

Project Information Sheet

Through various sources, students have learned about the life of Pelagie and her family. They have learned that Pelagie was born into slavery and later obtained her freedom, that she chose to marry a white man, that she took people to court who harmed her, that she lived during a lot of change in the country, that she faced many challenges, and that she raised a nice family. Due to her not being allowed to read or write, a comprehensive story of her life cannot be complete. However, through the use of primary documents, the website, and some creativity, students can piece together the life of Pelagie. Students should highlight the events/stories in Pelagie's life they find important. These could include her emancipation and times in court as well as her family life with Benjamin and her children. In all, students should consider some questions about Pelagie:

- When and where was she born, and when was she emancipated?
- What do you imagine her upbringing was like as a child?
- In what ways was she courageous?
- How did she handle unjust laws?
- How did she deal with her anger, fear, and pain?
- Did she belong to a prominent family?
- What freedoms did she experience, what challenges did she have to face?
- What was life like, on a daily basis, for Pelagie before and after her emancipation?
- In what way is she an important figure in U.S. history?

Students may choose to highlight one particular event in Pelagie's life or tell her life story. They may do this in a variety of ways:

- Create a diary, including parts of her life written in first person.
- Write a poem/spoken word recalling her life, or in first person remembering her life.
- Record and/or perform a song about her life.
- Create a skit reenacting an event(s) in her life.
- Create a movie reenacting an event(s) in her life.
 - Can be where students suddenly "fall back in time" and become Pelagie or part of her story.
- Write a newspaper article or create a news broadcast interview, recalling her life.
- Create a picture scene about an event(s) in her life.
 - Possibly using photos in Photostory, adding written captions or narrative.
- Create a picture book or a children's book using hand drawings about her life.
- Create a webpage (via Microsoft SharePoint or other software) about the life of Pelagie.

Students may either choose to work independently on this project or collaborate as a group.