

8-25-1855

Letter to Children from Peter and Rachel Butler

Peter Butler

Rachel Butler

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for last years rent for I much needed it I hope he
will ^{send} me this years rent for I have to pay ten per
cent on money and that is an eating matter

I want you to see your uncle for Aunt July and
tell them that I will try to write to them soon
tell them that Calvin is as well as usual for
him to be tell John & Murphy's friends that he
is well and doing well, tell sis that all his
friends are well as far as I know George Dewese
has sold out and talks of going back to old Illinois

but it is thought by some that he will buy again
Young Eljah Davidson has sold his place near
Portland and is going to move up near his father's
he got four thousand dollars for five eighty's
he sold the other three last spring

give my best love and respects to all my old friends
tell them that I would be glad to see any of
them or even hear from them, I suppose they
all have more time to write than I have
and I hope they will occupy a small portion
of their leisure in writing something about
the advantages of old Illinois

I will come to a close for the present

Your father & mother Peter Butler
Rachel Butler

Polk County Oregon Territory August 25/55

Dear Children

I feel it to be my duty to write to
you as often as I can conveniently and let you know
how we are getting along, if I could only see you
all and spend a few days with you it would
afford me more satisfaction than it would to
write a hundred letters, but as I am deprived
of that happiness, I must avail myself of the
only resource which is left me to communicate
a few thoughts by way of letter. This leaves us
all in reasonable health at present for which we
ought to feel very thankful, and I do sincerely
hope when these lines reach you that you will
all be enjoying the same blessings. Our country
is tolerable healthy though there has been several
cases of chill and fever, but I believe it has
mostly subsided, I believe this country is some he
althier than Illinois but we have some sickness
and some deaths here as well as elsewhere
we have not the conveniences here that you
have in Illinois but we have some hope that pros-
perity will bear some better price in this valley before long
and it will most assuredly if the anticipations
of the people are realized in relation to the gold
mines on or near the Columbia river near Fort
Coville there has been gold discovered in that
vicinity which has caused as much excitement

as the gold miners did in California in 1849 it is
supposed that there is two thousand persons alre-
dy gone there and almost every body talks of
going as soon as they can get off, it is said that
they are making from ten to one hundred dollars
per day to the hand and if the diggings are ex-
tensive there will be great emigration from the
states next year to the minds for they are much
nearer to the states than California the willamette
valley is the nearest point from which they can get
their supplies, none of our folks are gone yet and
I dont much expect they will go this fall or winter
John you wrote to me to let you know what amount
of money you sent to me and as I had the dupli-
cate I sent it without having reference to your
letter but after sending it I thought of your
having to buy the draft and upon examining
your letter I find that you sent by Rankin
to St Louis \$975.50 You also wanted me to send
you the exact amount of the notes which I left
with you I have no means of seeing the amount
as well as you have for you have the sale bill
and if you will examine that you can tell near
enough one thing I think you will find that
the price of the harrow was never put in the
note and if Kizer is honest he will pay the
amount over to you Elyah wants to know wh-
ther Estrem payed off the note he gave him
for the mule. I received a draft for \$304.45
but I cant get it cashed yet, the best offer

which I have had is to pay four per cent I will
send it to Portland and if I cant do better I
must loose over 12 dollars here untill three dollars
and fifty cents in St Louis, If you should ever
send me any more I want you to get a go-
vernment draft and that will go at par
I hope Wilson will pay off that fifteen hundred
dollar note with the interest when it is due next
April but if he does not I want you to fore-
close the Mortgage as soon as you can as
I am in great need of funds, If you can sell the
place that I got of Isaac for 247 dollars per acre
or more do so and if Isaac makes me a title
you have the power to make a title in my
name and if he does not you can make it
in his name you had better mention it to
the purchaser so that there will be no misun-
derstanding if you sell get as much down
as you can and if you have to wait long have
Interest ^{per cent} 10 if you can get it I will write to you
between this time and next January and
tell you what to do with the old place I want
you to write to me when you receive this
letter and let me know how every thing is a-
bout the old place and if I take a notion
to sell what you can get for it, I want to
know how the hedge is doing and what ^{the} con-
dition of the fence is whether it needs
repairs I want you to ^{tell} me that I feel
very thankful for the money he sent me

