Reconstruction: Analyzing and Interpreting Historical Materials

Methods Presentation
Presenter: Fran O’Malley

Teaching American History Grant’s Freedom Project
Weekend Workshop
December 10-11, 2010

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My Dear Wife:

I die tonight. It has been so determined by those who think I deserve it. God knows I feel myself innocent. I have only sought to educate the negro.

I little thought when leaving you so far away that we should then part forever.

God's will be done! He will be to you a better husband than I have been, and a father to our six little ones.

There is in the company's hands about two hundred dollars of my money; also my trunk and clothes are here.

You can send for them or let Henry come for them as you think best.

God of mercy bless and keep you, my dear, dear wife and children!

Your William

A freedman is sold to pay his fine for vacancy in Monticello, Florida. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 1/19/1867. Library of Congress.
