12-16-1860

Letter to John Butler from Isaac Butler, Sarah A. Butler and Mary Butler

Isaac Butler

Sarah A. Butler

Mary Butler

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and who is living on the place now much it seems to me in short tell me everything
that you think would interest me.
I expect to try to build a house next
summer. I have not determined anything
sized, and I will build yes but it will
not be very large I need a good house
and barn on my place as then I would
be pretty well fixed for a poor man
I have just finished planning for wheat to be
planted February the ground is in fine order
I want you to tell me what the prospect of selling
the old place and what your notions is about
selling it. It seems to me if it can be sold
to a good advantage we had better have the
good of it while we live. I have not received
a letter from brother James for 3 years those
are years to him but whether he can get them or
not is more than I know tell him the next
time you see him to write to me and believe
his conscience want you to tell me where respect
to Joseph and William. My little girl was now
raised up in bed and wanted to get her hands
out of way. She is a very promising child with years
not to rep My wife close to the time

Sister--Louise

Mary Ellen Butter

At home Dec. 14th 1860

Dear Brother. As it has been some
time since I wrote To your brother
let me take the present opportunity to write
to you I am in better health Than I have
suffered for seven or eight years my
health has been very poor off In fact her
disease is of the heart. She is better
now than she has been since the very
time excepting a very severe cold.
My little girl is in good health except
cold. She was at my house about
a week ago. She is in good health we
were all well all the rest of the family
also as well as Emma as far as I know her
Eliza. Emma she has been complaining
of her joints for some time I believe
this is only as had a cold on her leg
as Illinois at the time I first came here
there was not such a thing known as long
corn plain. There is some other sickness
constipation of typhoid and fever persons
from outside there is not very much difference
This winter as yet we have had a very
pleasant summer good Crops a pleasant
fall and sunshine so far
The roads are in pretty good condition considering all things people are fencing up their land clearing the road and
confining them to lanes and not very
close. With some on them we have marked
our staples wheat at 50 cents per bushel
and at 60 cents per bushel past it worth plenty today. But as far as we can
get every thing that we have to buy is so high as when times were good. Stock of all kinds
has come down. I moved back on my farm
last day and have been very busy fixing up
my fences and putting things to rights
I have now my 320 acres of land all under
join divided into two Pastures. I intend
to keep one for a winter pasture. I have
about 100 head of horses and a herd of cows
as the best stock. I have there is no sale for property of any kind except horses. Shelf every body
by trying to get it all the boys to ship and
some portion of good price and cash which is
when will the produce of the farm that will
bring the cash people are improving this
pasture all they can but times are so hard
that every branch of business goes very
slow. There has been considerable talk
about the silver mines in Oregon but I am not
prepared to say whether it is in paying quantities or not as it
turns want to be good there is plenty
The ORE on 6 miles of my place it
takes some time to hove the ore properly
I'll tell you I would be glad if we would
be rich for we need some money now but we
are sort of scnt about money. It is thought
by a great many that our war debt will
be paid off this session of Congress
so it will help us some but not
like it would make a great deal of it is in the hands of speculators.
I suppose some of you back there will
think that Congress has served us right in keeping
as out of our pay for 5 years. As some of
the members of Congress seem to think so.
They would not finance the payment of the
war debt all I wish is that some of them
will spend Bond to help buy their
guns and blankets and to strengthen
the snow and live our horse meat as
we did but they can make the best of it
This time for it is the last time I will
Volunteer to help little farms boss out
a bad dangers. I am willing to fight for
our country when it is necessary but I had
rather go on my own horse best just
I want you to write to me as soon as you
get this and tell me all about the old
places and how large brother is and
how much I want to be good there is plenty


At Home Dec. 16th 1860

Dear Brother

As it has been some time since I wrote to you I will take the present opportunity to write to you. I am in better health than I have enjoyed for seven or eight years. My wife’s health has been very poor all summer. Her disease is of the heart. She is better now than she has been since she was taken excepting a very severe cold.

