8-21-1859

Letter to John Butler from William Butler

William Butler

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Drummondville City, R.S., August 21st, 1859

Dear Brother,

I have been written to by many since but I did not have time until now to write. I was not able to get my write through many persons and finally that I can hardly write. I have not more than on the road of coming after I last wrote. The you saw that wrote which kindness us about 2 days and then halted the coast in the country this way. I then traveled through the country and then through another country in the winter then I went back to the place where we are now. We landed here on the 24th day of July and about this time the houses that have been here all these years. Some of the cabins were built when we got here some have another then others. These have two other houses, but some of them, we had a little one. They are not big but they are very much.
The fire took it one by one until we have all had it, but we are all right now on the mount except Joe. They all have chills here and are having a hard time. There are many of them, especially when people are sick. The sickness in this country appears to be very prevalent. The climate here is mild, but there is no exception. There is not much timber, but the soil is very good and I think the fall is as good as the one in Wisconsin. The soil is a bit rocky and the timber is poor. I would not recommend it to others who are looking for a place to settle. There is a stone quarry and some granite in abundance. There is beauty, but the country is very rocky. There is no timber on the elevations. There is a tremendous amount of water, but it is a high-clay soil and the crops are not very good. The country is very beautiful, but the climate is not very good. I do not know if it will ever be improved.

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I have made a claim on Allen Lake, the one km across, through the swamp, and I have some 20 acres of timber on it. The lake is about a half mile in length, but it is a stony bottom. There is a stone quarry and some granite in abundance. There is beauty, but the country is very rocky. There is no timber on the elevations. There is a tremendous amount of water, but it is a high-clay soil and the crops are not very good. The country is very beautiful, but the climate is not very good. I do not know if it will ever be improved.

On the claim I made, there is some timber, but it is stony bottom. I have some 20 acres of timber on it. The lake is about a half mile in length, but it is a stony bottom. There is a stone quarry and some granite in abundance. There is beauty, but the country is very rocky. There is no timber on the elevations. There is a tremendous amount of water, but it is a high-clay soil and the crops are not very good. The country is very beautiful, but the climate is not very good. I do not know if it will ever be improved.

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Title: Letter to Brother from William C. Butler (Breckenridge City, Louisiana Territory)

Date: August 21, 1859

Transcription:

Breckenridge Cty. K.T. August 21st 1859

Dear Brother,

I should have written to you long since but I did not have time until I got sick then I was not able but I am now able to sit and write though my nerves are so unsteady that I can hardly write yet. We had no more hinderance on the road of consequence after I last wrote to you fan had a colt which hindered us about 1 day we then hailed the colt in the wagon two days it then traveled the balance of the way we traveled through [word missing] veriy good country in Mo. better than I had expected to see in that country and land cheap when we struck Kansas we traveled through a veriy fine country until we reached the place where we are now. we landed here on the 22nd day of July we found Br. Joseph and family Geo. Rainwater and Robinett here they had been here about three weeks Smith and Minerva did not come. June and Emaline were both sick when we got here June has another daughter they have all been sick but are well and mending we had been here but few days until John and Willie both took the chills we then took it one by one until we have all had it but we are all now on the mend except Geo. & viola they still have chills we have no house yet we are still living in a tent, a hard way of living especially when people are sick the sickness in this country appears to be almost entirely confined to the new comers the old settlers appear to enjoy good health. I like this country veriy well with one exception there is not enough timber the soil is veriy good I think full as good as the soil in Warren Cty. Ills. the water is first rate. the timber is good but consists principally of Bur Oak and Black Walnut there is some Cottonwood Syccamore, Mulberry, white Hickory red bud elm and base elder and grape vines in abundance and some honey locus the timber is confined entirely to the creeks and rivers which are veriy plentiful in this part of the territory travel east and west from where we live there is a creek or river about every four miles the streams are clear pure spring water generally running over rock or gravel bottoms the face of the country is more handsom than any country I ever saw it is a high dry rolling country I do not know of one [?] square of wet land anywhere in this country either on the prairie or in the creek bottoms and at the same time I do not know of one qr. sec. of land that is too broken to cultivate pleasantly I see no local cause for sickness the
general face of the country has a more healthy appearance than any country I ever was in and still the chills seem to be very prevalent among the new coming I have made a claim on Allen Creek the creek runs through one corner of my claim I have some 2 or 3 acres of timber on it and have bought a piece of timber adjoining for which I paid 10 dollars per acres I sold my [word missing] for 85 dollars to obtain this timber the [word missing] of my claim is as handsome prairie as a man need want there is a stone quarry on it of the nicest limestone I ever saw except in this country the road from 142 to [Americus] the County Seat of this country runs through my claim 10 miles from 142 and 3 miles from [Americus?] Americus was laid out just two years ago in this month it now contains 18 houses one stone one blacksmith shop one (?) office and one tavern that would be no disgrace to Monmouth and a number of other built on the way there is a printing press now in town but have not commenced printing yet there are also two [words missing in town my claim is on the Indian land belonging to the [Caw] indians there are plenty of good prairie claims to be taken here yet the timber is all claimed but there is plenty of timber now that can be bought at from 10 to 20 dollars per acre the country is settling very rapidly I think it will be but few years until this will be a thick settled country flower is worth four dollars and 50 cts per hund here corn meal $1.00 bacon there is more in the country and but few hogs. I am tired writing and you will probably be tired reading such scribling I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and give me the news I am very anxious to hear from you

Yours with due respect

Wm C. Butler