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Butler Family Letters

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 have from your unche fesse Mequine on your hunt Hannah Fungeson tell ut chat you hear tell us the general pices of land and Dean Children Q. J March 4th 1854. sall kinds of stock from time to time in Illinais I want you to go to the recorders affice and take down The particular lots of land which I duciel to have waited with greate impa Thomas & Hutchmison & Isaac and send Them to mes tience for a long time to hear from you but in your next letter. I have writen to you have at lingth the last mail braught me the pleasing I wanted my burneys done but for fear the tetter inteligence of your health and welfare, was well please to hear from you indeed and specially to to hug a draft from black of brothers on Idamis hear that you was all still in the land of the I to of Forthand on Oregon city and send it to me without you could get a putate apperticuty to send me The money, I want all the money tiving, but I was very sorry to hear of so many of my old acquaintences having left the world which I can get for I have don't all the means although I probably would have never seen any of them again in This would yet was which I had for This claim and still aug 1200 Sorry to hear That They was dead and gone, but I lit Isaac have the claim and he is to pay for we must all die in a very that time at most it, but I have to pay first and he will pay me and The greate Thing is to be prepared for That as soon as hig land in Illinais can be sold Tour let it come when it may I was very glad I wrote to you to sell my taxhelle land for eatthe to hear That James, & family was well although they and sind them to me if you cauld get the change 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 have fames has done with the Eatthe for The price of Cattle is goin up in the store you say he has guit the store but you don't and going in Bregon so that they wont bear say whithin he made any thing on not want driving theep is the only stock which will of To know all adout it how he sold and what he got pay to drive at present giving my heat love and nespects to all my all friend that arther sutter Gaun loving father & mother hachet Butter on whither he got any thing and whither he is bound for the liabilities, Also what was the cause I his guiting in that give me all the postacul

I was very sing to hear that William had managed about the whole tras action tell me what " his business in The way which he did it would not The is daing and what he talks of doing hereater have hurt much worse To have heard of his doath I fear he will not do very well farming for he is I after told him That it would not do to manage not very start if he could command the cap his business in The way that he was manageing ital to lay in a stock of goids he would probably This is Twice he has been broken up by the same do well trading but if not he must exercised means ame all that I caned to keep his head above This own Judgement. Those he may as he ever The waves before but This Time it is out of my has pusued an honorable canter power to health him, I want you to write all the you will naturly want to know how we are all pleased with the country or not deem it pruster particulars about how he is fixing his trusings to state definately have we are pleased at prever I hope he may yet try to pay every cent which for this reason we have had a hard winter in he justly way and then plane a deperent The fall after the rains set in The whole came and if he lives and dies in poverty let try was covered with the finest gray That I ever him time and sie hourably I was very sorty to sow in my life our horses fathered as fast as I hear of my only brothers affliction I don't expect that even sow house fed on com & oats that about I shall even see him again, and it he is still diving the first of farmary it set in case and we had when you receive this letter I want you to go up to a greate deal of post and snaw which killed the his house and read it to him, and tell him to give graff very much and freque out the wheat condi up all earthly things and try to such the favor deathy it killed all most all the sats, They having of him who turns none suity away who suche him cornetly form I want To see you all so very Shen surved in the fall the best time to serve Poato in This country. The old setters say that Thally that it seems like I cannot even be sat This has been a very unusual winten. These Telfed without seeing you, but you and fames must write often and give us all the satter facto are some of the reasons which induces me That you can and tell us what you hear from to withhald my opinions concearing the caun William & folks and Joseph's and all and old They for the present, when I give my opinion I won to have There made up on faits asertouned through were and friends tell us of all the important changes in Illinais for il lunais sums near to me by my own observation

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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 quiting 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

You will naturly want to know how we are all pleased with the country. I do not deem it prudent to state definatley 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 grafs 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 greate deal of frost and snow which killed the grafs very much and froze out the wheat consideably it killed all most all the oats, they having been sewed in the fall the best time to sew oats in this country. the old setlers say that this has been a very unusual winter. these are some of the reasons which induces me to withhold my opinions concearning the country for the present, when I give my opinions I want to have them made up on facts asertained by my own observation

I was very sorry to hear that William had managed his businefs 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 businefs in the way that he was manageing 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 healp him. I want you to write al the particulars about how he is fixing his business I hope he may yet try to pay every cent which he justly ows and then promise a diferent course and if he lives and dies in poverty let him live and die honerably. I was very sorry to hear of my only brother's affliction I dont 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 emty away who seeks him earnestly. John I want to see you all so very badly that it seems like I cannot ever be sattisfied without seeing you, but you and James must write often and give us all the sattisfaction that you can and tell us what you hear from William,s folks and Joseph's and all our old kneighbours and friends tell us of all the important changes in Illinois for Illinois seems near to me

John if you hear from you uncle Jesse McGuire or you aunt Hannah Furgeson 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 recorders office and take down the particular lots of land which I deeded to Thomas H Hutchinson & Isaac and send them to me in your next letter. I have writen to you how I wanted my business done but for fear the letter miscaried I will write again I wrote to you to buy a draft from Clark & brothers on Adam's & Co of Portland or Oregon city and send it to me without you could get a private oppertunty to send me the money. I want all the money which I can get for I payed out all the mean's 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 tax title land for cattle and send them to me if you could get the chance but if you have not sold it do not sell for cattle for the price of cattle is goin up in Ills and going in Oregon so that they wont be any driving sheep is the only stock which will pay to drive at present give my best love and respects to all my old friends. Your loving father & mother

Peter Butler

Rachel Butler

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