

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

Lincolnville Feb. 29 1880

Absent and respected son we feel as if we should like to hear from you every day, but do not expect any such thing but want you to write as often as you can conveniently. We are well as usual except Winnie she is quite feeble I guess she will get smart if she takes care of herself. We had a great fall of snow here last Monday but it has been very warm since had a heavy rain this morning, snow mostly gone in cleared land as it is the last of April generally.

Aunt Ruth is very miserable may not live through the spring. John Drake is some better. They thought he was about gone in consumption a few weeks ago but I guess he will get about again Hope so any ways

Emma seems to be quite pleased with her health she feels grateful to you for your present it helped her to get her teeth. Alpheus let her some money I don't know as she would have got them if he had not.

Dr. Heal talks of going to Gardner now. Wm is getting along quite well as yet he has been chopping wood the most of the time talks of going to make sugar now not very paying business but you know he must have his sweat with the bitter works hard and has kept his family along so far feels rich [wide awake?]

In politics a good deal stirred up in Maine now we are under Monarchical Dictatorship it seems at present. I guess they have sent most of the troops home now I believe Great time they have had it has cost the state many thousand dollars that is or what they call retrenchment understand laying the foundation for good times you ??

Avans has got the colt quite handy. He bought the Wadsworth animal and works him while the little white face has got them quite handy the white face is too much too quick for him however don't look much like the bull now

Avans has started a few logs a little stone stuff a little kiln wood fire wood. Alpheus' near steer has got hurt spoiled I guess may make beef if he don't get hurt again too bad They give almost 8 feet. Albert had a good steer get his leg broke by falling on the ice.

Emma sends you some postage stamps. Uncle Samson is very feeble and blind we have about 175 bushels of apples yet No. 1 worth about \$2.00 without the barrel to the cellar now am in hopes they will do a little, yet keeping so far with you had them out there. You could live high without giving ten cents per lb I think you would be smart if you had plenty of good apples

Please write immediately how you are and what you are a doing I feel anxious to hear am afraid to that you are sick. Wm Bragg and Dana Spaulding started for that country Monday. You see them pretty soon. I wish I was smart enough I should like to go out and see you but no use

Rufus Knight

P.S. Warren Robinson says he would like to go out there if he could I wish you had him out there. Think it would help you a good deal you should feel at home if you had him and the apples He said he would like to have you write and let him know what kind of chance you think there would for him I would have him go in with you I would feel much easier a shall close on folks I can't write anymore

Robinson is here now