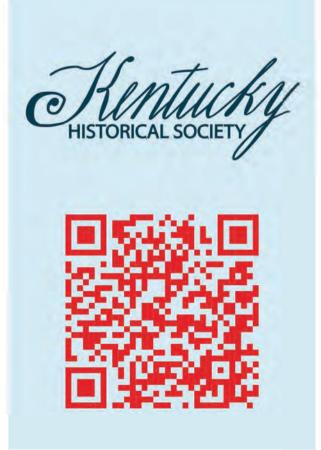
AMERICA **KENTUCKY**

Watson and Robinson Family Letters Primary Source Packet







Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies

Fifth Grade:

- **5.G.HI.1** Describe the traditions diverse cultural groups brought with them when they moved to and within the United States.
- **5.G.HI.2** Analyze how and why cultural characteristics diffuse and blend with migration and settlement.
- **5.H.CE.3** Describe the social and economic impact of the slave trade on diverse groups.

Eighth Grade:

- **8.C.RR.1** Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system, with attention to the definition of who is a citizen, expansion of that definition over time and changes in participation over time.
- **8.G.MM.1** Interpret how political, environmental, social and economic factors led to both forced and voluntary migration in the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction from 1600-1877.
- **8.H.CE.2** Analyze the cause and effect of Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction on the diverse populations of the United States.
- **8.H.CO.4** Explain how sectionalism and the institution of slavery within the United States led to conflicts between 1820-1877.

High School:

- **H.S.UH.CH.1** Examine the ways diverse groups viewed themselves and contributed to the identity of the United States in the world from 1877-present. H.S.WH.CH.5 Analyze how continuities in the desire for cheap labor led to the institution of slavery and other systems of forced labor across the globe between 1300-1888.
- **H.S.WH.CE.3** Assess demographic, social and cultural consequences of forced migration and the expansion of the institution of plantation-based slavery into the Americas between 1500-1888.



Brief Historical Overview

The collection of letters between the Watson and Robinson families includes correspondence from individuals enslaved in Kentucky, specifically in Hopkinsville and Paducah, as well as in Mississippi. The letters from the Watson family, primarily written by Isabel/Isabella Watson, come from Mississippi City, MS. They include updates on people's health and illnesses, activities, church and religious matters, the status of enslaved individuals in the Hopkinsville community, and reports of births, deaths, and the sale of individuals.

Several letters are addressed to Reuben Faulkner, a Black man, and Violet Ware, a Black domestic worker. Ferdinand Robinson, a free Black man living in Lexington, wrote numerous letters to his uncle Reuben Faulkner/ Robinson, who was still enslaved in Kentucky. Despite the harsh realities of enslavement, family structures persisted, and the letters below underscore the humanity and resilience of those who were enslaved.





Primary Source Reference Guide

Source 1: Isabella Slaughter letter to Rheuben Falkner, 15 April 1847. Accession Number SC1261_Box1_F4.

Source 2: Isabella Watson letter to Violet, 16 November 1848. Accession Number SC1261_Box1_F6.

Source 3: Ibby Watson letter to Reubin Faulkner, March 1850. Accession Number SC1261_Box1_F9.

Source 4: Ferdinand Robison letter to Rueben Robinson, September 1851. Accession Number SC1261_Box1_F14.

Source 5: Susie B. Davis and Annie S Davis, of Cottage Grove, to Violet (colored servant) c/o Mr E Ware, of Paducah, 19 January 1858. Accession Number SC1261_Box1_F23.



Misselsoffield Spiril 18th 1849 My Dear Boother in this Letter dated March 8th three welks age your are my only time friend in Hall fam story to day for you are the only me from whom Fine reachine a syllable from all my friends There have to many whom they might get, to soule me a line or two if no more. In the contrary have very four who of san confects in as I have in the complety Therefore you theren my spendimiles are form. I some her, hoppy to hear most of my friends some all well, but much grieved to Man my brothers & sisters (at least some of them, have begun to fall off in seligion, tell them for one; the Bull sais those who find grace in the sight of the Ford, Then love it, it would better if they had never been born, that it it will be six tornes as hard for them to for one that for and peace within their Soul wich they have therown army perhaps for some frohich banble of this wicked world: The brother what will snah poor and objected Londs do, when that anfull

