South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3

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St Helena. Is SC Nov 28. 1865.

Torone Wm. E. Agt Bureau R.F & AL

Asking for orders, in cases of disturbance when there is conflict of jurisdiction—

I.B. 73 "T" Asst Com SC & GA 1865

file

Recd Asst Com SC & Ga Dec 12, 1865
St. Helena Is, SC  
Nov 28th, 1865

Bvt. Maj. Gen Saxton,

Sir,

There are certain cases of conflict of jurisdiction occurring daily that I will lay before you. I am in doubt as to my duty under the circumstances.

Early in July Capt Tafft, of this Island, charged a colored man named Thos. Singleton with stealing some boards from him. Instead of laying the case before me, he went to Land's End and procured a guard stationed there by the Post Commandant at Hilton Head, to arrest Singleton, but did not succeed in arresting him. Upon hearing of the case I mentioned it to Maj. Saxton, who instructed me to write a note to Capt. Tafft informing him that it was proper for him to report such cases to me. I heard nothing more of the matter till some time after when I met Capt. Tafft. He then stated that singleton was seldom at home and asked my consent to send for the guard and arrest him when he came home. To this I agreed, requesting him to notify me in case of his arrest. Singleton soon after came home and Capt Tafft sent for the guard, but they again failed to arrest him. The next day Singleton came to me and said he was willing to appear for trial by a plantation Commission of my appointing, but did not wish the disgrace of being arrested. I fixed the following day for the trial and
appointed Mr. John Hunn, Mr. Wm Alden, and Demus, a colored man of influence, to act as a Commission. I gave Singleton a pass so that the guard should not arrest him till after his conviction, and I notified Capt. Tafft. The Commission met. Singleton came with his witnesses but Capt Tafft did not appear. The next day Capt. Tafft sent to Land's End and had the guard arrest Singleton and take him to the Provost Court at Beaufort for trial.

Edwin, Paul and Haskins Chaplin came back to their former plantation, which has been purchased by Mr. English. Mr. Burton, who has charge of the place, and several of the colored people came to me and complained that these Chaplins had concealed weapons, and that they threatened the lives of the people, or of any one white or black who remained on the place after Jany. 1st 1866 without their permission. They turned “John” out of his house, of which they took possession, and lived with his daughter in an improper manner. They threatened to shoot “John” if he came on the place, and he was afraid to go there for weeks. I took a guard and had them arrested and their trunks & searched. I found only an old pistol, a musket, a shot gun, and a small rebel flag. They were tried by the Provost Court at Beaufort, and although Mr. Burton and some of the people gave strong evidence against them, they were acquitted, but advised to be more careful. Mr. Burton also protested against their being
allowed to remain on the plantation, but to no effect. Two of them are still there.

A similar case occurred soon after with a very different result. Dr. William Scott came back and went into his father's former house. He says—*all the Generals* gave him permission to do so. I believe the people on the place did not object. Not long after a colored man named “Billy Graham” from the next plantation went (according to Dr Scott’s account) and ordered him to leave the [[crossed out]] Island within a certain time, threatening to shoot him if he did not do so. Billy denies that he did more than order him off. Dr. Scott became alarmed, went to Land's End for the guard, had him arrested, and taken to the Provost Court at Beaufort. Dr Scott appeared against him. He was found guilty and sentenced to two month's imprisonment, to pay a fine of $100, and costs $10— I found that the Lieutenant in charge at Land's End was seizing all of Graham's property even his fishing net. I went and requested the court to delay collecting the fine till I could refer the case to higher authority.

I should like to know whether this Lieutenant has the right to search houses, arrest parties, and collect fines on this Island. When questioned as to his authority, he only says "I have my orders." Can the Provost Court authorize him to do these things? To me personally he is civil and obliging.

I have not reported Oliver Tripp's case as the
teacher who occupied the house, carried it to Dr. Brisbane, who undertook the settlement of it.

John Chaplin and family, of Brickyard plantation Ladies Island, have returned, and are now living in their former house by the permission of the Colored people who have bought the place.

I am very respectfully
Your obedient servant.
Wm. E. Towne
Agent of Bureau R.F & A.L.
Office Actg Asst Comr
State of Georgia
Augusta Ga Dec 13. 1865

Tillson Davis
Brig. Genl and A A Com
Per Capt W.W. Deane A.A.G.

I.B. 74 "T" AC SC & Ga 1865

Transmits Copies of. G.O No 6 circular No 4 and S.O. from No 19 to 30 inclusive from his Hd Qrs.

14 Enclosures

Recd AC SC & Ga Dec 18. 1865
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga. Decr 13th 1865.

General
Herewith I have the honor to transmit copy Gen Orders No 6 of Special
orders from Nos 19 to 30 both inclusive and of Circular No 4 all of
current Series from this Office

Respy Your Obt. Servt
Davis Tillson
Brdg. Genl Vols & A A Com

W W Deane
Capt & A A G
In the Genls absence

Bvt. Maj Gen R Saxton
Asst. Comr Bureau R F & A L.
Charleston
S.C.
T 74 encl

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga. Decr 1st 1865.

Special Orders.
No. 25

In compliance with instructions from Major General Howard, Commissioner of Bureau of Refugees, Freeman. and Abandoned Lands, and of a Resolution of the State Convention of Georgia, passed October 30th 1865, the following named persons are appointed Agents of this Bureau for the Counties set opposite their respective names.

Col Henry G. Wright Emanuel
William D Luckey Newton
Joshua Welch Coweta
L. C. Mathews Washington
George N. Fortes Talbot
James M. Lowe Marion
Jesse D Harris Houston
William Carter Murray
Thomas W White Baldwin
J. T. Smith Elbert
A. W. Redding Harris
H. D. Williams Harris
E. C. Hood Harris
G. W. Selridge Whitfield
W. F. Weaver Upton
Jacob Young Inwin
William E Griffin Calhoun
C. R. Moore Webster
John D. Stapleton Webster
James W Bell Webster
John F Stephens Monroe
John A. Steele Monroe
A. L. Woolward Monroe

(Signed) Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vol
and A.A. Comr

Official
W.W. Deane
Capt and A.A.G.
Special Orders No 26.

1. Captain and Brevet Lieut Colonel L.J. Lambert, Asst. Adjt. General U.S. Vols., is relieved from duty in this office and assigned to duty as Acting Sub Assistant Commissioner of this Bureau for the District of Macon.

2. Lt. J. G Barney is relieved from duty as Acting, Sub-Assistant Commissioner of this Bureau at Macon Ga, and will report to Brevet Lieut Colonel, L.J. Lambert, Acting, Sub. Assistant Commissioner, for duty.

3. In compliance with instructions from Head Quarters, Depmt of Georgia, Lieut Colonel Homer B. Sprague, 13th Regt. Connecticut, Vol Inft, Commanding Sub District of Athens, is in addition to his other duties, assigned to duty as Acting, Sub Assistant Commissioner, Bureau R.F. and A.L. for District of Athens.

