

5-3-1856

Letter to John Butler, Eliza (Smith) Butler, Lavina Butler and Erastus Butler from Peter Butler

Peter Butler

Elizabeth ("Lissie") Hutchinson

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Will Jimmy is teasing me to write he has given like a nut and is as
lively as ever. Tell Guineer and Enders I will answer their letters soon
your loving sister

Jimmy come to me just now making a noise & told him
to hush that I had told his uncle that he was a pretty boy
he says what I wish you would tell him that Tell him
that me and Robert and the baby has got a little cold
we have one young colt and two yearlings

Brother John, call your brag boy our little Robert won
told the blindest I ever heard of a child of
his age
I received a few lines from you also a draft
of 288,32 Now brother I do not know of your ever
keeping a single cent for your trouble and expense
which our business has caused you and I hope
the next time you get money ^{of our} into your hands
you will pay your self well for I have all right
to give you this advice as it is my property which
you have the care of besides Mr Hutchinson told
me when he went away to answer letters and do
business just like he was at home You Hutchinson
has also quit writing to us so we know nothing about
them Robert Hutchinson still lives in Humphreys
but I think he is rather down in the mouth since
the grasshoppers has eat up everything except his
corn he says they eat his apple trees off to the
ground now this will look very unreasonab to
you but you have never seen a curse of this sort
sent upon any land they have destroyed the grass
almost entirely Robert says a great many cattle
have died starved to death the Indians are also at
work upon them and I am afraid will not be riden
very soon we have had a very hard winter and a
very backward spring we have not made all our
garden yet and what we have planted is killed
mostly by the frost there was a fine prospect early
this spring for peaches but they are generally killed
by the frost Isaac is not married yet but we expect
he will be in a short time to a Miss Sarah Welch
that widow woman's daughter who came out with
Madison in 52 She has light blue eyes sandy hair and
is about 15 years old Spy has got one of the best places
in this country and is as well fixed to live as any of
you ~~the handsomest~~ of the prettiest boys I ever saw
he is one of the bluest bodies I ever saw he talks ^{best} near

Polk County Oregon Territory May 3rd 1854

Dear son and family
I received your letter of the 24th Feb
last inclosing drafts I have now received four drafts
\$495 each Isaac & Thomas H. Hutchinson both received a
draft each for \$288 ³⁰/₁₀₀ Isaac sold his for the cash but
the man wanted the duplicate for he said that the draft
might be lost and it would cause too much delay to
have to send back to the states for the second
I have tried to sell one of mine and could not without
the duplicate so I must wait till I can get the duplicate
before I can sell so I hope you will get all the second
and send them on at your earliest convenience
You wanted me to tell you what to do about sellin
acres more of my timbered land I want you to consult
William & James and if you think the place will
sell for more by selling off the 40 acres do so and if
not sell all together if you can I have made up
my mind to sell all the old place and divide it
among all the children upon such terms as I shall
make known to you all in due time so the more
you sell the place for the more you will get
if you can sit write to me and I will tell
you how to dispose of the money I mean all that is not
sold

I want you to sell the land that I got of Isaac if you
dont want it yourself but if you do keep it and if
you sell the old place your part may go out of the
other I want you to sell the tax title for the best price
you can get except William determines to stay in
in that Country and thinks he can make a living
on it and if he does I will give him my title but
if he dont live on it I shall not give it to him
to sell for it would not be doing the rest of you
justice - I am very sorry to hear that there is
likely to be trouble about the N^o 36.11.12.13
but you must do the best you can and I will
do all that I can for you, have nothing undone that
looks likely to establish a good title I want you to keep
enough in your hands to compensate you well for
all your trouble and expence

One thing I want you to explain to me and that is
my two thousand dollars brought \$1980 and
Isaac & Hutchnsons six hundred only brought \$576⁷⁰/₁₀₀
I only ask for information perhaps you paid their
tax out of theirs you can tell they may think
strange and a few words of explanation would
set all right

I was truly sorry to hear that so many of the ~~stomachs~~
have been broken up for it must injure the whole
community but a man ought to always make
his calculations for such things every thing is
very high in Illinois now but a reaction must
will take place and it would be my advice
to you all to prepare for that reaction be shure
to keep out of debt and all kinds of difficulties
I have written some two letters to you lately so that it
is not necessary to write a great deal now
I am in hopes that Wilson has paid off that note and

Lewis Bradley has paid the rent for the old place
and if you have not sent it all be shure to keep
enough in your hands to pay you well for ^{your} ~~your~~
trouble and all your expence I want you to ^{your} ~~your~~
uncle to write to me and I will answer it as
suddenly tell Josiah Whitman to try to get time to
write me a long, long, long letter tell John
Haley to write to me if he feels like it
give my best respects to all the old neighbours
Aunt Nancy, Mr Phelps, Edly Paul tell
him that I sold old Kit the other day for
three hundred dollars war scrip
I remain your loving father Peter Butler