day arises when the graves shall deliver up Their dead The, sea those it has swallowed, all shall appear before their beater. Oh how dreadful those will feell when They are sembenced by their produce to take That rode which leads to elernal slammation and how mon sh will it add to their Coursing souls, when their contience whispers to them it woods all your own missolude which brought you to this well brother all we can do is to firmy most forverth for every one jourt out for our friends but for our enimy, I see from your letter my from mephon is dead of hope the was prepared. Jon minst give my best love, Trislet Ware lett her when you will again the month tend me some mens which will rome my firsto some forme trong of full so such and lovely of do not throw what to do with my seff. of feel some times is of only cond seen all in old friends mee more of souls be willing to take my last breath, Please give my complements to all the Briant family tell them they mont write, to me especially dister terster Breant. I recend a latter grown, my friend Hearn Steel please tell time I received it with great for also say to him, I shall mover for get dim as Long is I twee, and that the month thear me in

remember ance. In my best love to the Garnett tell bring all of no are most afraid to believe what we heard respecting his coming orgrani also please name me to Charles Shelps. I recen Arena received his letter last weeky it was a long time coming therefore tell him he must write again chrana requested me to send the respecto to time, the has warled for him solding that I believe the has begun to think it is no me we for her to wait any longer. Cleane remember me to Bob Chronia tell him he has forgot his from Amer Ibby I know, for never exper have to recent a word from him, also com Phelps has behaves in the same neglectful manner, if they wont write to the girls I think they might revereber old age I have received Thedreck thelps detter and answerd it share not forgot the objetes be promised me mether have I fougot the Sea shes Charles promised. I rearly diegin to thingh as distance wishens so does friendship. On your. letter you said Charlott Grey was Hollat in Amfritaphs some place you did not name: you must write me whom the's sold to and the manne of the place. Kennember and to brother Themeer and historie Shope he is still walking in the fear of the Lord, or his love I should say instead of fear. Steare give my love to Old Fister Letty, you see my freper

competto me to end in anticipation of un Fremain four thise friend Isabella Hanghter BREFE EN &





Care of Henry Garrett
Mis City Miss
Apr 15
Mr. Rheuben Falkner
Hopkinsville
Kentucky

Mississippi City April 15th 1847 My Dear Brother in Christ

I received your truly welcome letter dated March 8th two weeks ago you are my only true friend in H[opkinsville?] & I am sorry to say for you are the only one from whom I ever receive a syllable from all my friends there have so many whom they might get to write me a line or two if no more. I on the contrary have very few who I can confide in, as I live in the country therefore you know my opportunitys [sic] are few. I was very happy to hear most of my friends are all well, but much grieved to hear my brothers & sisters (at least some of them) have begun to fall off in religion, Tell them for me; the Bible sais [sic] those who find grace in the sight of the Lord, then lose it, it would be better if they had never been born, that is it will be six times as hard for them to procure that joy and peace within their Soul wich [sic] they have thrown away perhaps for some foolish Gamble of this wicked world: Oh brother what will such poor and dejected Souls do, when that awfull [sic] day arrives when the graves shall deliver up their dead the sea those it has swallowed and all shall appear before their Creator. Oh how dreadful those will feell [sic] when they are sentenced by their judge [to?] take that rode [road] which leads to eternal damnation and how much will it add to their burning souls, when their contience [conscience] whispers to them, it nose [knows?] all your misdeeds which brought you to this: well brother all we can do is to pray most fervently for every one, not only for our friends but for our enimys [enemies]. I see from your letter my poor nephew is dead. I hope he was prepared. You must give my best love to Violet Ware tell her when you write again she must send me some news which will rouse my spirits some, sometimes I feell [sic] so sick and lonely I do not know what to do with myself.



