinds of grain except
Corn and we can raise them 60 to 70 bushels
per acre of that we can raise all we need and
That is all we need an sufficient
There is some excitement in the Country
about the Slavery question but I am
pleased that it will not get very high.
Mr. Buter received a letter from you a few days ago requesting him to pay me
the sum of $1,850 and some cent. This we
could not understand, how nor did
not know what this money was for now
he want to know what this money is for
before he can pay it and Refer to you.
Just under that I am stating that would
leaves $1113 25 and some cents if I extract
right? This we did not understand, the two
letters you wrote before this one he never
get probably if we had them they might explain this one. And I want you to answer
this letter as soon as you get it and explain
to me all about it, be particular to tell it my
plans for business of all kinds ought to
understood well. I supposed that till 154 dollars
was the second payment at the place that
John C Buter Knight of me and husband
but we were not certain about it.
I have written several letters back there
but reen the answer I wrote one to
you last fall but the answer came I am
now think my Brother back there know
very well for one but there is a great
Many letters started that never get them.
Some letters have come back direct
to Drummond P.O. County don any
of you send anything to that place for this
is no Post office. There yet. I shall live
part of my letter until I go to the Post
office tomorrow. May get the letter from him
by now this way.
It is my opinion that the land and
every thing had better be sold at
immediately for you know if one of
the heirs Should die leaving small
children it is not likely any of us
would ever get any good of the part
of the estate. I do think it would be
better to sell the land now, if it does not
bring quite so much, one month from
tomorrow is the day we have said to get ready
to make out the papers of Attorney to send
to you.
March 31st, 1857

Dear Brother and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to inform you of our health and prospects we and all the connection are well as far as I know. there has been some sickness here this last winter but not many deaths. we have had a very bad winter here. we had a snow that lay on the ground about two weeks, but it was not very cold but there has been a great deal of rain this winter more than I have ever saw in one winter since I have been here. grass is getting very good now and stock is mending fine. I have about 15 head of cattle 7 head of horses 20 hogs 29 sheep I have about 200 bushels of old wheat which is worth 1.25 per bushel Cows are worth from $40 to $50 dollars per head Sheep $6.00 I have 10 acres volunteer oats that look very well. Our country is improving very fast good buildings and large farms are taking the place of log cabbins with no yard fence. All we lack here now, (or the greatest thing we need is a good steady market) give us a good steady market and Oregon in a few years will tell for its self

This is a great fruit country which none can dispute All kinds of stock do well here and most all kinds of grain except corn and we can raise from 20 to 50 bushels per acre of that we can raise all we need and that is sufficient

There is some excitement in our country about the slavery question but I am in hopes that it will not get very high Ira, F.M. Butler recieved a letter from you a few days ago requesting him to pay me the sum of $184.00 and some cents this we could not understand, him nor me did not know what this money was for. now he wants to know what this money is for before he can pay it and receit to you Just under that you stated that would leave $1115.00 and some cts due the estate (if I recollects right) this we did not understand, the two letters you wrote before this one he never got probably if we had them they might explain this one. now I want you to answer this letter as soon as you get it and explain to me all about it. be particular to tell it very plain for buisiness of all kinds ought to understood well. I supposed that this 184 dollars was the second
payment on the place that John C. Butler bought of me and [?Huchinson] but we were not certain about it.

I have written several letters back there but received no answers I wrote one to you last fall but no answer came I sometimes think my brothers back there have surely forgotten me but there is a great many letters started that never get here Some letters have come here directed to Monmouth Polk County dont any of you send any to that place for there is no post office there yet. I shall leave part of my letter until I go to the post office tomorrow I may get a letter from some of you this mail

It is my opinion that the land and everything had better be sold immediately for you know if one of the heirs should die leaving small children it is not likely any of us would ever get any good of our part of the estate. Ira thinks it would be better to sell the land now, if it does not bring quite so much one week from tomorrow is the day we have set to get together to make out the power of attorney to send to you.

I did not get a letter this mail write as soon as you get this

Isaac M. Butler
Sarah Ann Butler