

Kansas July 9th 1845

Dear Mother I this day sit down for the first time ^{to write} a few lines to you to let you know I received your letter the last of June which I read with pleasure for I had not heard from you since Mr. Spencer was here only by way of a line from Lee when on his way to Illinois stating that he thought you would come west in the spring and that he would stop in Plainfield Illinois and wished to hear from me there but I did not get the line untill the middle of winter and I did not know that he was a going to settle there for I supposed by what you wrote to me that he would go to Michigan so I did not write for fear he would be gone and thinking perhaps you might be here in the spring for I thought if you come to the west you would come and see us but when spring came I neither saw nor heard from any of you therefore I knew not where to write untill I ~~was~~ received ^{your letter} and be assured I was glad to get another from you for I did not know as you would write to me any more on account of my negligence in writing to you but I hope you will forgive me you will remember that I am

a poor writer and all together out of the habit
of writing and the ~~in~~ cares of my family which
~~press~~ pressed heavily upon me after Winsons death
for Martha and Rodolphus was both sick and for four
or five weeks after Winsons death I scarcely had
my clothes off Rodolphus died the third day of
September ~~and~~ then found my self almost worn
out with trouble and fatigue these things together
with the continual persecutions of our enemies
and many others things too numerous to mention
has prevented my writing before and now ~~hear~~ ^{that} you
said you would like to hear some particulars
about Winsons sickness and death but how
shall I begin to describe to you the scenes of
sorrow and afflictions that I have passed through
with him it ~~was~~ caused my bosom to heave
and tears steel down my cheeks Winson enjoyed
his usual health until we went to the Missouri
and the scene which he passed through there I
think together with the change of the climate
some what impaired his health for his life
was sought for most of the time he was
there which drove him to the river of hiding
himself where he could find a place some
times it was in the basal brush and sometimes
in old houses this scene of things continued
until we left Missouri we came from there
to Illinois where we were ~~in~~ this long
stay and the fatigue by ships and

exposures through which he had just pas-
sed was too much for him he was soon taken
sick & vomiting it was in the morning
and he vomited untill evening and could
get no relief all through the doctor had staid
over him about four or five hours eventu-
ally he was much comforted and I thought he
could not live ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~illness~~ ~~but~~ ~~now~~
~~for~~ ~~present~~ ~~the~~ ~~illness~~ ~~now~~ ~~begin~~ ~~on~~
the piece of paper it is so some I intended to
put on this sheet but it is too small
could tell you many things that we cannot
write but our subject is so most full and I
must cease to be close Mother I wish you would
write to me as often as you can afford to
and if you can read this we will write more
the crops of all sorts in these parts are doing
well but fair for is plentiful harvest much
wheat is all ready harvested and things quite
well are very prosperous at present
children send their love to your Mother
my folks are five miles from me on the
other side of the river they are all well as
usual and if they were here they would
send their love to you I will now bid you
adieu for this present I am your affectionate
daughter as I do

Piquette Nov 17 1840

*Typescript by Marvian
Beecher*

Martha McBride Knight to Rizpah Knight [her mother-in-law], Nauvoo, 8 July 1845. Photocopy of autograph. Courtesy Knight Kerr.

Nauvoo july 8th 1845

Dear Mother

I this day sit down for the first time to write a few lines to you to let you know I received your letter the last of june which I read with pleasure for I had not heard from you since Mr. Spencer was here only by way of a line from lee when on his way to illinois stating that he thought you would come west in the spring and that he would stop in plainfield illinois and wished to hear from me thare[] but I did not get the line untill[] the middle of winter and I did not know that he was a going to settle thare[] for I supposed[] by what you wrote to me that he would go to Mishigan[] so I did not write for fear he would be gone and thinking perhaps you might be here in the spring for I thought if you come to the west you would come and see us but when spring came I neither saw nor heard from any of you therefore[] I knew not where[] to write untill I received your letter and be assured I was glad to get another from you for I did not know as you would writ[e] to me any more on account[] of my negligence in writing to you but I hope you will forgive me you will remember[] that I am a poor w[r]iter and all together out of the habit of writing and the cares of my family which pressed heavily upon me after vinsons death [31 July 1842] for martha and rodolphus was both sick and for four or five weeks after vinsons death I scarcely had my clothes off rodolphus died the third day of september [1842]¹ I then found my self almost worn out with trouble and fatigue these things together with

¹Martha Abigail died two years later, 19 March 1844, leaving Martha with three children, Rizpah, Adeline and James. Della Belnap writes that Vinson took Philindia Merrick as a plural wife in 1842, and that Martha was sealed to Joseph Smith Jr., also in 1842.

the continued persecutions of our enemies [enemies] and many other things to[o] numerous to mention has preven[t]ed my writing before and now dear mother you said you would like to hear some particulars about vinsons sickness and death but how shall I begin to describe to you the scenes of sorrow and afflictions that I have passed through with him / it causes my bosom to heave and tears steel[] down my cheeks[] vinson enjoied[] his usual health untill we went to missourie and the scenes which he p[a]ssed through thare[] I think together with the change of the climate some what impared[] his health for his life was sought for most of the time he was thare which drove him to the nesesity[] of hiding him self whare[] he could find a place sometimes it was in the hasel brush and some times in old houses this sene[] of things continued untill we left missourie[] we came from thare to illinois whare[] we now [are] this being a safety place and the fatigue hardships and exposures through which he had just passed was to[o] much for him he was soon taken sick a vomiting it was in the morning and he vomited untill evening and could get no relief all though[] the docter[] had stood over him about four or five hours constantly he was [two + lines stricken through] now begin on the peace[] of paper it is some I intended to put on this sheet but it is to[o] small could tell you many things that we cannot write but my sheet is a[l] most[] full and I must draw to close Mother I wish you would write to me as often as you can aford[] to and if you can read this we will write more the crops of all sorts in these parts are doing well and bid fair for a plentiful harvest much wheat is all ready[] harvested and things with us are verry[] prosperous at present [blotted] children send their love to grand Mother my folks are five miles from me on the other side of the river they are all well as usual and if

they were here they would send their respects to you I will now bid you
adieu for the present I am your affectionate daughter until death

Rizpah Knight

Martha Knight