

*[Letter from Rufus Knight to his son Arno Knight who is working in Colorado]*

*[in top margin of page 1]* have made a number of blunders try and ferret them out if you can and writing soon and often it may relieve anxiety. I have not been able to stir around much for a few days it has been too hot for me tried to do to much exhausted my self not so well as usual

Lincolnville May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1880

My Dear and absent Son I rec'd your letter dated May 9<sup>th</sup> and one you wrote a short time before but could not see very well laid it aside until daylight 'hunted' two or three hours but could not find, I did not know where to send it if we wrote but will try and write now we are as well as usual at home but there is quite a lot of sick folks about here Nancy Thomas John Drake and Ida Billings are very sick and low now not expected to get well may get well, I want you to write often and let us know particularly about your health you don't say anything about it we fear you are not very well.

It is showery and warm here now very [growing?] The grass looks very well trees not in full bloom yet, will be this week I guess, we have got a long first rate with our farming it has been cold and wet part of the time we had the most terrific lightning and Thunder I think we have had for many years done a good deal of damage in some places Cyrus has done first rate so far; a smart agreeable fellow, planting mostly, done considerable gardening, we want to do it but it is rather wet now want to work on the [Highnogs?] this week don't know but it will be to wet for any thing we have sowed 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushels of wheat planted about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of corn and  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre potatoes and beans set quite a lot of strawberry vines planted a few rows of peas some cucumbers squash

27<sup>th</sup> Has Avans bought the colt and steers and paid you for them I think he is rather selfish and hard to all of us he's different from you in some respects I should have liked to have you had the benefit of the steers and colt but it will come round right if I have anything to do with it, we have not made much change with stock since you left Avans bought the Daniel Wadsworth animal and worked him with the little whitefaced stag. They work very well drove the old whitefaced cow up to Cilley's Hereford last year, she has got a very handsome heifer calve it is very warm here now the trees look like having quite a crop of apples it looks like having a good crop of hay now if we have a dry June it will injure it if bad

28<sup>th</sup> The girls came to day Nellie has been quite sick with sore throat but is some better now They wanted Nell some longer but Fan had to come home with her it has been exceptive warm here three days but is clouding up now for a storm I guess. Let us know about your contract what it is and how you are getting along with it and how you are like to make by it if you pleas. We had a letter from Avans stating that he was down to see you and you were not very well sorry to hear it you must take good care of yourself in order to make money good health is better than all else I feel very anxious for you to do well worry a great deal about it you are very dear to me you better believe

from your Father Rufus Knight