Dear Sister Nancy,

Your Minnie and I are to hand. And I feel proud to know we are remembered by you as friend and relation. I am sorry to hear of your bad health, and hope to hear you have regained your health for without it we cannot enjoy many of the blessings of this life, I should have wrote to you before now but did not know where you were located. Did you know you spoke of Morning and was to let me know when you decided. But I find you are still with Holy retreat yet. And in the lands of the living, it has not been so with all of our friends. Nancy our old Father Potts who died in the 14th I think of Aug last and Brother Hadington died on the 7th of August last both of inflammation of the stomach. More Mornings dear lister for us to prepare for the same fate, for we are told in plain language by these misfortunes that this is not our abiding home. As the one to which our friends are and we too, soon shall go to Eternal in the heavens. May their souls find rest among the favored peoples of God. And we all meet again in heaven shall be my increasing prayer, I am your friend you were not made acquainted with father death. I thought some of our friends would have done it long since, but others might have
Like me neglect of it and S. thought you were,
make acquaintance with his solemn fate.

Will Nancy as no one it seems has informed you
of the particulars incident to his death I will
write according to his will has left a small
inhabitance behind of his hard earnings, for the
benefit of his children. And this will is made in
this way. After his debts are paid, his effects are to
be divided among his children. I was to attend
at this review about the end of January. And as
Arthur has an interest you will have to advise
some way of securing this for Arthur, in the first
place you will have to come his guardian or say
one shall be appointed here for him to receive and
take care of it for him. And before it can be removed
from this state whoever does will have to give good
security for it till he gets old enough to choose
a guardian for himself. According to my understand-
ing of the case, there will be a negro for him.
Which cannot be sold until he becomes of age to
do it. And perhaps three or four thousand dollars
I would advise you to do any thing.
upon my honor that would be wrong, it may be
that you can come and get Arthur portion, but
if not you may rely on my doing you and
your child justice. And if you will become
his guardian. Then, And I will send me a power of
attorney to draw his portion, I will give you good
knew for the for the coming with interest when called
by Legal Authority, or if you would rather come or send, and take it home, by securing it for its benefit. I am perfectly willing. You can inquire of him or your friends, about this, and consult some confidential man, who knows something about law or is a lawyer, for every good man does not know much about law, and every lawyer is not a good man. If the matter should not be done up right, you might come or send my two days, times and not get it to the sure thing, but for me and for you and to my brother son. I do not want his property, but I will see that it is secured to kind if possible. Let me hear from you soon, and adhere to the above instructions as soon as you can. The sooner the better. I suppose a William or beded will let you know other things. I heard Caroline, children, will to the land conditions of their father will have to become their guard can, and come or appoint an attorney. I cannot incur you by writing. Any more at present, I am now Clerk of the District Court of this county, doing well. I have been a good man now for five years, and a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. Next year I expect to engage in the business of merchant, with many friends at my side. And fair prospects for bettering my condition. Whick by the by is not a very desirable one, we have fine schools in Boston and good society not surpassed by older states, though soon move up here next spring. She has a good support still. Arthur for us and don't let him forget his pal.
Friends and Brother, we have six boys all growing
and three of the prettiest daughters. Our oldest is
in a dry goods store, and has been for two years. The three girls, Nancy, Lucy, and Becca,
are at school. Ance, Emily, and Sylvania, all
letter good, and now, to you and Arthur.
Give my respects to your husband friend.
Your friend
Oct. 8, 1840

Mrs. Nancy Ratliff