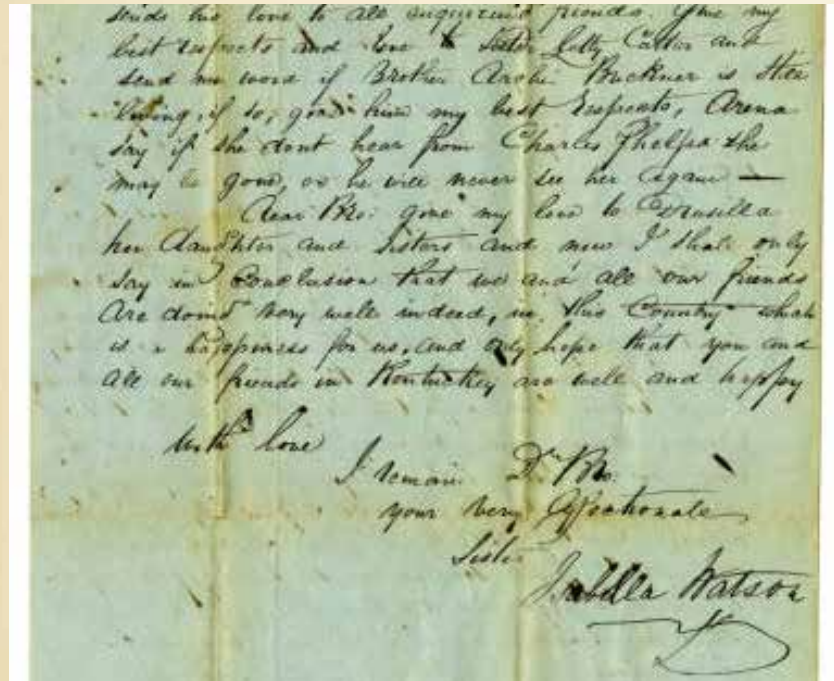


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KentuckyHistoricalSociety

CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: ISABELLA WATSON (SLAVE)



Kentucky Historical Society collections

HOPKINSVILLE — Isabella Watson, an antebellum slave, lived in Mississippi City, Miss.

She wrote a number of letters to her uncle, Reuben Faulkner, and Violet Ware, slaves in Hopkinsville, Ky., recounting her life in Mississippi and inquiring about friends and relatives still living in Christian County.

Watson's letters recount the sale of a friend to a neighboring plantation and the role of her daughter in raising and nursing their master's children. A God-fearing woman, she often wrote about Christianity and the

Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, as well as in Mississippi City.

Watson's letters also provide rich detail of the lives of African Americans living in the antebellum South and insight into the unique and important bounds of familial relations in slave families. Her words highlight the lived experiences of Southern, enslaved African Americans and provide a human voice to an inhumane institution.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
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