4. In compliance with instructions from Major General Howard, Commissioner Bureau.
Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, and of a Resolution of the State Convention of Georgia, passed October 30th, 1865, Thomas M. Peacock of Madison is appointed Agent of the Bureau of R.F and A.L. for the County of Morgan, State of Georgia.

5. Major William Gray Inspector Bureau R.F. and A.L. for the State of Georgia, will proceed to Washington, Wilkes Co on important business connected with this Bureau. On the completion of his duties, he will return and report to this Office.

Quartermaster's Department will furnish transportation.

(Signed) Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vols
and A.A. Comr

Official
W W. Deane
Capt & A A G

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner. Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
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Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga. Decr 5th 1865

Special Orders
No. 28

1 It having been reported at this office that certain parties have been and are now engaged in kidnapping colored people from this State and taking them to the Island of Cuba to be sold into Slavery, Capt C. C. Richardson, A. S. A. Comr of this Bureau is ordered to thoroughly investigate this charge, and to arrest all persons who may have aided or abetted in any such wicked and unlawful undertaking

2. In compliance with instructions from Major General Howard, Commissioner of Bureau Refugees, Freedman, and Abandoned Lands, and of a Resolution of the State Convention of Georgia, passed October 30th 1865, the following named persons are appointed Agents of this Bureau for the Counties set opposite their respective names:-
John W. Brinson  Jefferson
Pleasant Walden  Jefferson
James W. Carswell  Jefferson
W. B. Wigham  Jefferson

[[left margin]]

Hd Qrs Depmt of Georgia Augusta Ga Dec 15th 1865
Capt CC Richardson is authorized to send for persons & papers and to examine under oath [[witness]] lending their knowledge of the matter he is charged with the investigation of & to use all the military force required to compel a compliance with his orders to citizens to appear before him to testify
All officers in the military in this Department to whom he may apply are directed to furnish him such assistance as he may require
(Signed) James B Steedman
Maj Genl Com

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received,
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George Dyson  Wilkes
Bryan McGuire  Wilkes
(Signed) Davis, Tillson
Brig. Genl. Vols
and A.A. Comr

Official
W W. Deane
Capt & A A G

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner. Registered Letters Received,
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Special Orders
No 30.
Major William Gray, Inspector Bureau, R.F and A.L for the State, will proceed to Washington Wilkes Co. Atlanta, and Chattanooga, on important business connected with the Bureau - on the completion of his duties, he will return and report at this office.

2 In compliance with instructions from Major General Howard Commissioner of Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, and of a Resolution of the State Convention of Georgia passed October 30th 1865, the following named persons are appointed Agents of the Bureau for the Counties set opposite their respective names:

James Davisson   Greene
Julius Gatewood   Baker
Benj F. Hall      Richmond

By command of
Brig Genl. Tillson. AA Comr

(Signed) W.W. Deane
Capt and A.A.G.

Official
W.W. Deane
Capt & AAG
T 74 encl

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

Special Orders
No 27

In compliance with instructions from Major General Howard, Commissioner of Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, and of a Resolution of the State Convention of Georgia, passed October 30th 1865, the following named persons are appointed Agents of this Bureau for the Counties set opposite their respective names

Daniel S. McCoy    Terrell
William B. Carter   Putnam
Davis Gammage      Macon
D.C. Sutton        White
Adam Robinson      Gynette
S.W. Lassitor      Dooly
William A. Burnside Lumpkin
Daniel E. Roberts  Screven
F.J. Robinson      Oglethorpe
John J. Sparrow    Pulaski
E.S Jackson        Campbell
W.J. Lawton        Dougherty
F.S. Billingham, Dougherty
Benj.F. Hardman Oglethorpe
Alfred S. Massengale Columbia

Official (Signed)
W.W. Deane
Capt & A A G

Davis Tillson
Brig. Genl. Vols and A.A. Com'r
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga. Dec 7th 1865.

Special Orders)
No 29)

1 In compliance with instructions from Major General Howard,
Commissioner of Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
and of a Resolution of the State Convention of Georgia, passed October
30th 1865, the following named persons are appointed Agents of this
Bureau for the Counties set opposite respective names

A. Lofton       Jasper
John S. Hunter  Jackson
W.H. Simmons   Rabun
J.M.C. Holeman  Worth
James P. Tyson  Lee

2 The Grist Mill at Athens Ga. on the Oconee River, near the "Cook and
brothers Armory buildings" now in the Custody of this Bureau is hereby
restored to the possession of Mrs. F.W.C. Cook

3 Captain C.T. Watson, Chief [Qr Mr?] of this Bureau for this State, will
proceed to Savannah, Ga on business connected with the Bureau - on the

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner. Registered Letters Received,
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completion of which, he will return and report at this Office

(signed) Davis Tillson
and A.A Com'y

Official
W.W. Deane
Capt & A.A.G.
T74 encl.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga, Nov 29th 1865.

Special Orders
No 25

Lieut Colonel Vincent Williams
145th Indiana Vols having reported at this office in compliance with S. O. No. 70 Head Quarters District of Columbus. 2nd Div Dept of Georgia, is relieved from further duty in this Bureau, and will report to Mayor General Wilson at Macon Ga

Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation

Official
N N. Deaw
Capt. & A A G

(Signed)
Daris Tillson
Brig Genl Vols
and A. A. Comd
General Orders
No. 6

Lieut. Gov. H. Pratt, 13th Com. Vols. Inf'y, having reported at this office in compliance with S.O. 92, C.S. Hd. Qrs. Department of Georgia, is assigned to duty in this office.

(Signed) Davis Fillson,
Rtg. Gen. Vols,
and A. A. Com't.

Official
N. N. Deane
Capt & A A G
Special Orders
No. 24

I. Major Wm. Gray, Inspector Bureau R. F. and A A. for State of Georgia, will proceed to Madison, Morgan Co. Ga, with guard, and investigate the outrages alleged to have been perpetrated upon the freed people of that section, on violation of the proclamations and orders of the President of the United States, and the laws of Congress.

Major Gray will arrest and bring to this place, under guard, any and all persons who have been engaged in the perpetration of such outrages.

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish necessary transportation.

(Signed) Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vols
and A. A. Com'r

Official
N. N. Deane
Capt. & A A G
Special Orders
No. 22.

Private John B. Bezzo, 19th U.S. Infantry, will proceed to visit the Post Offices at Atlanta, Macon and Milledgeville, and other points along the route of Rail Road, if necessary, for the purpose of finding and bringing to this Office an important communication addressed to the undersigned, which was mailed at Milledgeville on the 23d inst. by his Excellency the Provisional Governor. Several important papers sent over this route have already been lost, and Postmasters are particularly requested to aid private Bezzo in his investigations.

