

Schenuta Dec 3 1790

to

My desire to support my self as free
man and enjoy all the benefits which
may result from my being free in a
country where a blackman is defined
by the laws as much as a white
man is induces me to make you an
offer of purchasing myself. I am a
black man and am not so able to pay you
all the money down because which you may
ask for me but upon these conditions
I will purchase myself ten pounds this
year and every ~~three~~ ^{after} year sixteen pounds
until the whole sum is paid. I should
wish to pay the money to Joseph Yates the
~~law~~ ^{Man} of this city because he is the
most proper man that I can think
of at present. The reason why I left your
house is this ^{your} ~~the~~ woman vexed ^{me} to so high
a degree that it was far beyond the
power of man to support it it is
true and I will say in all company
that I always lived as well in your
house as I should wish

pleas to write to Joseph Yates what you will
take in cash for me and let him be the man
to whom I shall pay the money yearly.

In a supplicant manner I beg your
pardon ten thousand times and beg
that you would be so kind as to permit
me to purchase myself and at as a low
a rate as any other person. My mistress
I also wish ten thousand pardons long life
and good health and pleas to tell her I
beg her pardon ten thousand times
my mistress I shall always remember
on account of her great kindness to me

I remain your affectionate servant
Henry Lewis

1778
New York State

William Lewis Esq
of New York
Walter Barr & Co