6-8-1856

Letter to Brother and Sister from Joseph Butler

Joseph Butler

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The health of this country is very good at present and has been for the last year or two. There has been but one winter in all this country during since last summer and that was a small child. The weather was very dry and warm, but there was rain everyday. I meet with a misfortune this spring. I had a horse to get lame and came very near dying so my farm has been broken up for the last three months and a half. I rented my farm and have burned one line and expect to burn another or two this season, and then follow plastering the balance of the time. and if we can make our arrangements to suit we intend to make a visit to Illinois this season some time soon and I will answer your letters for a while.

Joseph Kitter

S. Creek, Iowa, June 8th, 1855

Dear Brother or Sister,

I now take the pleasure of writing a few lines to you, to let you know that we are all in reasonable health, and prosperous. The children are all well and are going to school. we have a school on our side of us this summer, we have not sold out yet, but I expect to this summer, there is a man in the neighborhood now from Ohio that has been looking at my farm and likes it well and says he will start back home to-morrow morning and will sell his farm in Ohio in one hour after to get back. He is so well pleased with this country. I think he will buy my farm. 24.00 per acre, 155 acres.
I don't know where I will go to yet, but I think I will try and get a little farther south. I will then know if I do sell I can at a pretty certain sale. The gold and silver don't want me to sell and leave this part of the country. They work against it done.

Our Rail Road is a certain thing now. They are at work on the Air Line road within 20 miles of us now and think they will have the cars running within 2 years from the Mississippi River to Osceola. I suppose land will raise very much when they get the Rail road in operation but I am willing to risk that and let mine go now for I think I can do better by my self.
Dutch Creek Iowa, June 8th/56

Dear Brother & Sister

I now take the pleasure of writing a few lines to you to let you know that we are all in reasonable health and prosperity the children are all well [missing word] are going to school. we have a school in one mile of us this summer. we have not sold out yet but I expect to this summer there is a man in the neighborhood now from [Otis?] that has been looking at my farm and likes it well and says he will start back home tomorrow morning and will sell his farm in Ohio in one hour after he gets back he is so well pleased with this country I think he will buy my farm [missing word] $20.00 per acre. 185 acres

I dont know where I will go to yet but I think I will try and get a little farther south. I will let you know if I do sell I [missing word] it a pretty certain sale. the friends and neighbors dont want me to sell and leave this part of the country [missing word] they work against it some Our RailRoad is a certain thing now they are at work on the [Air?] line road within 20 miles of us now and think they will have the cars running within 2 years from the mississippi River to Oskaloosa. I suppose lands will raise very much when they get the Railroad in operation but I am willing to risk that and let mine to now for I think I can do better by [missing word] south. Some of the friends go a letter from John Henderson last week from Oregon he said the Indians will take Oregon yet.

John I want you to write and tell Wm and James to write for i am anxious to hear from you [missing word] oftin. direct to DutchCreek for our [Tolleyrand??] office failed on account of them trying to get a [word missing] abolitionist appointed for [P?] [missing word] have had a very backward spring but our crops look well wheat is very fine corn tolerable I received a letter from Father the same day I got your letter there was nothing new in it but Thomas Hutchison had gone out to fight the Indians a first lieutenant If you get any more word from him
write to me immediately for am anxious to hear from them often Minerva is going to write to Lavina in a week or two she will tell [missing word] all about their [scools??]

The health of this country is verry good at present and has been for the last year or two, there has been but one [missing word] in all the country around since last summer and that was a small child. The weather is verry dry and warm but threatning rain every day. I met with a misfortune this spring I had a horse to get lame and came verry near dying so my team has been broken up for the last three months and a half. I rented my farm and have burned one lime kiln and expect to burn another or two this season and then follow [plasturing] the balance of the time and if we can make our arangments to suit we intend to make a visit to Illinois this season some time [missing word] soon and I will answer Fare [missing word] for a while

Joseph Butler