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to children from Peter and Rachel Butler (Polk County Oregon Territory)

Date: August 25, 1855

Transcription:

Polk County Oregon Teretory August 25/55

Dear Children

I feel it to be my duty to write to you as often as I can conveniently and let you know how we are geting along, if I could only see you all and spend a few days with you it would afford me more sattisfaction than it would to write a hundred letters, but as I am deprived of that happinefs, I must avail myself of the only resorce which is left me to communicate a few thoughts by way of letter. This leaves us all in reasonable health at preasent for which we aught to feel very thankfull, and I do cincearly hope when these lines reaches you that you will all be injoying the same blefsings. Our country is tolerable healthy though thare has been several cases of chill and fever, but I believe it has mostly subsided. I believe this country is some healthier than Illinois but we have some sickness and some deaths here as well as else where we have not the conveniences here that you have in Illinois but we have some hope that produce will bear some better price in this valey before long and it will most assuredly if the antisapations of the people are realized in relation to the gold mines on or near the Columbia river near fort Colville thare has been gold discovered in that vicinity which has caused as much excitement as the gold mines did in California in 1849 it is supposed that thare is two thousand persons already gone thare and almost every body talks of going as soon as they can get off. it is said that they are making from ten to one hundred dollars per day to the hand and if the diggins are of extensive thare will be greate imigration from the states next year to the mines for they are much nearer to the states than California the willamate valey is the nearest point from which they can get thier supplys. none of our folks are gone yet and I dont much expect they will go this fall or winter. John you wrote to me to let you know what amount of money you sent to me and as I had the duplicate I sent it without having reference to your letter but after sending it I thought of your having to buy the draft and upon examining your letter I find that you sent by Rankin to St Louis \$975.50 You also wanted me to send you the exact amount of the notes which I left with you I have no means of noing the amount as well as you have for you have the sale bill and if you will examine that you can tell near enough. One thing I think you will find that the price of the harrow was never

put in the note and if Kizer is honest he will pay the amount over to you Elijah wants to know whether Ostrem payed off the note he gave him for the mule. I received a draft for \$304 49/100 but I cant get it cashed yet, the best offer which I have had is to pay four per cent I will send it to Portland and if I cant do better I must loose over \$12 dollars here and three dollars and fifty cents in St Louis. If you should ever send me any more I want you to get a goverment draft and that will go at par I hope Wilson will pay off that fifteen hundred dollar note with the intrest when it is due next April but if he does not I want you to foreclose the morguage as soon as you can as I am in greate need of funds. If you can sell the place that I got of Isaac for 25 dollars per acre or more do so and if Isaac makes me a Title you have the power to make a title in my name and if he does not you can make it in his name you had better mention it to the purchaser so that there will be no misunderstanding if you sell get as much down as you can and if you have to wait long have intrest 10 per cent if you can get it I will write to you between this time and next January and tell you what to do with the old place I want you to write to me when you receive this letter and let me know how every thing is about the old place and if I take a notion to sell what you can get for it. I want to know how the hedge is doing and what the condition of the fence is whether it needs repairs I want you to tell Beadly that I feel very thankful for the money he sent me for last years rent for I much needed it I hope he will send me this years rent for I have to pay ten per cent on money and that is an eating matr I want you to see your uncle Jo and ant July and tell them that I will try to write to them soon tell them that Calvin is as well as usual for him to be tell John E. Murphy's friends that he is well and doing well, tell Sy that all his friends are well as far as I know George Deweese has sold out and talks of going back to old Illinois but it is thought by some that he will buy again Young Elijah Davidson has sold his place near Portland and is going to move up near his father's he got four thousand dollars for five eightys he sold the other three last spring give my best love and respects to all my old friends tell them that I would be glad to see any of them or even hear from them, I suppose they all have more time to write than I have and I hope they will occupy a small portion of their leisure in writing something about the advantages of old Illinois I will come to a close for the present.

Your father & mother Peter Butler
Rachel Butler