Upon the completion of his duties, he will return and repost at this Office.

(Signed) Davis Tillson,
and A.A. Com'r.

Official
W W. Deane
Capt & A A G
T 74 encl

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga Nov'y 24th 1865

Special Orders
No. 21.

Capt. C.T. Watson, Chief Gr. Mr. of this Bureau for the state of Georgia, will proceed to Dearing, GA. with guard to take possession of a certain Saw Mill and other property formerly belonging to the so-called Confederate States.

(Signed) Davis Tillson,
and Act. Ass't Com'd.

Official
W.W. Deane
Capt & A A G
T 74 encl
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga, Nov 15th 1865
Circular No. 4
Instructions to Agents of the Bureau appointed in compliance with
directions from the Commissioner of the Bureau at Washington D.C. and
of a resolution of the Georgia State convention, passed on the 30th day
of October, 1865.

Duties
1. They are charged with preserving the peace and maintaining order
among the freed people and enforcing contracts between them and their
employers. With examining and approving or disapproving contracts
and indentures of apprenticeship and with carrying into execution so far
as practicable, the provisions of Circulars No. 2 and 3, from this office.
They are further charged with protecting the Freedmen in the a
enforcement of their rights, as set-forth in laws of Congress, and the
proclamations and orders of the President of the United States. Viz. In
their freedom, in the security of their homes, and persons, in the sight to
compensation for their labor
and the peaceable enjoyment of the fruits thereof and in the right of testifying in cases where Freedmen are parties interested.

The attention of Agents is called to Paragraph 7. Circular .5. from the Bureau of Refugees. Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, approved by the President of the United States, which reads as follows, "In all places where there is an interruption of Civil Law, or in which local Courts by reason of old codes, in relation of the freedom guaranteed by the proclamation of the President and the laws of Congress, disregard the Negro's right of Justice before the laws, in not allowing him to give testimony, the control of all subjects relating to Refugees and Freedmen being committed to the Bureau, the Assistant Commissioner will adjudicate either themselves of through officers of their appointment, all difficulties arising between negroes themselves, or between negroes and white or Indians, except those in military service. So far as recognizable by military authority and not taken cognizance of by the other tribunals, civil or military of the United States.

2. Agents will immediately forward to this office one of the duplicate copies of contracts approved by them, in absence of mail facilities they
will forward the copy intended for this Office to the nearest Officer of the
Bureau or Army, with the request to transmit the same without delay.
Agents are directed to disapprove all contracts presented to them for
examination which do not give the Freedmen fair and reasonable
compensation. It is useless to expect reliable and profitable labor for
inadequate wages, or a successful working of the free labor systems.

Jurisdiction
3. Agents may hear and determine all questions between Freedmen and
others when the sum involved does not exceed fifty dollars, exclusive of
interest.

They may also take cognizance of and try offences committed by freed
people, or against them, provided the punishment does not exceed a
fine of fifty dollars, or thirty days imprisonment at hard labor. It is
recommended that the Agent associate with himself in the trial or
adjudication of cases, two disinterested persons, one to be chosen by
each of the parties interested. The tribunal, thus constituted, is
authorized to hear and adjust all questions arising under contracts for
labor by Freedmen.
or other cases involving a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars. This tribunal may also try offences committed by, or against Freedmen, provided the sentence imposed does not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars, or imprisonment at hard labor for sixty days. Agents will keep a concise record of all cases adjudicated by them including the fines imposed or other punishment inflicted.

4. It is preferred that all cases of any importance be tried before the duly constituted civil tribunals of the State, and whenever under the laws thereof, or by agreement of the parties and the consent of the Magistrate or Court, the testimony of Freedmen can be admitted, in cases where they are parties interested, the Agent will turn them over to the civil authorities for trials. Agent will endeavor to effect this arrangement whenever possible.

5. Should the civil authorities attempt to try cases involving the rights of freed people, and refuse under the laws and customs of this State to hear the testimony of Freedmen when offered. Agents will at once in a respectful
manner inform the Magistrate or Court that such proceedings are in violation of the orders of the President of the United States as shown by Paragraph 7. Circular 5. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, hereinbefore quoted and will further request the Magistrate or Court to discontinue such proceedings and in case of crime to turn the offender over to the military authorities for trial. Should the request be refused, the Agent will at once report the case to this Office and will be further call upon the named Officer of the Bureau a Military Commander for the assistance to suspend the execution of the sentence or judgment of such Magistrate or Court until the please of the Military Commander of this Department or the orders of the Commissioner of the Bureau at Washington, in the case, can be made known. Agents will, in a similar manner interfere to prevent the infliction upon the freed people of cruel and unusual punishments, which in a few instances have already been ordered by the civil tribunals of the State, as such acts are in violation of the Constitution of the Unites States.
manner inform the Magistrate or Court that such proceedings are in violation of the orders of the President of the United States as shown by Paragraph 7. Circular 5. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, hereinbefore quoted and will further request the Magistrate or Court to discontinue such proceedings and in case of crime to turn the offender over to the military authorities for trial. Should the request be refused, the Agent will at once report the case to this Office and will be further call upon the named Officer of the Bureau a Military Commander for the assistance to suspend the execution of the sentence or judgment of such Magistrate or Court until the pleasure of the Military Commander of this Department or the orders of the Commissioner of the Bureau at Washington, in the case, can be made known. Agents will, in a similar manner interfere to prevent the infliction upon the freed people of cruel and unusual punishments, which in a few instances have already been ordered by the civil tribunals of the State, as such acts are in violation of the Constitution of the United States.
Punishment

6 Agents are reminded that punishments should contemplate the reparation of the injury done individuals or society rather than the infliction of severe cruelty. Whipping having been abolished in the Army and Navy, is forbidden in the punishment of Freedmen. This is not intended to deprive the master of the right to enforce the obedience of his apprentice, as set forth in Chapter 4, Paragraph 1844. Code of Georgia, which states that "the master of an apprentice may use the same amount of force to compel his obedience, which a father may use with his child." It is suggested that fines, loss of wages, in whole or in part - imprisonment - imprisonment at hard labor solitary confinement on bread and water for a limited period, in extreme cases - labor with bull and chain or in chain gang, for the benefit of the person injured or on the public highway, or some such practicable and reasonable punishment, will amply suffice to enforce compliance with contracts and punish misconduct and lesser crimes, that the example afforded by such punishments will become
widely known and exert a arrest salutary influence. Punishment for crime must be the same without distinction of color. In case an offender resist the authority of an Agent, and refuse to be arrested, the Agent is authorized to accept the services of citizens who may be willing to aid him, as a posse comitatus. Should this force prove insufficient, the Agent will call upon the nearest Military Commander for aid to make the arrest.