I feel sometimes if I only could see all my old friends once more I would be willing to take my last breath. Please give my compliments to all the Briant family tell them they must write to me especially sister Easter Briant. I received a letter from my friend Harry Steel please tell him I received it with great Joy also say to him, I shall never forget him as long as I live, and that he must bear me in remembrance. Give my best love to Mr. Garnett tell him all of us are most afraid to believe what we heard respecting his coming [down?], also please name me to Charles Phelps I receiv Arena received his letter last week, it was a long time coming therefore tell him he must write again. Arrena requested me to send her respects to him, she has waited for him so long that I believe she has begun to think it is no use for her to wait any longer. Please remember me to Bob Crump tell him he has forgot his poor Aunt Ibby I know, for never as yet have I received a word from him, also Tom Phelps has behaved in the same neglectful manner, if they won't write to the girls I think they might remember old age. I have received Shedreck Phelps letter and answered it. I have not forgot the Apples he promised me neither have I forgot the Peaches Charles promised. I nearly begin to think as distance widens so does friendship. In your letter you said Charlott Grey was sold in Mississippi some place you did not name; you must write me whom she's sold to and the name of the place. Remember me to brother Spencer and his wife. I hope he is still walking in the fear of the Lord, or his love I should say instead of fear. Please give my love to Old Sister Letty. You see my paper compels me to end in anticipation of an answer.

I remain your true friend Isabella Slaughter



Manuelle Chines Dent Wills General your my love as I from gone one the out burn in Stationalle who remember one Inewest a lette but would het land not who unt it me all haid to count it but found it weekle some the old love and so we he bould did not you know notby elle sould, fine my for to bother Mathe Fatherer and title him Stherick he is forgetting me induct you are always in my much for They you all tink and pring for you take and early. I have head Godfily I mit to spend the Summer with one the interting tommen which in Innat find motor but some be come back-- sounds much forwards while the was here and is storing very will and inne to me me as often as he were I have enjoyed my highthe my well this (I sommer Inspect it, Inthing, huppine and fort spries me to spend proit of the Shine In Min Ollins I leave him on Sunday high Nov = 14 for Ant lity Me Biggy is well send histof to much so that you would simily know her the falling coming to Muchnity but good hums whether the inten and The Children and all growing May and Mat Comphun is felling very late and some up to see me wery wow und them. you my love to all the Sister and Buthen and my whiching to blok hother Hany Short Sheldrick Short

tokenue much tell me if he is mount of rim und und me word what has himme of his little whichen fine my for to thinks and Inn Bloods and the limbs. Thefer to much you all in for Blem and if with all pray let me see the 1 you I am to say ancion to store the how had a heap more uniformy here the Summer them when I first wome down. Some hany Martitate and May mit und their low and think of you mid he you as annih res ever and would like to be you very much. Gire my for to Durilla and Minima and my little Inand daughter Sharia. Jim My Sone to Lister tolly from Salling Gilbert Dulles and the infe. If you had a latin put account the Beach so that Sworth walk to your and speak to you I should be perfectly huppy. They have to the flein and her formily. I want you to let me how is all the old ihull form on you must the time the front from Christ it is rell the mufort for us how below sund field out to the back. Walle to mie some sunt let it he within to that it im he went that it may be a semfort to me to how it. Let me know of the firther fuchay buchnete is hours My lampliments to bother Shil and his family, and the Easter to write to me for I supper the such me he me I would not weed to promy tett her to with up nine. Cookba and her mother him left in a white more lought her for his sinfe the obes out hie for from us worth some up



flue to me the is string my well the has get how Mother with her be has to maintain her as long in the foreson would not have get lowleting one very other times. you much tells Shithrik The Shit some Show this Junta with a board I Suchen I and then have send there I may be him Twent to see you all to faithy. Give my printicular love to dister felly lanter. I Born for your all Smoon how clover suttent pronging for you Stope you ato it for me I trust you have get not of that hay you were in when I left you und that you have secking the substantion of your withoutet with though the much of your Same. I pick you world see Moster frages som he is the first thirty I wer som Matitale is that homeny from a live south Monte down is a series of the



