

6-2-1855

Letter to John Butler and James Butler from Peter Butler and Rachel Butler

Peter Butler

Rachel Butler

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You have written in a former letter that you would
lose three hundred dollars by going old Griswold's
security. I want to know whether you mean by that
that you will lose it by going his security to me or
some other person if it is no consequence of your
going his security to me, I hope you will not give
yourself any further concern about it as you shall
never pay one cent of it while you live get it of
Griswold if you can and if not let it go ~~as~~
you wrote to me, that is one of you did, that Alexander
Turnbull wanted me to write whether I know anything
of his son Robt. I have never seen him but some time
last fall your uncle Elijah Davidson saw him a
bout 55 or 60 miles south of here with a pack train
he was then as hairy as a buck and as fat as a bear
You also said in your last letter that old Mr Chynn
wanted ^{me} to write all that I know about Charles I have
not seen or heard any thing of him since last Sept
I was at Mchka. Nathanael this last spring and he
had not heard of Chaley since I saw him last Sept.
boys I want you to consult with one another and if you
think best with some of our best friend whether it would
be best to lay off all my timber land except what is
necessary for the support of the farm and sell it or
if you think best to sell it all together write to me as
soon as you get this and let me know your opinion
and I will write to you and tell you what to do. farewell
^{my dear children}
John & James Butler and families Peter & Rachel Butler

Dolk County Oregon Territory June 2nd 1855
Dear children

I have concluded to write you a joint letter inas-
much as you live near each other and can peruse it at ^{any} time
you may wish to.

I received your kind and interesting letters by
the last mail John's dated 15th and James's dated 8th of Mar-
ch and was much pleased to hear that you was all still
alive and enjoying a reasonable portion of health, that gre-
atest of earthly blessings; I was not only glad to hear that you
was all in usual health, but that ~~you~~ your neighbors, friends
and the country generally was in a prosperous condition
and that you have facilities by which you can send your
surplus to the best markets in the world and also in
return can obtain the necessaries of life at a fair price
I am always glad to hear of the prosperity of Illinois for it
still feels like home to me, and if I never see Illinois again
I hope that I shall still hear of her prosperity, I sometimes think
that if I had the means to bring us back and could prevail
on some of our children to return with us, that I would be
willing to go back home where we would have something to
live on, but when I think of the great risk of returning
together with the great expence, and the short time we
will have to live and certainty of leaving some or all of our
children here, I shrink from the task and conclude that I had
better do the best that I can although I do not expect that
I shall ever see much more happiness in this world for
it does seem to me that cannot reconcile it to myself to

miss you again together with all my old Neighbours and
acquaintances, but I must submit to my fate as well as can
If I was a young man or had the means to start on I could live
much easier here than I could in Illinois for there I would
have to work hard all summer to make the grain and all win-
ter to feed it out and in the spring I would have to
commence and go through the same operation the next year
and so on as long as I lived. But here we have plenty
good grass all the year except these falls a snow (which
it does sometimes) and covers up the grass for from two to
three weeks and then it is necessary to feed stock till
the snow melts off, last winter the stock needed no feed
all winter and I never saw as fine grass in all my life
as there is at this time in Oregon. Cattle increased faster
here than any place that I was ever in, everything does
well that lives on grass, and the cows give richer milk here
than any other place that I ever saw but I don't believe
that they give any more of it, the country is good for small
grain and tame grass it is not a corn country but we can
raise as much as we need we only want enough to fatten
our pork and make a little bread for a rarity. You would
perhaps like to hear something about your brothers and sisters
I can only tell you that they are all in good health as far
as I know, they all seem to be getting along far beyond
my expectation they have all got a great deal more per-
sonal property than they had in Illinois, I told you in a
former letter what they all had I believe except Isaac & my
self, Isaac has five head of horses and six head of cattle
& good claim of land (but he has no wife) now I will tell
you what I have, I have my waggon and Buggy two

mules, three mares two year old colts and two young colts
I have fifteen head of cattle six sheep thirty five hogs and a few things
about the house not worth mentioning. I have bought a gr of dead
-ed land adjoining which there is about 96 acres of vacant
land upon which I have built me a little house and expect
to move into it soon but shall not do anything more than
to save it until I can enter it except Isaac should marry
I owe four hundred dollars at ten percent interest and
have one hundred & seventy five owing to me at the same
rate of interest. Now you see my situation exactly as it is
John you say that Bladly has paid you the rent for last year
if you can send it to me in any safe way I would be glad
for you see that I am compelled to have some money in
quire of Quincy if you can obtain a treasury draft
and send it to me, or if that cannot be done you perhaps
could deposit the money in the Missouri Bank and send
me the certificate of deposit, inquire of some person who
you think know and do the best for me that you can, if
you sell the place that Bladly lived on send me all you
can after paying yourself for your trouble you are aware
I presume that Isaac let me have the land that I decided
to him, if you sell it for any more than will refund
to me the money that I paid for his claim I will
give him the balance. I will just state to you that the
letter containing the duplicate draft to Isaac
Smith and me was not received for nearly five
months after date and some time after the Bank
failed so you see that if the draft had not have
come to hand that we would have lost it, but we got
the money on the draft and all is well