Fees
7 Agents will be entitled to receive the following fees for the services from the employees or masters. Viz: In examining and approving or disapproving a contract for ten persons or less, one dollar. $1.00. And for each additional person over ten five cents. 05. For examining and approving or disapproving, an indenture of apprenticeship, one dollar. $1.00. For other official acts and services the same fees allowed by the Code of Georgia to Justices of the peace, Ordinaries, and other Officers for similar or parallel services. Fees will be paid by the party or parties in whose behalf the service is
rendered or by whose misconduct it becomes necessary. Should the laborer be unable to pay the fee, then the employer shall pay such fee and the same shall be charged against the wages of the laborer. Where crimes are committed against Freedmen, or practiced upon them by persons without property, the Agents fees for his services in bringing such persons to justice will be paid from the fund arising from fines imposed for cruelties practiced on Freedmen.

8. Agents are directed to consult, advise, and act in with the nearest Office of the Bureau in this State.

(signed) Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vols,
and Act Asst Comr

Executive Office Milledgeville Nov 21st, 1863

I believe that the foregoing regulations are in accordance with the views of the late convention and I approve them

(signed) J. Johnson, Governor
Headquarters Department of Georgia
Augusta Ga. Nov 29th 1865

The instructions of Brigadier General Tillson, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, contained in Circular No. 4, issued from his Headquarters at Augusta Ga Nov 15th 1865 to Agents of the Bureau, are approved, and all offices in the military service of the Government on duty in this Department are required to use all the troops under their command to execute their requirements.

James B Steedman
Major General Commanding

Official
W W. Deane
Capt and A.A.G.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. 

Special Orders
No. 20.


By Command of
Brig. Gen. Tillson, A. A. Com'd
(Signed) W. W. Deane,
Capt. and A. A. G.
T 74 encl
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Augusta, Ga. Nov'r 18th 1865.

Special Orders No. 19.

1. Capt. E.N. Ketchum, 176th N.Y. Vols., will proceed at once to
Washington, Wilkes Co., Ga., to arrest Nicholas Wiley and bring him to
this place.

Quartermaster's Dep't will furnish transportation.

(Signed) Davis Tillson,
& A.A. Com'y.

Official
W W. Deane
Capt & A A G
Charleston SC
Dec 28. 1865

Towles D.F.
I.B. 75 "T" A C S C & Ga 1865

Requests that his case may again be brought before the Board of Investigation as he has additional evidence to prove his innocence.

file

Recd Asst Com SC & Ga. Dec 28, 1865

Hd Qrs Assist Commissioner
Bureau R.F & A.L.
Charleston, So. Ca.
Decr 28th 1865

E.B. "727"

Respectfully referred to the Board of which Surgeon W.R. De Witt is senior member

The case of Mr Towles will be again taken up, and such evidence as he may bring forward be taken, and acted upon by the Board as they may see fit.

By order of
Bvt. Maj Genl R. Saxton
Asst Commissr
H W Smith
Assist Adjt Genl
Charleston So Ca
Decr. 28th 1865.

Maj H.W. Smith
A.A. Genl.

Major,
I have the honor to request that my case may again be brought before
the Board that investigated the case as I have additional evidence to
prove my innocence.

I am, Major,
Very Respectfully
Yours Obdt. Servt.
D.F. Towles
Jany 1st 1866

De Witt Jr W.R.
Surgeon U.S. Vols.

Kinsman O.D
Bvt Major. A.A.G.

Report upon the re-examination of Mr. D.F. Towles, late Agent. Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Hd Qrs Assistant Commissioner
Bureau R. F. & A. L. So Ca & Ga
Charleston S.C. Jan 1st 1866

Bvt Maj H. W. Smith
Asst Adjt Gen

Major

In accordance with the order endorsed on the enclosed communication of Mr. D.F. Towles, the board of which Surgeon W.R. DeWitt Jr is the Senior Member, was convened on the 1st inst, and the following evidence taken which with the recommendations of the Board are herewith respectfully submitted

Board convened at 10.30 A.M. Jan 1st 1866

Present Surgeon W.R. De Witt for U.S. Vols
Present Bvt Maj O.D. Kinsman, A.A. Gen Vols

Mr. A.C. Richmond called and sworn.

Ques Are you an Agent of the Bureau?
Ans Yes.

Ques What do you know of Mr Towles conduct as a Agent of the Bureau?
Ans I was with Mr Towles during last March and a part of April. He did well for the colored people -- preserved order among them & I believe that his dealings with the Government were all correct. He made speeches to the freedmen, exhorting them to be
honest, to work & I believe that Mr Towles did more than any other man could have done in that section of the country, and that he did much with but little assistance from the Government.

The witness also testified "that Mr Towles & his people were in much danger from Lieut Fox and Col Jenkins commanding Rebel Troops, and had two Flag of Truce talks with the Confederates, and at one time Gen Hartwell had orders to go to Mr Towles help but the last surrender of Gen Johnston stopped the expedition."


By the Board State what you know of Mr Towles.

Witness I became acquainted with Capt Towles about the 15th of last July, and have known him intimately ever since. I have found him to be a working man for the freedmen, and never knew him to be engaged in any fraudulent work or business since my acquaintance with him. Capt Towles has always been a popular man, both with the freedmen and the whites that came under his jurisdiction. I found Capt Towles to be of a great deal of service to the military authorities during my stay there.

Ques Were you ever cognizant of any transactions
Ques. Were you ever cognizant of any transactions between Mr Towles and Mr Evans?

Ans. No Sir.

Mr. John Corcoran called and sworn.

Ques. What is your business?

Ans. A school teacher.

Ques. Where do you live?

Ans. In Charleston.

Ques. So you know Mr Towles?

Ans. Yes Sir.

Ques. Have you lived with him?

Ans. Yes Sir. I have lived with him from May last until the present time, except in Sept and Oct.

Ques. What do you know of Mr Towles?

Ans. I have never known him to defraud any man while I was with him, and I know that he has done all he could for the freedmen. Have seen him buy provisions for the colored people with his own money, when he had no rations to give them.

Ques. Do you know anything of the transaction between Mr Towles and the freedmen?

Ans. Not with the freedmen. I have known of his buying corn of a store-keeper in St. Paul's Parish. I have known of his levying a tax on the able bodied freedman, and issuing it as a ration to the aged freedmen.

Ques. Were you ever cognizant of any transactions between Mr Towles and Mr Evans?

Ans. No Sir.
between Mr Towles and Mr Evans?
Ans  Not of my own knowledge

Mr Henry Hollings called and sworn.
Ques  What is your business?
Ans  I am a clerk.
Ques  Where do you live?
Ans  Corner of Lime and King St Charleston.
Ques  Do you know anything of a transaction between Mr Towles and Mr Evans in regard to cotton?
Ans  No Sir.
Ques  How long have you been acquainted with Mr Towles?
Ans  About two years.
Ques  What do you know of Mr Towles character?
Ans  I believe him to be honest, a gentleman, and that he did all he could for the freedmen.