Miss City Mi Nov 16 James Weir Esq Hopkinsville Kentucky

Mississippi City November 16th 1848 Dearest Violet

I send you my love as I fear you are the only person in Hopkinsville who remembers me. I received a letter but could not find out who sent it we all tried to read it but found it impossible even the old Boss and so as he did not you know nobody else could. Give my love to brother Ruben Falkner and tell him I think he is forgetting me indeed you are always in my mind for I love you all truly and pray for you late and early. I have had Godfrey's wife to spend the summer with me she is a fine looking woman and is smart and industrious one he came backwards and forwards while she was here and is doing very well and comes to see me as often as he can. I have enjoyed my health very well this summer. I expect if anything happens and God spares me to spend part of the winter in New Orleans I leave here on Tuesday night Nov'r 14th for that city. Mrs Peggy is well and hearty so much so that you would scarcely know her she talks of coming to Kentucky but God know whether she will or not. The children are all growing Margaret McCaughan is getting very tall and comes up to see me every now and then. Give my love to all the Sisters and Brothers and my compliments to Old brother Harry Steel, Sheldrick Phelps Likewise and tell me if he is married again and send one word what has become of his little children. Give my love to Charles and Tom Phelps and Bob Crump. I hope to meet you all in New Orleans and if not all pray let me see one of you I am so very anxious to do so. We have had a heap more company here this summer than when I first came down. Irene Nancy Matilda and Margaret sent their love and think of you and love you as much as ever and would like to see you very much.

Give my love to Drucilla and Minerva and my little granddaughter Maria. Give my love to sister Lilley John Falkner Gilbert Phelps and his wife. If you had a cabin just accross the Beach so that I could call to you and speak to you I should be perfectly happy. My love to Mrs Weir and her family. I want you to tell me how is all the old church going on you must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ it is all the comfort for us here below and hold out to the last. Write to me soon and let it be written that it can be read that it may be a comfort to me to hear it. Let me know if old brother Archey Bushnall is living. My compliments to brother Phil and his family and tell Easter to write to me for I suppose she sent me the one I could not read so pray tell her to write again.

Cordelia and her mother have left us a white man bought her for his wife she does not live far from us and comes up often to see me she is doing very well she has got her mother with her he has to maintain her as long as she lives or could not have got Cordelia on any other terms.

You must tell Sheldrick Phelps to come down this winter with a load of turkeys and chickens and then I may see him I want to see you all so badly. Give my particular love to sister Letty Carter. I pray for you all I never bow down without praying for you I hope you do so for me I trust you have got out of that trap you were in when I left you and that you are seeking the salvation of your immortal soul though the merits of your savior I wish you could see Master George's son he is the finest child I ever saw Matilda is still nursing him and lives with Master George if you saw him you would almost eat him up. My love to Mr. Garnett. In all hope that these lines will reach in good health. Write soon for I want to hear from you badly your faithful friend

Isabella Watson





The many that the soul Mily bity to heart 1550 Dear Brother Brutin Fouther bo not thente this tong detay has been from forgotfulsures of your all essent dear be there are destern to far from such the for much I wish to see you a cuce much this pole of the graves bug God only huger, tat this I fear will not to the dese bether as we are both here try the get ly de grant for may, when Ilme with as shall be no more, met in you beight happy Land where all pains and tours are done, and parting comes to more, I should have andlowed tong ago your kind atter, but the one I generally appointed a differency party to ile health my ozon health is quite for ble although I think I feel some better at times, the hearment ingrains get traf hold of me Last Sunde I took quite a long walk for my and theich & feel better from it, It is hard took for me to get pat on on my door as the



Thate a step or toro to take to get to the ground, I must now be here face ty five years of age, but, thank Soil I feel my faile a has theny in him, as when I feed tegan, and hope it ever will be, till fing hope, all my tomfort and happiness here touth, is the my hand and mireful Makery In this hours a to are all things knowing all will be well ! all will be well, Time my that how to all in The Christe, I believe you will adout the only one that seems to remember hour for are the only one that thouse inough of the to write five a letter get read this fetter in the Charele for me tile there although Illy has grover old while trapped of the has de forgotten der old freends, give there who have Thee I have the the forgy the state



he to the social have doubten the before this the my true to day dear Grandsturighter Maria lait world The Mother, Boll thousen I die This the stre and loved the enough to write my expectedly my more, that her latter has here father him The the that we have a trice presty gardy- 500 and am only wasting for a good office time to well send to to hee, Dele my love to shadere - Theffe fell him & state given life to charge for ne him, he was not and of my guar freewell - Oll my theldress send Their tour to gow all Master bellieun fas been occy kind to me, the he has keft all they children acoused pro-They we all in health sycept the tilde, her Je much health to be I so good, The new looks to the and younger that the did secret pars a so, to does Maney - This is very well, area tenel abers on



