hauser july the ter and the second s in a love the sive of first time a few lines to you to let you know I recised your letter the bust of june which son I read with pleasure for I had not heard prom illinois stating that he thought you wold come a sugt in the spring and that he would stop in plumpiele illinois and wished to hear geomone there but I diel 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 novelal go to Mishigun so I diel not write for face he would be gone und thinking parke you might be here in the spring for I thought if you come to the west you would eme and see us but when spring came I weither sure more from any of you therefore I know note whare to write untill I arreceived from you for I did not know as you would with the me any more on acount of my negligener in writing, to you but I hope you soill forgive me you will rembier that I am

a pove with and all together out of the habit. of weiting and the a cases of my family which porced pressed heavely upon me after vincons death for marthe and rodolphus was both sick and for four or fire means after unsons death I searedly had my clothes off rollolphus died the third day of to september I's then found my self almost worn out with trouble and petieque these things together with the continuel peresentions of our ensured and many others things to memerous the mentio has prevened my writing before and now sear me you said you would like To hear some particula about visions sickness and death but how shall I begin to describe to you the seenes of sorrow and applications that I have passed theoing with him it we caused my bosom to keeve und tears steel down my cheaks vinson empoil his usuel health untill we went to missourie and the seenes which he pried the very toare Think touther with the chainse of the climate some what impaced his health for his life ness southet for most of the stime he was there which drove him to the never sof hide "him self show he could find a place some times it was in the hosel brush and some times in old liveres This some we think a conth untill wie ligt missourie we cance soon the The illimite what we not more this hours a soly und the fittiegree he thips under

exposences through which he had visest por seel near to much for him he was soon taken sich a vomiting it was in the morning and he vomited witill evening and could get no relief all through the electer had store over him about your or five hours comto atty he was accord and I thought in till and the state of the state for president to amits now becin on peace of paper it is & some I intercled to put on this sheet but it is to small could tell you menny things That we canno maite but amoret is it most full und I must elane the is close Mother I wish an is wente to me as often as you con a so und if you can read This we will write the cops of all sorts in their parts are doin well bid fair for is plantiful harvest much whent is all ready he anistel and thisses north uset we very properous at passes lildren sende their love to grand flother. many folks all five miles from me on the the side of the rover there are all well on usual and if they ware here men would send their sepera to you I will now live you adies for the recent I am you aggestion adie Jor inter darighter ser & doute Mainer Maine ances

Appeccipt by Maureen 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 until1[] the middle of winter and I did not know that he was a going to settle thare[] for I suposed[] 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 waw nor heard from any of you tharefore[] I knew not whare [] 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 acount[] of my negligence in writing to you but I hope you will forgive me you will rember[] 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 enimes [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 stee1[] down my cheaks[] 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 neses [ity] 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[1] 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

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