Gen Gilbert (col) called and sworn.
Ques  Where do you live?
Ans  On Wadmalaw Island.
Ques  Do you know Mr Towles?
Ans  Yes Sir
Ques  How long have you known him?
Ans  Since the middle of March last.
Ques  How did Mr Towles treat the colored people?
Ans  He did all he could for them.
Ques  Do you know if he had a cotton mill?
Ans   Yes Sir. He had one.
Ques Where was it?
Ans   On the place where he stayed, on Wadmalaw Island.
Ques  Who managed that mill?
Ans   A white man named Lancaster, and a colored man.
Ques  Do you know Mr Evans?
Ans   Yes Sir. I have seen him often.
Ques  Do you know if Mr Towles bought any cotton of Mr Evans?
Ans   I do not know of my own knowledge.
Ques  Where did Mr Towles get the cotton that was ginned in the mill?
Ans   I do not know.
Ques  Did Mr. Towles give rations to the colored people?
Ans   Yes Sir.
Ques  What orders did Mr Towles give in regard to the rations?
Ans   He gave us orders to deal out the rations right, and not to cheat the Government, and to get along the best we could without taking too much from the Government. Witness also testified to Mr Towles being very kind to the colored people, giving out provisions, out of his own house, even to the last he had. Has heard him in the church, tell the...
people to live right and to take as little as they could from the
Government.

James McDaniel (col) called and sworn.

Ques  Where do you live?
Ans  On Stone River.

Ques  Do you know Mr Towles?
Ans  Yes Sir.

Ques  Have you worked for him?
Ans  Yes Sir.

Ques  Do you know if Mr Towles owned a cotton mill?
Ans  Yes Sir. I did own one.

Ques  Where was this mill?
Ans  On Wadmalaw Island.

Ques  Who worked it for him?
Ans  Mr Lancaster, a white man.

Ques  Did you work with Mr Lancaster at the mill?
Ans  Yes Sir.

Ques  Do you know if Mr Towles bought any cotton of Mr Evans?
Ans  No Sir. I do not know.

Ques  Did you have much cotton at the mill to give?
Ans  No Sir.

Ques  Do you know where the cotton came from?
Ans  No Sir.

Ques  How many hands did you have in the mill?
Ans  Some twenty five or thirty (25 or 30) and I used to run a cotton mill
with half the hands.
Ques Why did Mr Towles have so many hands?
Ans To give them employment

Ques How much did he pay them?
Ans Seventy five (75) cents a day & found

Ques Where the Mr Towles get the rations that he gave these hands?
Ans I do not know.

Ques Were you ever with Mr Towles in Charleston when he bought the provisions?
Ans Yes sir. I know the store on King St. where he bought them.

Ques How often were you with him at that store?
Ans Once.

Ques Have you seen Mr Towles pay his hands for bringing down his provisions in the boat?
Ans Yes sir, regularly.

Ques Was Mr Towles kind or cross to the hands?
Ans I never wish to work for a better man.

Ques Did he pay wages in provisions or money?
Ans Always in money.
Ques  Often?
Ans  Yes Sir.

Ques  Who gave out the rations?
Ans  George, a colored man.

Ques  Then Mr Towles did not give them out?
Ans  No Sir.

Ques  Did George give them out fair?
Ans  Yes Sir.

George Gilbert (col) recalled

Ques  Did Mr Towles pay you for taking care of these rations
Ans  Yes Sir, he paid me in money out of his pocket.

Ques  Did he pay you out of his own pocket or from Government?
Ans  He paid me regularly, but I cannot say whose the money was.

Ques  Did he pay you while the Commissary was there?
Ans  No Sir.

Ques  Did you ask him for the money?
Ans  Yes Sir. I did, and he told me that he had not got it. He paid me finally in Sept.

Ques  Did he tell you that he would pay you when he got his wages?
Ans  Yes Sir.

Richard Brown (col) called and sworn.

Ques  Where do you live?
Ans On Wadmalaw Island.

Ques Do you know Mr Towles?

Ans Yes Sir.

Ques What do you know about him?

Ans I know that he has been very kind, has given rations to the old and sick.

Ques Do you think him a good or bad man?

Ans I think him a very good man - that he has done all for the colored people he can.

Ques Do you know of Mr Towles ever doing anything dishonest?

Ans No Sir. He always taught us to do right towards the Government, since they had done so much for the colored people.

Ques Did you ever hear any of the colored people speak harshly of Mr Towles?

Ans No Sir. They all spoke very well and kindly of him - all liked him.

Maj Gadsden (col) called and sworn.

Ques Where do you live?

Ans On Wadmalaw Island.

Ques Do you know Mr Towles?

Ans Yes Sir.

Ques How has he treated the colored people there?

Ans Very kindly, has been honest and good to them, has given rations to the sick and destitute.

Mr H.C. Lancaster called and sworn.
Ques Where do you live?
Ans On Wadmalaw Island.

By the Board State what you know in regard to Mr Towles.

Witness I have been living with him, keeping his books &c and superintending his saw-mill.

Ques What do you know about the transaction in regard to cotton, between Mr Towles and Mr Evans?
Ans I know that Mr Towles bought six thousand (6000) lbs of cotton of Mr Evans, was to gin it out, and half the proceeds was to go to Mr Evans. Mr Evans stated that he had permission from Maj Saxton to buy the cotton. Mr Towles at first refused to buy the cotton, but agreed to on Mr Evans assuring him, that he had permission from Maj Saxton.

Ques Why did Mr Towles refuse to buy the cotton at first?
Ans He thought it might interfere with his business as an agent of the Bureau.

Ques What did you consider that cotton to be worth at the time it was bought.
Ans I would not have bought it at one (1) ct per pound.

Ques Have you been in the habit of buying and selling cotton?
Ans I have had some experience in it.

Ques What further do you know about the transaction?
Ans Mr Towles said he did not think Mr Evans...
ought to have that money as his own, and that he should report it to Capt Low, and afterwards told me that he had done so.

Ques Why did Mr. Towles pay this money to Mr Evans when he believed he ought not to have it?

Ans He was anxious to secure the cotton, in order to give employment to the colored people. There were a great many destitute there. He employed twenty-five or thirty (25 or 30) hands, where ten or twelve (10 or 12) would have done, if he had wished to be economical.

The Board on careful review of the evidence are of the opinions -- that Mr. Towles has satisfactorily proved his character (prior to the fate of the cotton transaction referred to) to have been that of a charitable and upright man - that with the exception of that transaction, his conduct and dealings as an agent of the Bureau were perfectly correct. The opinion of the Board as to the fraudulent character of the transaction, is however unaltered, and the Board can only express their surprise, that a man of such good character formerly, could so far forget himself as to become a party to such a transaction.

