

3-4-1854

Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Peter and Rachel Butler

Peter Butler

Rachel Butler

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John if you hear from your uncle Jesse McQuinn
or your aunt Hannah Ferguson tell us what you
hear, tell us the general prices of land and
all kinds of stock from time to time in Illinois
I want you to go to the recorder's office and take down
the particular lots of land which I deeded to
Thomas & Hutchinson & Isaac and send them to me
in your next letter. I have written to you how
I wanted my business done but for fear the letters
miscarried I will write again I wrote to you
to buy a draft from Clark & Brothers on Adams
& Co of Portland on Oregon city and send it to
me without you could get a probate appointment
to send me the money, I want all the money
which I can get for I payed out all the means
which I had for this claim and still owe \$1200
I let Isaac have the claim and he is to pay for
it but I have to pay first and he will pay me
as soon as his land in Illinois can be sold
I wrote to you to sell my taxable land for cattle
and send them to me if you could get the same
but if you have not sold it do not sell for
cattle for the price of cattle is going up in Ills
and going in Oregon so that they wont bear
driving sheep is the only stock which will
pay to drive at present give my best love and
respects to all my old friends. Peter Butten
Your loving father & mother Rachel Butten

I will write to James in a few weeks which will be more satisfactory

Polk County O. J. March 4th 1854
Dear Children
I have waited with great impa-
tience for a long time to hear from you but
at length the last mail brought me the pleasing
intelligence of your health and welfare, I was well
please to hear from you indeed and especially to
hear that you was all still in the land of the
living, but I was very sorry to hear of so many of
my old acquaintances having left the world
although I probably would have never seen
any of them again in this world yet I was
sorry to hear that they was dead and gone, but
we must all die in a very short time at most
and the greater thing is to be prepared for that
hour let it come when it may. I was very glad
to hear that James's family was well although they
have not troubled themselves to write to us since
we have been in Oregon John I want you to write
to me and tell me how James has done with the
store you say he has quit the store but you dont
say whether he made any thing or not, I want
to know all about it how he sold and what he got
or whether he got any thing and whether he is
bound for the liabilities, Also what was the cause
of his getting in short give me all the particu-

write to me and tell me when to expect a letter to William

about the whole transaction tell me what he is doing and what he talks of doing hereafter. I fear he will not do very well farming for he is not very stout if he could command the capital to lay in a stock of goods he would probably do well trading but if not he must exercise his own judgement. I hope he may as he ever has pursued an honorable course.

You will naturally want to know how we are all pleased with the country, I do not deem it prudent to state definitely how we are pleased at present for this reason we have had a hard winter in the fall after the rains set in the whole country was covered with the finest grass that I ever saw in my life. our horses fattened as fast as I ever saw horses fed on corn & oats, but about the first of January it set in cold and we had a great deal of frost and snow which killed the grass very much and froze out the wheat considerably it killed all most all the oats, they having been sowed in the fall the best time to sow oats in this country. the old settlers say that this has been a very unusual winter. these are some of the reasons which induces me to withhold my opinions concerning the country for the present. when I give my opinions I wish to have them made up on facts ascertained by my own observation.

I was very sorry to hear that William had managed his business in the way which he did it would not have hurt much worse to have heard of his death I often told him that it would not do to manage his business in the way that he was managing this is twice he has been broken up by the same means I done all that I could to keep his head above the waves before but this time it is out of my power to help him. I want you to write all the particulars about how he is fixing his business I hope he may yet try to pay every cent which he justly owes and then pursue a different course and if he lives and dies in poverty let him live and die honorably. I was very sorry to hear of my only brother's affliction I don't expect that I shall ever see him again, and if he is still living when you receive this letter I want you to go up to his house and read it to him, and tell him to give up all earthly things and try to seek the favor of him who turns none empty away who seeks him earnestly. John I want to see you all so very badly that it seems like I cannot ever be satisfied without seeing you, but you and James must write often and give us all the satisfaction that you can and tell us what you hear from William's folks and Joseph's and all our old neighbors and friends tell us of all the important changes in Illinois Gov. Illinois seems near to me

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to Children John and Eliza Butler from Peter and Rachel Butler (Polk County Oregon Territory)

Date: March 4, 1854

Transcription:

Polk County O.T March 4th, 1854

Dear Children

I have waited with greate impatience for a long time to hear from you but at length the last mail brought me the pleasing inteligence of your health and welfare. I was well please to hear hear from you indeed and especially to hear that you was all still in the land of the living, but I was very sorry to hear of so many of my old acquaintences having left the wourld although I probably would have never seen any of them again in this wourld Yet I was sorry to hear that they was dead and gone, but we must all die in a very short time at most and the greate thing is to be prepared for that hour let it come when it may. I was very glad to hear that James,s family was well although they have not troubled themselves to write to us since we have been in Oregon John I want you to write to me and tell me how James has done with the store you say he has quit the store but you dont say whither he made anything or not. I want to know all about it how he sold and what he got or whither he made anything and whither he is bound for the liabilities. Also what was the cause of his quitting in short give me all the particulars about the shole trasaction tell me what he is doing and what he talks of doing here [after] I fear he will not do very well farming for he is not very stout if he could command the capital to lay in a stock of goods, he would probably do well trading but if not he must exercise his own judgement. I hope he may as he ever has pusued an honerable course

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Peter Butler

Rachel Butler

I will write to James in a few weeks which will be more sattisfatory than to write now write to me and tell me where to direct a letter to William