



Watson and Robinson Family Letters Primary Source Packet



**KENTUCKY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**





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.



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 feel when
they are sentenced by their judge to take
that road which leads to eternal damnation
and how much will it add to their
burning souls, when their conscience
whispers to them it says all your own
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 enemies. I see from your letter my
poor nephew is dead I hope he was prepared.
You must give my best love, Violet Ware tell
her when you write again she must
send me some more which will rouse
my spirits some, sometimes I feel 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 should
be willing to take my last breath. Please
give my compliments to all the Brians
& family tell them they must write to me
especially sister Esther Brians. I received
a letter from my friend Henry 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 hear me in

remembrance. Give my best love to Mrs
Garnett. Tell him all of us are most afraid
to believe what we heard respecting his coming
again; also please name me to Charles Phelps.
Deanna Arena received his letter last week
it was a long time coming therefore tell him
he must write again. Arena 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 Abby I know, for never ^{ever} have I
received a word from him, also Tom Phelps has
behaved in the same neglectful manner, if
they wont write to the girls I think they
might remember old age. I have received
Theodore 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. On your letter you said
Charlott Gray was sold in Mississippi some
place you did not name: you must write me
where 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 Haughton

Care of Mary Burnett 10

W. City - N. D.

Apr 15

Mr. Henderson

Calhoun

12 43

1847

96

Waplesville

(Kentucky)

RAFFLES

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 received 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

Memphis, City
Nov 15 1848

Dear Sister

I send you my love as I fear you are the only
person in Tiptonville 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 ones and so
as he would not you know nobody else could. Give my
love to brother Nelson Palmer and tell him I think he is
forgetting me indeed you are always in my mind for I see you
all truly and pray for you late and early. I have had
Griffith's wife to spend the summer with me she is ^{a fine} looking
woman and is smart and industrious and he came back
swords and fowards 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
nothing happens and God spurs me to spend part of the winter
in New Orleans I leave here on Tuesday night Nov 14th for
that City. Mr. Biggs is well and happy so much so
that you would hardly know her the talk of coming
to Kentucky but God knows whether she will or not.
The children are all growing Margaret Mr. Coughman 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 Scott, Sheldrick, Duff

William must tell me if he is married again and send
one word what has become of his little children. Give
my love to Charles and Mrs. Phelps and Bob Lincolns.
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. Some Mary, Matilda and
Mary Ann send their love and think of you and see you
as much as ever and would like to see you very much.
Give my love to Susilla and Minnie and my little
granddaughter Maria. Give my love to sister Abby John Talbot
Gilbert Phelps and his wife. If you had a cabin just
across the beach so that I could call to you and speak
to you I should be perfectly happy. My love to Mrs. Wain
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 best. Write to me soon and let it be
written so that it can be read that it may be a comfort
to me to hear it. Let me know if old brother George Bucknall
is living. My compliments to brother Phil and his family and
tell Esther to write to me for I suppose she sent me the one
I could not send so pray tell her to write again.
Cordelia and her mother have left us a while now bought
her for his wife she does not live far from us and comes up

often to see one who is doing very well she has got her
Mother with her she has to maintain her as long as she
lives or could not live at Cordelia on any other terms.
You must tell William Phelps to come down this
Winter with a load of Turkey's and Chickens and then
I may see him I want to see you all so badly. Give my
particular love to sister Abby Carter. I pray for you all
I never live closer 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 through the merits of your Saviour.
I wish you could see Master George's son he is the prettiest
child I ever saw Abigail is still nursing him & lives with
Master George if you saw him you would almost eat him
up. My love to Mr. Farrell. I am 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

