

Reading 4: A letter written to Elijah Fletcher from Martha Pen Taylor, an enslaved woman, 1854

February the 16, 1854
Mr. Elijha fletcher,

I write to you now for you to grant me a great favor which you will oblige my very much. I am now In the hands of Mr. Woodrough and I expect to start very soon too the south if you will not oblige me as much as to buy me I would be very glad if you would. I was a servant of captain Edmond Pen. A sister of Mary which you own. Martha Pen. I was sold in Lynchburg when Mr. george Payne went away. Please to Answer it as soon as you can and buy me if you please.
I shal Depend on you.

Martha Pen
Your humble
Servant
Lynchburg Va.

Reading Questions:

1. Where is Martha currently living?
2. Who is Martha's sister? Where is she currently living?
3. Why does Martha want Mr. Fletcher to purchase her?