Brookville. November 4th. 45.

My Dear Brother,

Your affectionate and welcome letter reached us yesterday evening. I am with the greatest pleasure I answer, it causes me to shake off in a very great degree that indolence which has over me I have intended many times to write to you but my mind has been in such a melancholy state, caused by the repeated affliction and hopes I have encountered that really my resolution fails me almost entirely. The death of my darling niece grieved me beyond measure my sorrow was almost insupportable. You know not what a treasure I have lost she was my comfort in all sickness and health in all my difficulties and trials she was my comforter so affable and so kind I can truly say I would willingly have lived
on bread and water if she could have been spared to me but the Lord saw fit to take her to himself she was too young for this world I must try to be resigned to the will of Heaven sickness and sorrow is what we all must endure. Your uncle Billy has been very sick this fall more or less than I ever saw him for some days we despised of his life he is now very feeble I do not expect he can live through the winter he has a very troublesome cough he is now a very old man we have to watch over him very closely he is generally very quiet and complying he will walk out too much in damp weather for one so weak and infirm he sits in the little shed room in the day at night sleeps in further room. Sally has been quite sick also but now very well putter and brother enjoy much better health than usual. Sister Mary Ann is very well my health very good
This fall there has been a great deal of sickness in our neighborhood and in many instances fatal. Capt. Charles Kirbragg died about three weeks since. Mr. Arch Goodwin, last week. His immediate vicinity at this time is healthy. Poor old Risty is still lying completely in his destitution. His two daughters were married last month. Jimmy married Tim Fulkes, Martha Joe Symms one married one every other. The rest married no one with the old people but Sen's. They are all well as usual. At the same time, Horris has her three youngest children with her. Fred, Nat, and Saman. Christopher died last April. Evan Billy Matthews died in July last, but fear left at that time. Many sad differences since you were here. At all places why did you not come on the New year when you were at Johnson you were so firm on the way we would have been so glad to see you when we were coming this spring. The crops are very short.
Dear Mr. Claybrooke,

Lanefield
Haywood City

Via Washington City
Tennessee

I am greatly honored to receive your kind letter

I will try to write to your once in a while if you

I am truly sorry to hear you have been

I look forward to your visit and we will

I wish you luck in your endeavors

Your obedient servant,

J.B. Claybrooke