My little girl is in good health except cold. Mother was at my house about a week ago. She is in good health as usual. We were up to Isaac Smith’s last week; they were all well. All the rest of the connection are as well as common as far as I know but Eliza Ground she has been complaining of her lungs for some time. I believe this is about as hard a country on the lungs as Illinois. Although when I first came here there was not such a thing known as lung complaint. There is some other sickness consisting of typhoid & lung fever. Putred soar throat. There is not very much sickness this winter as yet. We have had a very pleasant Summer. Good crops a pleasant fall & winter so far.

The roads are in pretty good condition considering all things. People are fencing up their land moving the road and confining them to lanes and but very little work done on them. We have marketed our surplus wheat at 40 to 50 cts per bushel. Pork is worth from .04 to .06 cts. Beef .04 cts. On foot everything that we have to buy is as high as when times were good. Stock of all kinds has come down. I moved back on my farm last May, and have been very busy fixing up my fences and putting things to rights. I have now my 320 acres of land all under fence divided into two pastures. I intend to keep one for a winter pasture. I have about 15 head of horses which is the most stock I have. There is no sale for property of any kind except hogs & sheep. Everyone is trying to get all the hogs & sheep they can. Pork is pretty good price and cash which is about all the produce of the farm that will bring the cash. People are improving their farms all they can. But times are so hard that every branch of business goes on very slow. There has been
considerable talk about the Silver Mines found here in Oregon but I am not prepared to say
whether it is in paying quantities or not if it turned out to be good there is plenty of the Ore in 6
miles of my place it takes some time to have the Ore properly tested I would be glad if they
would be rich for we need some money over here about sunset about now. It is thought by a
great many that our war debt will be payed off this session of Congress if so it will help us some
but not like it would once a great deal of it is in the hands of speculators I suppose some of you
back there think that congress has served us right in keeping us out of our pay for 5 years. as
some of the members of Congress seem to think so or they would not oppose the payment of the
war debt. All I wish is that some of them Silk Gloved Gents had to sholder thier gun and
blankets and wade through the snow and live on horse meat as we did but they can make the best
of it this time for it is the last time I will volunteer to help Unkle Sams boys out a bad scrape I
am willing to fight for my country when it is necessary but I had rather go on my own hook next
time. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and tell me all about the old place
whether the old barn is still standing yet and how large mothers walnut tree is and who is living
on the place how much it wrents for in short tell me everything that you think would interest me

I expect to try to build me a house next Summer I have not determined on what sized one I will
build yet but it will not be verry large I need a good house and barn on my place and then I
would be pretty well fixed for a poor man.

I have just finished plowing for wheat to be put in February the ground is in fine and I want you
to tell me what the propect of selling the old place and what your notions is about selling it It
seems to me if it can be sold to a good advantage we had better have the good of it while we live
I have not recieved a letter from brother James for 3 years I have written to him but whether he
even got them or not is more than I know Tell him the next time you see him to write to me and
relieve his conscience I want you to tell me where to write to Joseph and William My little girl
just now raised up in bed and wanted to know who I am writing to She is a very promising child
will be 4 years old next April I must close for this time

Write soone

Isaac M Butler, Sarah Ann Butler
Mary Ellen Butler

I have just finished plowing for wheat to be put in February the ground is in fine order I want
you to tell me what the prospect of selling the old place and what you notions is about selling it it
seems to me if it can be sold to a good advantage we had better have the good of it while we live I
have not recieved a letter from brother James for 3 years I have written to him but whether he
even got them or not is more than I know Tell him the next time you see him to write to me and
relieve his conscience I want you to tell me where to write to Joseph and know who I am writing to She is a very promising child will be 2 years old next April I must close for this time

Write Soone

Isaac M Butler  Sarah Ann Butler
Mary Ellen Butler