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1880

Sandwich April 24

Mr goodnow allow me to present myself to you Mr Watkins excuse me for taking these liberties but according to your request and my wishes i shall endeavor to give you a short narrative of my life as far as i can remember and believe me as a stranger that you cannot imagine how much pleasure it affords me to be able to answer a few for a friend who has been such a deliverer friend to the poor fugitive slaves who was oppressed in the bitter _____ of slavery and may the lord ever Bless you and peace reign in your household in my prayer I was born in richmond virginia raised in kentucky the first thing that started me from slavery i married and had 5 children and

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they sold my wife after the sold her i became so much dissatisfied going to church one Sunday the minister told me that i was sold also his name was Nathan riggs a baptist minister i then resolved to go away that night i stole a boat and manage to get across the Ohio river that night after i crossed i went and stopped in Mud creek bridge the bridge has 2 storys and the pursuers passed right under me and i was lying on the top part and could hear every word they said they went straight up to Cincinati expecting me was up there but it so happen that we did not go we went up the hill into a field and stopped there one week during the week we get in with aboliner friends and they brought us 60 miles we traveled on foot shuning all towns and villages until we got to pickle town

and from there we got with friends
again who carried us to Sandusky
city and thank god for _____

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Sandusky City ____ good friend
put us on a boat and
took me clean through to
detroit and from there
to canada and i am
able to say that i had
no trouble getting to
canada not as my wife
had and i will be always
be ready and willing to
speak a good word for
those glorious abolitioners

No more at present
i should very much pleased to
hear from you at any time and
if any of your family ever comes
here i should be happy to have
you call as i own my house
where i live i remain
your well wishes

Allen Watkins
Sandwich Ont

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I hope if you get that paper
printed you will send us
some write often as you
can if you please