In view solely of the facts, as shown by the evidence - that this transaction was the only blot
on Mr. Towles official record in the Bureau - that it would appear to have been in part induced by a desire to employ the destitute, and thus relieve Government of their support - that he voluntarily revealed the transaction to Capt Low, and that his pecuniary gain in the transaction was inconsiderable, the Board would recommend that so much of Gen Orders No 20, dated at these Hd Qrs, Dec 4" 1865, as dismisses Mr Towles from the service of the Bureau, be revoked, and that he receive an honorable discharge from the service.

W.R. De Witt Jr
Surgeon U.S. Vols
O.D. Kinsman
Bvt Maj & A.A.Gen Vols
Dec 16. 1865

Treasury Dept.
Hugh McCulloch
Sec of Treasury

I.B. 76 "T" A C S C & Ga 1865

In relation to $40,000/00 Contraband Fund in hands of Treasury, Calls attention to Circular from President in relation to such funds (enclosed)

One enclosure

Rec.d A C S C & Ga Dec 28. 1865
Treasury Department  
Dec'r 16th 1865.

Sir:

Referring to a communication of the 23d ultimo from Brevet Col. Bullock, "Chief Disbursing Officer Freedmens Bureau," stating the desire of Gen'l Rufus Saxton to receive a transfer from the Treasury Department of about $40,000.00, said to have been deposited by him in former years with Hiram Barney as the surplus of receipts over expenditures in the management of the abandoned lands in South Carolina, on the ground that the money was the product of the labor of freedmen. I have the honor to call your attention to the enclosed circular, promulgating an Executive Order of Sept 7th last, by which such transfer of funds to the Freedmens Bureau is prohibited, and to my letter of October 4th, in answer to a similar application. It is not known to this Department
that the President's order, above referred to, has been modified, except with regard to the State of Alabama.

Respectfully
(signed) H. McCulloch
Secretary of the Treasury.

Max Woodhull
Col. and Asst. Adjt. Genl.
EXECUTIVE ORDER

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
SEPTEMBER 7, 1865.

It is hereby ordered, that so much of the Executive Order bearing date the 7th of day of June, 1865, as made it the duty of all officers of the Treasury Department, military officers, and all others in the service of the United States, to turn over to the authorized officers of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, all funds collected by tax or otherwise, for the benefit of refugees or freedmen, or accruing from abandoned lands or property act apart for their use, be, and the same is hereby, suspended.

ANDREW JOHNSON,
President.

Treasury Department
September 14, 1865.

The foregoing Executive Order is promulgated for the information and guidance of Officers of the Treasury Department, who are hereby instructed to shape their action accordingly, and to turn over no more Funds of the character specified until otherwise directed.

H. McCulloch
Secretary of the Treasury.
Hd.Qrs. Sub. Dist of Coosahatchie
Lawtonville S.C.
September 10 '65
I.B. 1 "U" A.A. S.O Ass't Com'r SC & Ga 65

Upham John J.
Capt 6th Inft.
Comdg S.D.C.

Requests to be supplied with a quantity of Blank Contracts and Copies of orders from H'd. Q'rs. Asst Com'r Bureau Refugees etc.

Blank Contracts and Copies
Genl. Ord. from these H'Q'rs. furnished through Lt. Lily 104 U.S.C.T.
R'd. A.A.G.O. Asst Com'r SC & Ga Sept 10 '65
Head Quarters Sub District of
Coosawhatchie Lawtonville S.C.
September 11th 1865

Sir

I have the honor to request that I be furnished with a quantity of blank
Contracts and Copies of Orders from the Freedmans Bureau relating to
the subject of Contracts between the Freedmen and Planters and also
any Orders issued by the Bureau which you may consider necessary for
my guidance

I am, sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

John J. Upham
Capt 6th Inf
Comdg S. D. C.

Apt Adj General
Hd. Qrs. Freedmans Bureau
Beaufort S C.
Hd Qrs Sub Dist
Coosawhatchie Oct 3. 1865
Upham J J
Capt 6th U.S.I. Comd Dist
Reports for instructions
I.B. 2 "W" Asst Com S.C. & Ga. 1865

Re'd A A G O Asst Com SC & Ga Oct 10.1865
Head Quarters Sub. Dist
Coosawhatchie Lawtonville
Oct 3rd 1865-

Maj Genl Rufus Saxton
Asst Commissioner B.R.F & A.L.

General -
In compliance with Sp'cl Or 79. Hd Qrs Dept of S.C. I have the honor to report to you for instructions - All communications sent to the care of District Commander of Port Royal Hilton Head S.G. will reach me weekly by Courier

Very Respectfully
John J. Upham
Capt 6th U.S. Infty
Comd'g Sub. Dist
Head Qrs A.S.A.C.
Lawtonville S.C.
Dec 20. 1865

Upham J.J.
Capt. 6th U.S.I. and
A.S.A. Commr

I.B. 3 "U" A C S C & Ga 65

Makes report on the state of affairs of Freedmen in his District.

Rec'd A C S C & Ga Dec 26. 1865
U 3 encl

Head Quarters A.S.A Commr
Bureau R.F. and A.L.
Laytonville S.C. Dec 20th.65.

Maj H.W. Smith
Asst Adjt General.
Bureau R.F. and A.L.

Maj.
I have the honor to inform you that during the past and previous month the instructions in your Circular with reference to the fact of the Gov having no lands to distribute among the freedmen has been disseminated among them as widely as possible. Meetings have been called in various parts of the Sub. Dist and the Substance of your Circular read to them - it has been found exceedingly difficult to convince them that they are to receive no lands. Some in the face of my remarks preferred not to believe it- and many are refusing to enter into
any Contracts till after the 10th of January next - believing they are still to obtain lands. - This appears to be particularly the opinion of the Freedmen between Parrysburgh and Savannah - who have disseminated this belief in this Sub. Dist.

There is great demand for labor among the Planters for the Coming Year. at fair and even liberal wages and the freedman will have no excuse for their failure to make Contracts -

The times that are very generally offered by the Planters are as follows. 2/3 to the Employees where the Planter furnishes the land and houses only

1/2 When Each forty bears 1/2 the Plantation expenses -

1/3 to the Employees when the Planters furnishes every thing including the Animals - their feed Plantation utensils &c.

I have encouraged this scale of wages when an interest is given in the crop and approved all Contracts made in accordance to it.

(over)
Addresses have been made to the freedmen in five different localities with-in the Sub. Dist. When the nature of their rights and duties have been explained to them as expressed in your second orders and Circulars - They have been urged to make contracts for the Coming year, and told they had no excuse for not doing so as they had the right to choose their own employer. They have been notified they must all have contracts or some means of support by the 1st of January next. That the Government would not tolerate idleness and vagrancy and that those would be arrested after that date who had not some employment.