93 year of Jost-der in des house thouse and over to me, if you only know now much thinger a letter I think you love while weeks oftener than you do, hady and the the send to a for the forthe forthe form that they lotte stand that your the gast of letterner yet there was took the interest Theory the transfer the transfer of with I could sont the recent of the and the prince to the state of pe tiane trade a brente here almost egans to our old house, hour was known so much cold weather here the great Early late ofference Total Oto the the Hear to the may till out to the last to peace Him levich Fast in living in the Edition of the danghten, from and trans a leave toth were privily the dee to the tolerally commeny or as to nee me, may Heaven there the seing est a from well, and sohen time with us do night hand to the singer



Miss City Mi March 1850

Dear Brother Reubin Faulkner

Do not think this long delay has been from forgetfulness of you all my dear brother and sister, no far from it, I think of you all often and often and oh how much I wish to see you all once more this side of the grave. My God only knows, but this I fear will not be our lot dear brother, as we are both now very old, yet God grant we may, when time with us shall be no more, meet in yon bright happy land where all pains and sorrows are done and parting comes no more, I should have answered long ago your kind letter, but the one I generally get to answer your letters for me has disappointed me, owing partly to ill health and sometimes she would be busy and forget My own health is quite feeble, although I think I feel some better at times, the rheumatics pains yet keep hold of me. Last Sunday I took quite a long walk for me, and I think I feel better from it. It is hard work for me to get out on in [sic] my door as I have a step or two to take to get to the ground, I must now be near seventy five years of age, yet thank God I feel my faith as strong in him, as when I first began, and hope it ever will be. All my hope, all my comfort and happiness here on Earth, is in my kind and merciful maker, in His hands I leave all things knowing all will be well all will be well. Give my best love to all in the Church, I believe you are about the only one that thinks enough of me to write me a letter yet read this letter in the Church for me, tell them although Ibby has grown old and crippled yet she has not forgotten her old friends, give them all my love, tell them I would like very much to see them once more on Earth, would like once more to take my place among you in Church and there sing and praise Him the giver of all good. This we must not look for, yet we can so live and serve our maker here below, that when the cold hand of death has passed o'er us, our souls shall be happy together in a far happier world than this. Give my love to Esther Bryant and her husband, tell her we were once very loving together, but I am afraid she has forgotten me now or she would have written me before this. Give my love to my dear granddaughter Maria and her mother. Tell Maria I did think she loved me enough to write me, especially now that her dear father has been call from me.



I have made her a nice pretty quilt and am only waiting for a good opportunity to send it to her. Give my love to Shadric Phelps, Tell him I have given up looking for him, he was once one of my great friends. All my children send their love to you all Master William has been very kind to me, he has kept all my children around me. They are all in health except Matilda, her general health is not so good. Irena looks better and younger that she did several years ago, so does Nancy--Enis is very well. Miss Margarett was married to a young gentleman from New Orleans, a Mister Loria, very nice young man. Married the 11th of March, has gone to the City to live. Little George that was is now almost a young man in size, master William and Mrs. Peggy well, also Master George and family. Give my love to Mrs Ware and family. Please answer this very soon as I am very anxious to hear from you all, and will try to answer it sooner than I have this time. You must save all my letters for I do yours and every once in a while I sit down and have them read over to me, if you only knew how much I prized a letter I think you would write much oftener than you do. Judy and Dilsey both send love to you-- Yet I say it with sorrow that they both stand out in the gall of bitterness yet-- There is no such thing as moving them yet-- Oh how much I wish I could see them all come out and be sincere Christians---

We have had a winter here almost equal to our old home, never was known so much cold weather here before, great deal of rain. The last few days begin to look like spring, every thing is budding out so beautifully. Everything seems to please God. Oh that we dear brother may hold out to the last to praise Him. Frederick Gant is living in New Orleans also his daughter. Irena and Nancy have both seen him. He says he intends coming over to see me. May Heavens choicest blessings rest upon you all, and when time with us shall be no more shall we have a happy meeting at Gods right hand is the sincere prayer of your affectionate sister in the church.

