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Letter to John Butler from Thomas Hutchinson

Thomas Hutchinson

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Dear Brother,

We received your letter enclosing a draft six due here, and we have delayed sending because we have been so busy. Since the receipt of your letter, we received a letter from Samuel Frost, containing the sad news of the death of your beloved sister. We express our sympathy with you in your great loss. Mr. Frost had a long, fruitful career and died on the 29th of January. We feel this loss very much, as it only took a few days before he died. Thanks for going to live in Monmouth, as it getting a home built there.

He bought a fine house in Monmouth (1830) for us to live in. He made an addition on one side of it. He was building a new house there to hold our two sons. The lot is fenced with orchard of many 300 trees — flowers and trees, and greenery. The Monmouth library will soon be finished in 6 months. I am told (346 books) with a building. It will be a fine building when finished. We will have the school next term. It is the County seat of VIT. I am the Clerk of the District Court for this County.

I am in good health, and the horses are fine and a good many chickens and turkeys present among the children and friends. Mr. Frost and friends with me a good deal this summer.
The School at Monmouth is doing well and the town is growing very fast. It is a beautiful place.

It is very important that we continue to support the School and the town. It has provided a place for us to live and work.

Tell Joseph and James that we have received many letters from them and their families. We have never received any letters from Joseph's wife yet.

Tell Joseph and James that we are very happy and that we are looking forward to seeing them soon.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Monmouth, Illinois

[Signature]
Bloomington Polk Co Oregon Territory September 6th 1858

Dear Brother

We received your letter inclosing a draft, in due time but we have delayed writing because we have been so busy since the reception of your letter, we received a letter from James C. Hutchinson containing the sad news of the death of your beloved wife we all sympathise with you in your great loss

Elijah D. Butler had a long & painful illness and died on the 24th of January we feel his loss very much his only son a fine boy died a few weeks before Elijah did. Sarah is going to live in Monmouth she is getting a house built there

We bought a store house in Monmouth 18 X 36 feet we have made an addition on one side of 12 X 36 feet we are building 2 more houses there to hold our lots our 10 acre lot is fenced with orchard of some 200 trees houses rent well at Monmouth The University is up and will soon be finished it 40 X 60 feet 2 stories (24 feet) high with a bellfry it will be a fine building when finished We will move to Dallas next month as it is the County seat of Polk Co, as I am the Clerk of U.S. District Court for this county

Mother is in good health she keeps a horse and a good easy saddle and rides around among her children and friends. She stayed with us a good deal this summer

Isaac is going to move to Monmouth he has gone in to partnership to sell goods with D.M. Boone, our old partner he has finished assessing the county and his health is some better than it has been for some time
Eliza has another fine boy it was born on Saturday the 28th of Aug. she and babe are doing well
Mother is staying with her at this time. Isaac Smith's folks were all well the last time we heard
from them Ira's family are well they have a fine young daughter she is about a month old.

We are all well and the friends are all well as far as we know. We want you to pay the ballance
which we owe to E. Jane Hutchinson if you can collect enough money which is due us Samuel
Hutchinson will pay part of it. If you think any improvement on our farm necessary please have
it made as fast as you can get the funds. We are well pleased with all you have done for us, for
which you have our sincer thanks you must keep enough out of our funds to pay you for your
time and trouble At any time if there is any money on hand of ours that you do not need for
improvement or other purposes you may send it to us by drafts or some other way as we need
money as we are building so much Our stock is doing well although grass is getting scarce
owing to the great amount of stock in the country

this has been a better season for grass than common We have the finest yearling horse colt that I
ever saw he is as large as any 2 year old that I ever saw in the states and he is as fine as he is
large some have valued him at one thousand dollars

The school at Monmouth is doing well and the town is growing very fast It is a beautiful place

Tell William C. Butler that we send our respects to him and family, and that we will write to
soon We received a letter from him with a lock of his hair and a lock of the baby's. Tell Joseph
and James that we send our respects to them and their families. We have never received any
letter from Joseph and have not got any from James a year or more tell them to write us

Thomas H. Hutchinson
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Monmouth Illinois