

Excerpt from a letter written by Leland Thomas Butler on July 28, 1982, to Gladys B. Larsen.

I'll start out with my early memory of my brother John. Mother took me up to the Buller Beck mine. I was quite small. John and I were sitting up on some kind of a ledge. My feet and legs dangled down and I thought it was a long way down, so I got a good hold on his arm. He had a big gold watch chain across his chest and I was interested in that chain. Years afterward I told him about it and he said that Uncle Tom had come home from a mission and he gave it to your father. He said, "Lee, that is a good keepsake and I want you to have it", I keep it in a drawer where I put my watch so I think of him often.

Your father had a good head on him, a man of good judgment. He made pretty good up on the Prairie. He had raised a lot of good horses. John had bought a well bred stallion and his colts grew up to be the best work horses in the valley. I was young but I remember he would put an add in the paper. Work Horses For Sale. He put a little Finesse fennec (7) in the deal. He got out some nice leather harness, warmed up some kind of oil and shined it up. When men came to look at the horses, he had them all dressed up and hooked to a sort of big sled with a lot of weight on it. He talked to them and told them when to settle down and pull their weight on it. Boy, it sold the horses. I was little but I was proud of the deal.

He would go out and buy weiner calves. He would feed them up till they grew to be long yearlings and triple his money.

John had what I call a hobby, two things. Honesty and clean living. He preached it and lived it as far back as I can remember and he was a father to be proud of. He was a natural born surgeon. It is too bad he did not have the schooling. I used to help him with sick horses or stock. They were always getting cut up with barb wire fences. I can remember how he would sew them up.

~~Richard's brother~~ Now back to the gold chain. Uncle Tom was my Dad's youngest brother. He was interested in little Johnnie from the time he was born. He taught him to fish, hunt, shoot, ski, swim and he turned out to be the best. Uncle Tom went on a mission back east and while there he swam the Miss. River, and was proud to tell it. When John was a young fellow, he was sent on a mission back east. While there he said, "If Uncle Tom can swim this river, I can," and he did and was so proud of it.

Later on Uncle Tom was sent on another mission and returned to Salt Lake with a very dear companion. When they parted and each went on their way, they changed their watch chains

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to remember their good old days together. Tom's friend passed away before he did. He told John, "This chain ~~was~~<sup>means</sup> a lot to me and I want you to have it as a keepsake."

I told John my first memory of him was with the watch chain and he gave it to me. He said, "I want you to have it." All these years I have kept it in a special drawer with my watch and rings. It is more than a hundred years old. It has been a comfort to me all these years. It is a pleasure for me to give it to you. You and Grant are the oldest in your family so you can take it to your family reunion and show them an old keepsake. It should be in your father's family, not mine. I am pushing 85 and it means more to you folks, than mine."