Ibby Wattson









Lyington Sept Der owneel Rahm & John Robison I have Jakin the Greatige of writin you a face Lines to inform you of my hellh my hellh at present is very well dellan as many it well more has 3 Juleboen and a free has Bun the hat a Bruck hour of her one chelson has there has manned yet my delle a family failin has a children my wife is bed and I am thinkin it a nother I have a But 3 Thatsand Dalass worth of propary free and I am claw fine paris for a gardin Ker Springe to Jenel market If the family it well with whe he felition of my young is child is trabeled with mounts I mydelf infair very Good with my Bitiness will chet Let me Came Danne



Reuben Robinson
To Care Rich'd Falkner
Trenton
Ky

Lexington Sept 1851

Der ouncel Rubin & John Robison I have takin the privilege of writin you a fue lines to inform you of my helth my helth at present is very well Nelson & Mary is well Mary has 3 children and a free husbun She has a Brick hous of her one Nelson has Neve has marred [married] yet my Self i a famly failin has 3 children my wife is Ded and i am thinkin of a nother i have a Bout 3 thousand Dolars worth of propaty her and i am Now pre parin for a gardin Nex Springe to [Tend] market all the famly is well with the exception of my youngis child is trobled with wormes i myself inJoin [enjoy] very Good helth i wants to See you very much But my Bisness will Not Let me Come soon I Ad No More

But remain your sinc[?] Nephew untell Deth Ferdinand Robison



Cottage from Jan 1984 1858 henry len vivlet your intresting letter was quite a heat to no all . The children bore impalient to hear it wand, I little Suries eyes were grite watery when I read "So not let Sucie forget me" I she seplied "I don't for get Aunt Violet, for I always did love her I that hight, by he Joning to bed. The begged me to write from a letter for her, I faster thou I could write she refreated the 8 8, word for word, but you see I have been a long time pinish my it. It was Christ mas hight & we were all alone, me Davis was compelled to leave home that morning on important Tonamess, I our barge theret mas Justey had but few to paternie it. That touchy day was a four sample of all the reat of the Chiro brown hali--days, The baby was such & I was confined closely at home all the hime, She has now recorded the agh I looke better than ever, she is predice I think than either of the Children, I think the will walk vory soon: intic is making you a little quiet-square no a specimen of her serving



A mollie I believe is making you a coldan as a Specience of his, They expect to send them by your old master y he does not should before they have our openhome of sending to time. I hope you have a pleasant " This year, the I know you describe a good sue for from feart good service. I was exceeding glad to home you builted with the thurch. For I had longth--ought you were living out of your duty me not doing so How our savior has I think placed baptism on equal fooling with two other enspectant commantes, when he days, define the top lised. I what More emportant or delight ful news could I ble you than The fact of one who is deance to me than all the evel of the world has theyed the son Lounand; I have always felt that there lould be no bleasing agual to occa my In Davis a christian. I how I feel asy my enthly happiness was almost complete. The was buplised about a month ago. Brother machan Bro Bennett & Holland held quite an interesting necting at South buiou of about hen days, Am Davis sumed much in liveled from the freat I every see mon the impression sumed to deepen . I the mylet That he came out on the Indo dias will long be communicate tyme as the thappiest of my life. I joined also by letters being a member in Town you know at the same hime, Mis Janoc Henry also goined that hight, I Ald Mis Henry's Jourgest.





Son, you be member the told lady bellet as being an intimate friend of worther. He had a happy meeting indeed I felt as if I wanted to write to your mips tauline the best can't and A lette her of any happiness, Sout have not had a for 25 heet of letter paper until a few days ago. The evado are very bad from here to Town I I have not been the film but one day some Desobre; How Chrick Antowned so 3 George have caled from Soo Walken Violet, but I do a feel as if last Syene has attended with many bleasings to me, For Which I hope that may be enabled to Make a Stette leturn the Coming year, Indeed they call for a shipe hime of more de volion to god & his cause. Hooned little to see you back at Hop Rins vile Kennember Inc 5 to denten. I for met fet Lucie to write you another Men doon good bye of may god bleas you your the friend Amie & Davis Simt bister ded SI-hick brought me such a pully I would dry Last high the britter brush, died egg of so I much County & mice Answorms, & a little Himble in my by I've set out the landle lable for him, & hung up our Stocking Lator, he brought - Budsie a mice and book & wrote us both a of title hote, for found a mice Calico brappen on the bed