Should it meet with your approval it is my intention to open an intelligence Office on the 1st day of January to assist all those who have no employment to find places and to obtain such for those who are arrested as vagrants. Numbers of vagrants have during the past fall found situations from my jail who otherwise would not have seen the necessity of seeking employment for themselves and at present it has not a single occupant.

Please communicate if these views meet with your approval.

Very Respectfully
John Upham
Capt 6th U.S Infty A.S.A. Commr

[[note]] File [[/note]]
War Dept. A. G. office
Washington June 29, 65
1.B. 3 "w" B.R & F. Bfh '65

War Department
per J.D. Townsend
A.A.G.

Spt. Ord. No 341 Par 2
Brev Maj Genl R. Saxton Ass't Com. for L.C. Ja & Fls.

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received,
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
SPECIAL ORDERS.
No. 341.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL’S OFFICE,
Washington, June 29th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
2. Brevet Brigadier-General Isaac R. Sherwood, U. S. Volunteers, is hereby assigned to duty in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, and will report, without unnecessary delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton, Assistant commissioner for South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, at Beaufort, South Carolina.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Brevet Major Genl Saxton
Bri Genl Howard

Recd. A. A. G. O. Bureau R. F. & A. L. SC & Ga
July 14'65

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner. Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
I.B. 4 "W" Ass't Comr. B.R. etc S.C. Ga. '65

War Department
per E.D. Townsend
Ass't Adjt Gen'l

Spl Ord No 355 Par 33

Rd. A.A.G.O. Bureau Ass't Comr R etc S.C. Ga. Fla July 21 '65
SPECIAL ORDERS,}
No. 355,}

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 7th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
33. Captain Charles H. McCreery, 8th Michigan Volunteers, is hereby
detailed for duty in the Bureau of Freedmen, and will report, without
delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton, Assistant Commissioner at
Beaufort, South Carolina, for assignment to duty.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Bvt Major Genl R Saxton
Asst. com. at Beaufort
tho. Maj. Genl. Howard

Recd Bureau F R & A L July 10/65
fwd [[forwarded]] same day
War Department
Adjt Genl. Office
Washington D.C. July 11 '65

I.B. 5 "W" Asst Com. B. F etc S.C. Ga '65

War Department
per E.D. Townsend
Ass't Adjt Genl.

Spl. Ord No 362 Par 42-
Accepts the Resignation of Capt William H. Dimond
Ass't Adjt Genl. to take effect July 8th 1865.

R'd A.A.G.O. Bureau R. etc S.C. Ga & Fla July 21 '65
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL’S OFFICE,
Washington, July 11th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
42. Under the provisions of General Orders, No. 79, May 1st, 1865, from this Office, the services of the following named officers being no longer needed, their resignations have been accepted by the President, to take effect July 8th, 1865:-
Captain William H. Dimond, Assistant Adjutant General, U. S. Volunteers.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Brevet Major General Saxton
M.I.V.
Beaufort S. C.
War Department
Bureau of R.F. and A.L.
Washington July 13 '65
I.B. 6 "W" Ass't Com'r B.F etc S.C. & Ga. '65
War Department
Per Sam L. Taggart
Ass't Adjt. Genl
Spc. Ord. No 27 Par II.
Cap't Chas H McCreery
8th Mich Inf Vols, has permission to delay reporting to Genl. R. Saxton for the period of 30 days.

R'd. A.A.G.O. Bureau R etc S.C. Ga. Fla July 21 '65
War Department
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, July 13, 1865.

Special Orders,
No. 27

II Capt. Chas. H. McCreery 8th Mich Infty Vols detailed for duty in this
Bureau by Special Orders No [[blank]] War Dept. A.G.O. has permission
to delay reporting as required by said order for the period of thirty (30)
days for the purpose of visiting his home at Flint, Genesee Co.
Michigan.

By orders of Maj Genl. O.O. Howard.
Sam L. Taggart
Asst Adjt. Genl.

Bvt. Maj. Genl. R. Saxton
Asst. Commissioner
War Department
Adj Genl Office

Washington D.C. July 15 '65
I.B. of "W" B.R.F. & A.L.
War Department
per E.D. Townsend
Ass't Adj't Genl.

Spc. Ord No 372 Par 46
Maj M.R. Delany and Captain O.S.B. Wall 104th U.S.C.T. are hereby
relived from duty with that Regt, and ordered to report to Genl R. Saxton
for duty.

SPECIAL ORDERS,}
No. 372.}

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 15th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
46. The following named officers of the 104th U. S. Colored Troops are hereby relieved from duty with that regiment, and assigned to duty in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. They will report in person, without delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton, Assistant Commissioner for the States of South Carolina and Georgia:
Major Martin R. Delany.
Captain O. S. B. Wall.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Bvt. Maj. Genl. R. Saxton
thro. Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
Ordering to send in a report on the 1st of July '65, of all the expenditures in their Dept. Also a similar report at the end of each month, showing the amount of money on hand at the end of the preceding month.


Rec'd. Office Asst Comd. S.C., Ga., June 30 1865
War Department
Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands
Washington D.C. June 20th 1865

Special Orders
No 14

IV. The several Assistant Commissioners will on the first (1st) day of July next, make a detailed report of all the receipts and expenditures in their Departments for the six (6) months ending June 30th 1865 and will make a similar report at the end of each month thereafter. This report should show the amount of funds on hand at the end of the preceding month, and specify in detail, the amounts, and source from whence derived, during the term for which it is made.
(as for instance) Receipts,
From donations, (specifying separately)
From rent of lands.
From rent of buildings &c &c

(over)
Expenditures.
For Agricultural tools.
For Seeds.
For Cooking utensils
For lumber for buildings &c. &c.

Assistant Commissioners should take great pains to make this report as full and explicit as possible, so that at the end of the year, a complete financial report can be made to Congress.

By order of
Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Sam'l L. Taggart
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Br't. Maj. Genl. R. Saxton
War Department  
Bureau R.F. & A.L.  

Washington DC June 19/65  

War Depart  
Bureau Ref. F. & A. L.  
per J T Fullerton  
Asst' Adj't G.  

Orders to have forwarded an estimate of a fair compensation for 
Refugees and Freedman's labor within this Dist; also to forward a report 
of the number of Freedmen within this Dist able and unable to support 
themselves.  

attested to R.S.  
attended to  
R'd Office Ass't Com'r SC. Ga & Fla June 30/65  
War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington DC June 19 1865.

Brv Maj Genl R. Saxton,
Asst Commr for Ga. S.C. & Fla
Beaufort S.C.