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to children [John & James Butler] from Peter and Rachel Butler (Polk County Oregon Territory)

Date: June 2, 1855

Transcription:

Polk County Oregon Territory June 2nd 1855

Dear Children

I have concluded to write you a joint letters in as much as you live near each other and can peruse it at any time you may wish to

I received your kind and interesting letters by the last mail John's dated 13th and James's dated 8th of March and was much please to hear that you was all still alive and enjoying a reasonable portion of health , that greatest of earthly blefsings I was not only glad to hear that you was all in usual health, but that your kneighbours, friends and the country generally was in a prosperous condition and that you have facilities by which you can send your surplus's to the best markets in the wourld and also in return can obtain the necefsaries of life at a fair price I am always glad to hear of the prosperity of Illinois for it still feels like home to me, and if I never see illinois again I hope that I shall still hear of her prosperity I sometimes think that if I had the means to bring us back and could prevail on some of our children to return with us, that I would be willing to go back home where we would have something to to live on, but when I think of the greate risk of returning together with the greate expence and the short time we will have to live and certenty of leaving some or all of our children here I shrink from the task and conclude that I had better do the best that I can although I do not expect that I shall ever see much more happinefsin this wourld for it does seem to me that cannot reconcile it to myself to never see you again together with all my old kneighbours and acquaintences, but I must submit to my fate as well as I can If I was a young man or had the means to start on I could live much easeyer here than I could in Illinois for there I would have to work hard all summer to make the grain and all winter to feed it out and in the spring I would have to commence and go through the same operation the next year and so on as long as I lived but here we have plenty good grafs all the year except thare falls a snow (which it does somtimes) and civers up the grafs for from two to three weeks and then it is necessary to feed stock till the snow melts off. last winter the stock needed no feed all winter

and I never saw as fine grafs in all my life as thare is at this time in Oregon Cattle increase faster here than any place that i was ever in, everything does well that lives on grafs, and the cows gives richer milk here than any other place that I ever saw but I dont believe that they give any more of it. the country is good for small grain and tame grafs it is not a corn country but we can raise as much as we need we only want enough to fatten our pork and make a little bread for a varity. You would perhaps like to heare something about your brothers and sisters I can only tell you that they are all in good health as far as I know. they all seem to be geting along far beyond my expectation they have all got a greate deal more personal property than they had in illinois. i told you in a former letter what they all had I believe except Isaac & myself, Isaac has five head of horses and six head of cattle and good claim of land (but he has no wife) now I will tell you what I have, I have my waggon and buggy two mules, three mares two year old colts and two young coalts I have fifteen head of cattle six sheep thirty five hogs and a few things about the house not worth mentioning I have bought a [qr?] of deeded land adjoining which thare is about [?6] acres of vacant land upon which I have built me a little house and expcts to moove into it soon but shall not do anything more than to save it until I can enter it except Isaac should marry I owe four hundred dollars at ten percent intrrest and have one hundred & seventy five owing to me at the same rate of intrrest. [?] so you see my situation exactly as it is John you say that Bladly has paid you the rent for last year if you can send it to me in any safe way I would be glad for you see that I am compelled to have some money inquire of Quimby if you can obtain a treasury draft and send it to me, or if that cannot be done you perhaps could deposite the money in the Missorie Bank and send me the cirtificate of deposit, inquire of some person who you think know and do the best for me that you can, if you sell the place that Bladley lived on send me all you can after paying yourself for your trouble you are aware I presume that Isaac let me have the land that I deeded to him. if you sell it for any more than will refund to me the money that I paid for his claim I will give him the ballanc I will just state to you that the letter containnig the duplicate draft to Isaac Smith and me was not received for nearly five month after date and some time after the Bank failed so you see that if the draft had not here come to hand that we would have lost it, but we got the money on the draft and all is well You have written in a former letter that you would loose three hundred dollars by going old [Griswauld's] security I want to know whither you mean by that that you will loose it by going his security to me or some other person if it is in consequence of your going his security to me. i hope you will not give yourself any further concearn about it as you shall never pay ones cent of it while you live get it of Griswould if you can and if not let it go

You wrote to me that is one of you did, that Alexander Turnbull wanted me to write whither I knew anything of his sone Robt I have never seen him but sometime last fall your uncle Elijah Davidson saw him about 55 or 60 miles south of here with a pack train he was then as harty as a buck and as fat as a bear You also said in your last letter that old Mr. [Chwin?] wanted me to write all that I knew about Charles I have not seen or heard anything of him since last Sept I was at Micha Mathina's this last spring and he had not hear of Chaley since I saw him last Sept boys I want you to consult with one another and if you thing best with some of our best friend whither it would be best to lay off all my timber land except what is necefsary for the support of the farm and sell it or if you think best to sell it all together write to me as soon as you ge this and let me know your opinions and I will write to you and tell you what to do. ferwell my dear children

John & James Butlers and families

Peter & Rachel Butler