

[Letter from Delania Knight, Rufus Knight, Fannie Knight & Nellie Knight to Arno Knight & his brother Avans; Arno & Avans are working in Colorado]

Lincolnvillle Oct. 17th 1880

Much beloved sons you know not a Mother's feelings when she hears of her loved ones so sick and can not administer to their wants. It is very, hard for me to have my children so far a way, but I try to reconcile myself when you are well but when I hear that you are sick I want to be in your midst to relieve your wants I think that you had better come home with Avans as soon as he is able. It is not so bad as it be if you had no Father's House to come to but know that you would be received with out stretched arms but I do not wonder that you feel like rebelling for I feel so my self when I see my loved ones suffering and think that I have been the cause of it by bring them into the world but let us not look on the dark side my Dear Children knowing that there is one that doeth all things well from your bereaved parents Good night my dear boys. Oh please write Son

Delania Knight
Mother

[same paper]

My Dear brother

You don't know how bad we all feel for you both. I do think you have enough to discourage you but don't give up. I think there must be something in store for you yet remember it is always darkest just before dawn It is bad enough to be sick when at home but to be among strangers where they don't seem to have any feeling for a fellow creature is very very hard I think you had both better come home as soon as Ave is able to come John Drake is failing Judge Miller's wife hung herself a weel ago today Phillip Mahoney is dead buried today

Fan.

[same paper, another page]

Well boys this is a trying scene to have you away from home sick, and I not able to go out there nor do any thing for you. I feel verry anxious about you and should be glad to relieve if it was in my power, but I don't know what I can do under the

circumstances if I was able I should come out there forthwith but I can't so I make the best of it [?] can I know it is discouraging for boys to leave home because they could not make much in hopes to do better, work hard and spend their hard earnings in sickness and suffering but try not to despond try to realize it is for the best and be reconciled keep trying, do right but don't relent [?] For it will make you more miserable remember it RK

[top margin]

I hope you will be raised to health and prosperity that of you come home rejoicing and feel contented and happy this is my sincere wish nothing will make you happy but reconciliation from your Father

Rufus Knight

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My dear brothers was very sorry to get a letter containing such bad news. May God save you both and give you strength to heal [?] – rise and blessed and oh don't give up

I wish we could all be with you to help take care of you but this family must expect nothing but hardship there is a fearful mortality this fall May God keep you safe.
Nell