My dear sister Clara—:

I know you will be surprised to receive this letter from me. I have a small amount of money belonging to brother William's estate, and I herewith enclose check for same. It is brother William's share of the Rental of the property brother John sold in Va. Dec. 1916.

The gross Rental for the six years I attended to it was \$591.92. An average of \$98.65 1/3 a year. The Taxes for the six years were \$254.13; which I paid out of the gross proceeds; also \$11.73 for repairs on barn, etc.; leaving

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 $2^{\text{nd}}$ .

a <u>net</u> balance of \$326.06 to be divided among the legatees divided into seven shares, of which \$46.58 is (1/7) one share. I get two shares, sister Mattie's and my own. These figures will, I am sure, seem very small to you; especially in comparison with the present high prices; but prices were not so high then. I rented to negroes, (who lived on their own land) for one fourth of the crop after the guano bill was paid; that is, we got 1/4 of what was left after paying the guano bill; or rather we were <u>supposed to get it</u>. But I had to leave

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 $3^{\text{rd}}$ .

the division almost entirely to them; and no doubt we received less for having to do so. However, what we received was far better than to have let it stay not rented at all. It paid the taxes, \$254.13 and left a net balance of \$326.06. I did this work for six years; because no one else would do it; and mainly because I lived near the property. It was of course, good deal of work for me. I had to sell the ¼ corn, wheat, and ferrage etc., when, where, and to whome I could. I am sure a man could have done much better; but no man

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4<sup>th</sup>.

was available. I intended paying this rental 1917, but I did not collect all of it until the end of that year. Then sister Mattie's health broke entirely down about that time, and I went to nurse her for months—to the end. Then my own health failed completely; which has kept me away from my home and business papers so much; and too I have felt too sick most of the time to look over and calculate a pile of business papers. I am feeling somewhat better now. I am including \$5.58 interest on the \$46.58 for the time I have delayed paying it, 4%;

making the amount of the check \$52.16. I am making no charge for my services for attending to this business; and I <u>suggest</u> that brother William's legatees make you a present of it. However, that is a <u>mere suggestion</u>. I am sending the check to his estate—his legatees. I do not know to whome he left property. There is still one acre of land belonging to the estate that has not been sold. It is the Tabernacle Church lot, which was deeded so as to revert to the family when it ceased to be used for church. The man, Mr. Green, who owns the other property wants to buy it, and will pay

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6<sup>th</sup>.

\$40.00 for it. Please find out and <u>let me know</u> if brother William's legatees will take the trouble to sign a deed of it to him. The amount to each legatee would be very small—especially where it had to be subdivided. Still it seems bad management to let Mr. Green finally have it free. And I would like to get my share.

My health is all broken down. I have neuritis and arthritis, and cannot walk at all now; not even on crutches; and cannot stand alone on my feet one moment. It has been coming on several years. I have consulted a half dozen Richmond

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7<sup>th</sup>.

Doctors, but they have not helped me but very little. I have to use a wheel chair. I am a rolling chair "shut-in." I had to leave my home at Drake's Branch—rented it—and have been staying with my kin folks since last Dec. I have just been drifting as it were from place to place, most of the time with sister Lina's children. I am now at Bouldin Crowder's, in Clarksville; but expect to go to Annie Crowder Moore's soon. Bouldin and Nelson Crowder have a dry-goods store here in Clarksville, and carry a splendid stock for a country town. Annie

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8<sup>th</sup>.

Moore's husband has a store out in the country—at Abbyville. Mr. Crowder and sister Lina live on their farm, (about a mile from Abbyville) alone. All their children have left home—and all have married except Nelson. He is real attentive to his parents, who are both old and not very strong.

I received Lottie's letter of sympathy after sister Mattie's death, and intended answering it; but just had more to do than I could do. I hope you and the family are real well. I send my <u>love to all</u>.

Yours affectionately, Alma Bouldin.

Clarksvill, Va. Dec. 3, 1919.