

3-5-1854

Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Edward Ground

Edward Ground

William Ground

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Polk County Oregon Territory March 5th 34

Dear brother and sister

It is with that I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present and I hope that these few lines may come safe to hand and find you all enjoying the same blessing I received your letter on Monday last all tho' it was written in November last and came in behind all the late news it gave me great satisfaction ^{to} that I had one friend in Illinois that thought enough of me to write me a letter It is the first and only scrape of a pen I have had since I left Illinois the you wrote to your father and the one to me come the same male I was very sorry to hear of the inroads the grim monster was making amongst my old friends and neighbors and from the number of cases of sickness at last counts I fear the news from there will bring tidings of more deaths but be the consequences what they may I am very anxious to hear from them again - next Tuesday brings another State male and I hope to get some more news from Ill. I have nothing of importance to write to you at this time only I heard.

this morning that there was a very rich
gold mine discovered six about 60 miles
of my place but as for the mouth of it
I cannot say neather am I excited about
it at all before I go any further I will tell
you why I skip a page my paper is so mean
that if I was to write on the oporit side
you could not read it the ink runs thru so
bad I suppose you want to no all about the
Comixion we have all settled but Tom
hutchinson he is not yet settled and I can
not tell he some times talks of one thing
and sometimes of another Jerry duese bought
a claim and paid six hundred dollars for
it it is a very good piece of claim there
is no timber out except a little pine
wood and but little of that Ira bought
a claim and paid 9 hundred dollars near
ly timber enough to suport it he does
not like his place and is very home sick
your father bought a claim for 2000 dolla
and gave it to Isaac so he has no claim yet
Isaac Smith paid 2000 of a claim
and I suppose the have all in privity you shoo
the liked the county your father and mother
both are tolerably home sick the was very
well satisfied till the snow fell in January
and covered up the grass so that there stock

to write to you this time only I want
from all I have nothing of importance
made and I hope to get some more news
again next Tuesday being over the water
may have news to hear from there
but the prospect is not what it
was there will be a little of more
of sickness at least I hear the news
and neighbors and from the number of cases
reported and many more it may be
dread very bad to hear of the news the
and the over the water the same more
I left I think the you want to know
good and hope of a few days since
of more to write now it is the best
I had no friend in Illinois that I thought enough
to write to you more than to see you
I hope to see you soon and I am
very much interested in your health
and I hope you will be well soon
I am your affectionate friend
P. B. Smith

Eliza and the children send their best respects
to Elizabeth and children - some are at school
but remain yours until death

John M. Butler } Edward Grounds

March the 15th 1857

Dear Uncle

I take pleasure in occupying this present opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that we are all in tolerable health we have had no sickness since we have been here except a little cold. last winter I have nothing very important to write, I will tell you something about our place which my father forgot to tell you we have got 320 acres of land situated on the Luckanute river about three miles from its mouth where it enters into the willamete we live one mile and a half of E.D. Butlers, one mile from uncle Ira's and about 17 miles from grandpapas I will give you the prices of a few articles here American mares ^{from} \$2.00 to \$2.50 dead head cows \$75 to \$100 per head pork 12 1/2 cts a pound chicken 50 cts a piece eggs 75 cts a dozen and \$1.00 at salem wheat is \$2.00 per bushel oat \$1.00 per bushel &c our nearest neighbors name is Fulton but I guess he never invented the first steam boat.

I believe I have nothing more of importance to write give my respects to all enquiring friends.
Wm. B. Grounds
P.M. Butler

Dear Mother

I have in
 I take pleasure in
 frequent opportunity of
 writing you a few lines to inform you
 that we are all in tolerable health we have
 had no sickness since we have been here
 except a little cold last winter I have nothing
 very important to write to you I will tell you
 something about our place which my father
 has bought 30 acres of
 land situated on the Truckee river
 about three miles from its mouth where
 it enters into the willows on the
 one side and a long line of
 from where pass and about 10 miles from
 Grandpa I will give you the price of
 a few articles here American
 to \$2.50 a dozen of
 pork 15¢ a pound
 eggs 15¢ a dozen and 10¢ at retail
 20¢ per bushel
 but I give
 nearly nothing in fact but I give
 he never mentioned the first steam boat
 I believe I have nothing more of
 importance to write to my
 friends.