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

Give my love to mother & sister
Miss City W., March 1856

Dear Brother Boutin Vanhook

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 your 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 is a letter from my daughter, appointed 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 rheumatism 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 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 seems to remember me, you are the
only one that thinks enough of me to
write me a letter, let read this letter in the
Church for me, tell them, although I
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 then I can praise Him
for 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 over us, we
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

the 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
my now, that her father has been with me.
In 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 Shadrach
Shelby, Tell him I have given up looking for
him, he was once one of my great friends.
Tell 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 Martha, her
general health is not so good, Maria looks better
and younger than she did several years ago, so
does Nancy. — Chris is very well.
Miss Margaret was married to a young gentleman
from the Orleans, or Mr. Leria, very nice young
man, married on 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. [unclear] well, also Master George
and family. — Give my love to Mrs. Lane
and family. Please answer this soon so on
as I am very anxious to hear from you all,
and will try to answer it sooner than I have
at this time. — Your most true all my love
for I do yours, and every once in a while

I sit down and have these words over to
 me, if you only knew how much I prize
 a letter I think you would write much
 oftener than you do, Truly and Truly both
 send love to you - but pray it with some
 that they both stand out in the gall of
 bitterness yet - There is much thing
 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 it begins
 to look like Spring, every thing is budding
 out so beautifully - Every thing seems
 in praise of God, Oh that our dear brother
 may hold out to the last to praise Him
 Frederick Sart is living in Kentucky also his
 daughter, Anna and Nancy have both seen
 him, ~~He~~ She says he intends coming over
 to see me, May Heavens choicest blessing
 rest upon you all, and when time with us
 shall be no more may we have a happy meet-
 ing at Gods right hand in the pious presence of your
 affectionate sister in the Church Mrs. Talbot

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 Ibbey 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 Margaret 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



Lexington Sept

1857

Der ownel Rahon &
John Rahon I have taken the Privilege of
writing you a few Lines to inform you of
my health my health at present is
very well seldom or many it well many has
3 children and a few has Bur she has a Buck
hous of her one chelban but she has married
yet my self I a family father has 3 children
my wife is dead and I am thinking of a mother
I have a Boat 3 thousand Dollars worth of
property per and I am also free parson for
a garden Kid Springs to send market

All the family is well with the exception
of my youngest child is troubled with worms

I myself enjoys very good health
I want to see you very much But
my Business will not let me come soon

I feel no more

But remain your friend
Nephew until death Frederick Rahon

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 Grove Jan 19th 1858

Very Dear Violet

Your interesting letter was quite a treat to us all. The children were impatient to hear it read, & little Lucie's eyes were quite watery when I read "So not let Lucie forget me" & she replied "I don't forget Aunt Violet, for I always did love her" & that night, before 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 partake of 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; Lucie is making you a little quiet square as a specimen of her sewing

& Mother 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 opportunity 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 exceedingly glad to hear you united with the Church. For I had long thought you were living out of your duty ~~and~~ not doing so. For our savior has I think placed baptism on equal footing with two other important commandments, 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 one my 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 & Hollaud 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 Jane Henry also joined that night, & old Mrs Henrys youngest

and Mother's staff. The same old staff will be remembered in the same old place as it is now.

Put in the morning. The thought St. Nick brought it down the chimney but I saw
and nothing there. The says St. Nick will be much more than in these years that did.

Son, you remember the Old Lady Violet as being an inti-
mate friend of Mother's. 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 & Lovet
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 separated 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 & May God bless you
Your true friend Annie S. Davis

P.S. Aunt Violet & Ed St. Nick brought me such a pretty
worth box last night & a tooth brush, dyed eggs & so
much candy & nice Annons, & a little thimble in my box
he set out the candle table for him, & hung up our stockings
too, he brought Budzie a nice red book & wrote us both a
little note. P.S. found a nice Calico wrapper on the bed

Dear Cousin Mary & Cousin Helen I do wish they
were here to spend the Christmas with me. If you &
them & Aunt Paulina little Jimmie & Harry were here
I would be so glad; I don't forget you Aunt Violet I th-
-ink of you most every day & I do wish I could see you.
Good bye your little Grandchild
Lucie Bell Davis.

1858

Violet. (Colored Servant)

Care of Mr. C. W. Warr
Baltimore Md

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 opportunity 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