

Name:

Ms. Ha

WHaG Hours: 1 2 3 4 6 / 28

Date: 3-4-20 Primary Source

**Background**

At the Civil War’s end, a hard road still lay ahead for black Americans. Slavery

was dead. It would be officially abolished in December of 1865 with the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. The struggle for civil rights and true freedom, however, had just begun. For the time being, millions of African Americans joyfully celebrated the Union victory. A few freed slaves even got a chance to have the last word with their former masters.

Dayton, Ohio, August 7, 1865

To my old Master; Colonel P.H. Anderson, Big Spring, Tenn.

Sir: I got your letter, and was glad to find that you had not forgotten Jourdon, and that you wanted me to come back and live with you again, promising to do better for me than anybody else can. I have often felt uneasy about you. I thought the Yankees (North/Union) would have hung you long before (this), for harboring Rebs (South/Confederates) they found at your house. I suppose they never heard about your going to Colonel Martin’s to kill the Union soldier that was left by his company in their stable. Although you shot at me twice before I left you, I did not want to hear of your being hurt, and am glad you are still living….

I want to know particularly what the good chance is you propose to give me. I am doing tolerably well here. I get twenty-five dollars a month, with victuals (food) and clothing: have a comfortable home for Mandy-the folks call her Mrs. Anderson-and the children….

As to my freedom, which you say I can have, there is nothing to be gained on that score, as I got my free papers in 1864…..Mandy says she would be afraid to go back without some proof that you were disposed to treat us justly and kindly; and we have concluded to test your sincerity by asking you to send us our wages for the time we served you. This will make us forget and forgive old scores, and rely on your justice and friendship in the future. I served you faithfully for thirty-two years, and Mandy twenty years. At twenty-five dollars a month for me and two dollars a week for Mandy, our earnings would amount to eleven thousand six hundred and eighty dollars. Add to this the interest for the time our wages have been kept back, and deduct what you paid for our clothing, and three doctor’s visits to me, and pulling a tooth for Mandy, and the balance will show that we are in justice entitled to. We trust the good Maker has opened your eyes to the wrongs which you and your fathers have done to me and my fathers, in making us toil (work) for you for generations without recompense (repayment). Here I draw my wages every Saturday night; but in Tennessee there was never any pay-day for the Negroes any more than for the horses and cows….

Say howdy to George Carter, and thank him for taking the pistol from you when you were shooting at me.

From your old servant,

Jourdon Anderson

Answer the questions below.

1. Even though his master shot at Jourdon twice, Jourdon was glad his master was still

Living at the end of the Civil War. Why do you think Jourdan is happy about this? (2)

2. List four new benefits Jourdon is enjoying. (8)

a. c.

b. d.

3. How many years did Jourdon serve his master? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years (2)

4. How many years did Mandy serve her master? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years (2)

5. How much money did Jourdon feel he and his wife were entitled to? (2)

Answer:

6. Jourdon states that the “Maker” had opened up the eyes of the whites to their

poor treatment of negroes. Why do you think Jourdon refers to religion? (4)

7. Do you think Colonel P.H. Anderson felt sorry for his treatment of Jourdon and

his family after reading this letter? Explain. (6)