P. M. [unclear]

Dear Mother

could not get enough to eat and
 everything was so high that we could not
 afford to buy all the necessary things we wanted
 in that old age and then began to think
 how well she was fixed in Illinois and
 she like the realities of old she began
 to repent that she had ever left Egypt
 well I don't blame them for we have had
 a long gloomy winter the hardest any says
 that she have ever seen in Oregon and not
 being lost for made it set hard very body
 was prostrating in the fall and open winter
 as the last winter was so hard and the rain
 in September started the grass so early that
 all said ominous of a favorable winter so
 if I need the winters in common would
 be as bad as the last I should be bothered
 to tell at this time what I should think
 of it tho I have tried one of the hard
 winters now want to try one the summer
 and then and make something to live on
 so that I won't have anything to buy then
 I can tell more about the country
 I must draw to a close for want time I want
 you to write often give my love to all the old
 neighbors and friends I want you to send me the
 atlas pay part out of the old man's money
 and I will pay him the amount here

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to Brother and Sister John M. and Eliza Butler from Edward Ground (Polk County Oregon Territory)

Date: March 5, 1854

Transcription:

Polk County Oregon Territory March 5-1854

Der brother and sister

It is with that I take the presant oportunity of writing you a few lines to let yo no that we are all well at presant and I hope that these few lines may come safe to hand and find you all enjoying the saim blessing I received your letter on monday last all thoe it was written in November last and come in behind all the late news it gave me greate satisfaction to know that I had one friend in Illinois that though enough of mee to writemee a letter it is the first and only scrape of a pen I have had since I left Illinois the you wrote to your father and the one to mee Come the saim male I was very sory to heare of the inrodes the grim monster was making amongst my old friends and neighbors and from the number of cases of sicknefs at last counts I fear the news fom thare will bring tidings of more deaths but be the cosequences what thei may I am very anxious to heare from thare again next tusday brings another state male and I hope to get some more news from Ills I have nothing of importance to write to you at this time only I heard this morning that there was a very rich gold mine discoverd in about 30 miles of my place but as for the trouth of it I cannot say neather am I excited a bout it at all before I go any further I will tell you why I skipt a page my paper is so mean that if I was to write on the oposit side you could not readit the ink runs threw so bad I supose you want to no all about the conexion we have all seteld but Tom Hutchinson he is not seteld yet and I can not tell he sometimes talks of one thing and sometimes of another Georg Duese [Deweese] bought a Claim and paid six hundred dollars for it it is a very good prarie claim there is no timber on it except a little fire wood and but little of that Ira bought a claim and paid 9 hundred dollars neerly timber enough to suport it he does not like his place and is very homesick your father bought a claim for 2,000 dollars and gave it to Isaac so he has no claim yet Isaac Smith paid 2,000 for his claim and I supose tha have all informd you how he liked the cuntry your father and mother both are tolerably home sick tha was very well satisfied till the snow fell in January and coverd up the grass so that thare stock could not get enough to eat and evrything was so high tha could not aford to by all the necessarys tha wanted in thare old

agee and tha began to think how well tha was fixt in Illinois and like the isrealites of old tha began to repent that tha had everleft egipt wel I dont blame them for we have had a long gloomy winter the hardest evry says that tha have ever seen in oregon and not being lookt for made it set hard evrybody was propesyng in the fall a mild open winter as the last winter was so hard and the rain in september started the grass so erly tha all said ominous of a faveable winter so if I noed the wintersin common would be as bad as the last I should be botherd to tell at this time what I should think of it to I have tryed one of the hard winters now want to try one the sumers and then and make somthing to liv on so that I wont have evrything to by then I can tell more about the cuntry I must draw to a close for want time I want you to write often give my love to all the old neighbors and friend I want you to send mee the atlas pay for it out of the old mans money and I will pay him the amount heare Elizaand the children sends thar best respects to Eliz and Children so no moreat presant but remain your untill death

[to]John M Butler

Edward Ground

March the 5th, 1854

Dear Uncle

I take pleasure in occupying thise present opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that we are all in tolerable health we have had no sickness since we have been here except a little cold last winter I have nothing very important to write. I will tell you something about our place which my father forgot to tell you we have got 320 acres of land situated on the Luckamute river about three miles from its mouth where it emties into the willamete we live one mile and a half of E.D. Butlers, one mile from uncle Ira's and about 7 miles from grandpaps I will give you the prices of a few articles here American mares from \$2.00 to \$2.50 all per head cows \$75 to \$100 per head pork 12 1/2 cts a pound chickens 50 cts a piece eggs 75 cts a dozen and \$1 00 at salem wheat is \$2.00 per bushel Oats \$1 00 per bushel etc Our nearest neighbors name is Fulton but I guess he never invented the first steam boat.

I believe I have nothing more of importance to write give my respects to all enquiring friends.

[to] J.M. Butler

Wm. B. Ground