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to Son and family From Peter Butler (Polk County Oregon Territory)

Date: May 3, 1856

Transcription:

Polk County Oregon Teretory May 3rd, 1856

Dear son and family

I received your letters of the 24th Feb last inclosing drafts I have now received four drafts \$495 each. Isaac & Thomas H. Hutchinson both received a draft each for \$288 30/100 Isaac sold his for the cash but the man wanted the duplicate for he said that the draft might be lost and it would cause too much delay to have to send back to the states for the second I have tryed to sell one of mine and couldnot without the duplicate so I must wait till I can get the duplicate before I can sell so I hope you will get all the seconds and send them on at your earliest convenience You wanted me to tell you what to do about sellin 40 acres more of my timberd land I want you to consult William? James(?) and if you think the place will sell for more by selling off the 40 acres do so and if not sell all together if you can I have made up my mind to sell all the old place and divide it amoung all the children upon such terms as I shall? make known to you all in due time So the more you sell the place for the more you will get if you can sell write to me and I will tell you how to dispose of the money I mean all that is not sold I want you to sell the land that I got of Isaac if you dont want

it yourself but if you do keep it and if you sell the old place your part may go out of the other I want you to sell the tax title for the best price you can get except William determines? to stay in that country and thinks he can make a living on it and if he does I will give him my title but if he dont live on it I shall not give it to him to sell for it would not be doing the rest of you justice-I am very sorry to hear that thare is likely to be trouble about the N1/236.11N 2 W?? but you must do the best you can and I will do all that I can for you. leave nothing undone that looks likely to establish a good title I want you to keep enough in your hands to compensate you well for all yourtrouble and expence One thing I want you to explain to me and that is my two thousand dollars brought \$1980 and Isaacs & Hutchinsons six hundred onlybrought \$576? tax out of theirs. you can tell they may think? strange and a few words of explination would set all rightI was truly sorry to hear that so many of the working have been broken up for it must injure the whole community but a man oughtto always make his calculations for such things every thing is very high in Illinois now but ?a ?reaction must & will take place and it would be my advice to

you all to prepare for that ?reaction be shur to keep out of debt and all kinds of difficulties I have writen some two letters to you lately so that it is not necessary to write a great deal now I am in hopes that Wilson has paid off that note and ? Louis Bradley has paid the rent for the old place and if you have not sent it all be shure to keep enough in your hands to pay you well for your trouble and all you expence I want you to tell your uncle Jo? to write to me and I will answer it imediately tell Josiah Whitman to try to get time to write me a long long long letter tell John Haley to write to me if he feels like it give my best respects to all the old kneighbours Aunt Nancy Mr Phelps Edly Paul tell him that I sold old kit the other day for three hundred dollars war scrip I remain your loving father

Peter Butler

Brother John:

I received a few lines from you also a draft of 288,32 Now brother I do not know of yew ever keeping a single cent for your trouble and expense which our business has caused you and I hope the next time you get money of own into your hands you will pay yourself well for I considr I have all right to give you this advice as it is my property which you have the care of besides Mr Hutchinson told me when he went away to answer letters and do business just like he was at home Jane Hutchinson has also quit writing to us so we knew nothing about <missing word> Robert Hutchinson still lives in <illegible> but I think he is rather down in the mouth since the grasshoppers has eat up everything except his cows he says they eat his apple trees off to the ground now this will look very unreasonable to you but you have never seen a curse of this sort sent upon any land. They have destroyed the grass almost entirely. Robert says a great many cattle have died starved to death the Indians are also at work upon then and I am afraid will not be sudued very soon we have had a very hard winter and a very backward spring we have not made all our garden yet and what we have planted is killed mostly by the frost. There was a fine prospect early this Spring for peaches but they are generally killed by the frost Isaac is not married yet but we expect he will be in a short time to a Miss Sarah Webb that widow woman's daughter who came out with Mason is 52 She has light blue eyes Sandy hair and is about 15 years old. Iky has got one of the best places in this country and is as well fixed to live as any of you he has one of the prettiest har yever saw but he is one of the driest bodies I ever saw he talks nearly none

Jimmy cam to me just now a making a noise I told him to hush that I had told his uncle that he was a pretty boy he says ahuh I wish you wouldn't tell him. That tell him that me and Robert and the baby has got a little colt. We have one yering cold and two yearlings

Mother says she wants to know what you call your brag boy our littler Robert can talk the plainest yever heard a child of his age.

Little Jimmy is teasing me to write he has grown like a weed and is as pretty as ever. Tell Lavina and Erastus I will answer their letters soon

Your loving Sister

Lissie