. Dele- Consin many & Consin Helen I do wish they were here to spent the Christmas with me. If you & Them & Aunt Paulina little finnie & Hair Wirlet Bere here I would be do glad; I don't forget you And virlet I the -intho you most every day to I do wish I could see you. Grad byen your little grandchild Indie Blavis.



Violet (Colored Servant)
Care of Mr E. Ware
Paducah Ky

Cottage Grove Jan 19th 1858

Very Dear Violet Your interesting letter was quite a treat to us all. The children were inpatient to hear it read, & little Susies eyes were quite watery when I read "Do not let Susie forget me" & she replied "I don't forget Aunt Violet, for I always did love her & that night, after going to bed, She begged me to write you a letter for her, & faster than I could write she repeated the P.S. word for word, but you see I have been a long time finishing it. It was Christmas night & we were all alone, Mr Davis was compelled to leave home that morning on important business, & our large Christmas Turkey had but few to patronise it. That lonely day was a fair sample of all the rest of the Christmas holidays. The baby was sick & I was confined closely at home all the time. She has now recovered though & looks better than ever, she is prettier I think than either of the children. I think She will walk very soon: Susie is making you a little quilt square as a specimen of her sewing & Mollie I believe is making you a collar as a specimen of hers. They expect to send them by your old master if he does not start before they have an opprtunity of sending to him. I hope you have a pleasant home this year; For I know you deserve a good one for your past good service. I was exceeding glad to hear you united with the church. For I had long thought you were living out of your duty in not doing so For our savior has I think placed baptism on equal footing with two other important commands. When he says, repent believe & be baptized. & what more important or delightful news could I tell you than the fact of one who is dearer to me than all the rest of the world has obeyed this command; I have always felt that there could be no blessing equal to seeing Mr Davis a Christian. & now I feel as if my earthly happiness was almost complete, He was baptized about a month ago. Brother Meacham Bro Bennett & Holland held quite an interesting meeting at South Union of about ten days. Mr Davis seemed much interested from the first & every sermon the impression seemed to deepen.

& the night that he came out on the Lords side will long be remembered by me as the happiest of my life. I joined also by letter (being a member in Town you know) at the same time. Mrs [Ganue] Henry also joined that night, & Old Mrs Henrys youngest son, You remember the Old lady Violet as being an intimate friend of mothers. We had a happy meeting indeed I felt as if I wanted to write to your Miss Pauline the next day & tell her of my happiness, But have not had a sheet of letter paper until a few days ago. The roads are very bad from here to Town & I have not been in but one day since October; Our Church & Locust Grove have called your Bro Walker Violet, but I do not know whether he has accepted. I feel as if last year was attended with many blessings to me. For which I hope that I may be enabled to make a better return the coming year. Indeed they call for a life time of more devotion to God & his cause. Violet I would not like to see you seperated from Reuben but would like to see you back at Hopkinsville Remember me to Reuben. & you must get Lucie to write you another letter soon Good bye and may God bless you

Your true friend Annie S. Davis

PS Aunt Violet Old St Nick brought me such a pretty workbox last night & a tooth brush, dyed egg & so much candy & nice Ammons [almonds?], & a little thimble in my box We set out the candle table for him, & hung up our stockings too, he brought Buddie a nice red book & wrote us both a little note. Pa found a nice Calico wrapper on the bed (written down the left side of the page) post in the morning. He thought St Nick brought it down the chimney but I saw Ma making that. He says St Nick will remember Ma on New Years night. Tell Cousin Mary & Cousin Helen I do wish they were here to spend the Christmas with me. If you & them & Aunt Paulina little Jimmie & Harris were here I would be so glad; I dont forget you Aunt Violet I think of you most every day & I do wish I could see you.

Good bye your little grandchild Susie B Davis