General,
Please report to this office, as near as you can estimate the same, a fair rate of compensation for Refugees and freedmen's labor within your District. Report as soon as possible and classify somewhat as follows: Able bodied men field hands. Able bodied women field hands. Women, Cooks, house servants &c Mechanics tradesmen &c Boys and girls fourteen to fifteen years of age. State the rate of compensation with quarters, food clothing and medical attendance included and also the rate of the same not included. Also report as soon as possible an approximate estimate of the number of freedmen within your district, stating
the number who are not able to labor for their support.

By order of
Major Genl. O.O. Howard
J.S. Fullerton
Brev Col and A.A. Genl.
War Dept
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Washington June 20.65

War Dept
per O.O. Howard
Commissioner

Instructions in regard of fixing compensation of labor of Refugees & Freedmen.

File

R'd Office Asst Com't SC Ga & Fla June 30 '65

Rec'd Office Asst Com. S.C., Ga., & Fla.
June 30, 1865.
Washington June 20, 65

War Dept
per O.O. Howard
Commissioner

Instructions in regard of fixing compensation of labor of Refugees & Freedmen.

file

R'd Office Asst Comd. SC Ga & Fla June 30 '65

Rec'd Office Asst. Com. S.C., Ga., & Fla.
June 30, 1865.
War Department
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen &c.
Washington D.C. June 20, '65

Brvt Maj Genl R Saxton
Com't for S.C. G.A. & Fla.
Beaufort S.C.
General,

Much trouble arises on account of the difficulties of fixing just and equal rates of compensation for the labor of refugees and freedmen. I am disinclined to fix even minimum rates that should apply to any cases. The divinity of circumstances is so great that I believe justice can be better approximated by contracts approved by the Asst Com't Superintendent of freedmen or other officers on duty in connection with this Bureau. They must however satisfy themselves as to what is a just compensation for the different classes
of laborers in the localities coming under then immediate supervision. If
the Commissioner fixes a rate of compensation there will seldom be
paid anything beyond that rate. Be sure however to predict the
employee against labor without compensation. This employer is foliated
by his contract which the employer, when treated in good faith is bound
to fulfill.

O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl. + Commissioner
Hilton Head S.C.
July 29th 1865

Wight Charles M.
Surg. 32d US Col Troops

I.B. 12 "W" Asst Comd. B.R. etc S.C. Ga. '65

Applies for an order on the QuarterMaster Departmt for transportation to
New York for Mrs. Wight - Teacher-

Hd Qrs. Asst. Comr.
Bureau Refugees Etc S.C. & Ga
Beaufort S.C Aug. 2/65

Respectfully referred to Major S. W. Saxton A.A.D.C.

Stuart M. Taylor
A.A.G.

E.B. Ass't Comr. B.R.F & A.L. SC Ga & Fla "14" 65
Rec'd August 1/65
R'd Ass't Comr. Bureau R. etc S.C. Ga. & Fla Aug 2 '65
Hilton Head S.C.
July 29th 1865
Major S.M. Taylor A.A.G.

Sir

I have the honor to make application on an order on the Quarter Master of this Post for transportation to New York for Ms. Wright she has been engaged by the New York Freedmen association as Teacher and was Commissioned as such in March 1865.

Your Very Respectfully
Charles M. Wight
Serg. 32" Regt U.S.C.T.
War Department  
A.G Office  
Washington July 20, 1865  

I.B. 13 "W" Ass't Comr Bureau R. etc SC Ga & Fla '65

Special Order  
No: 384  
Extract - 32

Directs that Comds of Military Divisions replace officers mustered out of service, who have been doing duty in Bureau of Refugees etc by officers within their commands.

Rec'd. Ass't Comr Bureau R.F. & A.L. B't. S.C. August 3d 1865  
Recd August 3/65
SPECIAL ORDERS.
No. 384.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 20th, 1865.
(Extract.)

32. Commanders of Military Divisions or Departments, conferring with the Assistant Commissioners of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, will replace officers already detailed for duty with that Bureau, whenever they are mustered out of service, by officers or enlisted men serving in their respective Divisions or Departments.

By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Official:
ED Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Bvt. Maj. Genl. R. Saxton
Asst. Com'y for the States S.C. Ga. and Florida
thru. Maj. Genl. Howard
Circular
When officers on duty with the Freedmen's Bureau are discharged the service, to have them replaced by officers who are not liable to muster out.

Rd. Ass't Comr. Bureau R etc. SC Ga Fla Aug 3 '65
War Department
Adjutant Generals Office
Washington July 19, 1865

Circular

Commanding General
Department So. Car. Ga. and Fla.
Hilton Head S.C. Augusta, Ga. Tallahassee Fla.

When Officers on duty in the Freedmens Bureau are discharged by reason of the muster out of their repeating requirements, please replace them, after conference with the Asst. Comr. of the Bureau of Refugees Freedmen &c by Officers or enlisted men of your command not liable to muster out.

By order of the Secretary of War
(sgd) Thomas M. Vincent
Asst. Adj't. Genl.
(over)
Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of Bvt Maj Genl

Sam'l L Taggart
Asst Adj't Genl

Bureau Refugees &c
Washington July 20, 1865
War Department
Adj Genl Office
Washington D.C. July 15 '65

I.B. 15 "W" Ass't Com B.R etc SC Ga & Fla '65

War Department
per E.D. Townsend
A.A.G.

Spl. O. 372 Par 51 —
The muster out of Lt Col Ralph Ely 8 Mich Vols is suspended, until his
services can be dispensed with by the Bureau of R. F and A.L.

Rd. Ass't Com'r Bureau R etc SC Ga & Fla Aug 7 '65
SPECIAL ORDERS,
No. 372.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 15th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
51. The muster out of service Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Ely, 8th Michigan Volunteers, (Brevet Colonel of Volunteers.) is hereby suspended until his services can be better dispensed with by the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Lt. Col. Ralph Ely
tho. Maj. Genl. Howard
Office Ass't Comr.
Savannah Ga June 28 '65

I.B. 16 "W" Ass't Com B. Ref etc Bft S.C 65

Wild Edw. A
Brig Genl. Ass't Com'r

Appoints Mr J. E. Bryant Augusta Ga as Sub-Com'r in the Freedmen's Bureau.

Rd. Ass't Com'r Bureau Ref etc S.C. Ga Fla Aug 3 '65
Office Assistant Commissioner  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Savannah Geo June 28th 1865

Mr J E Bryant  
Augusta Geo

Sir

You are hereby appointed Sub Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, for Augusta Geo, and its vicinity on both sides of the Savannah River. You will represent this Bureau in all respects, performing all the functions and assuming all the powers, confined upon the Assistant Commissioner by the Act of Congress and by General Orders, so far as applicable within your district, following on'the instructions you may receive from time to time, from your supervisors within said Bureau.

By authority of Bvt. Maj Genl R. Saxton  
Asst Comssr for the States S.C. Geo + Fla.  
Edwd A Wild  
Brig Genl U.S. Vols  
Assistant Commissioner
Beaufort S.C.
July 24' 1865

I.B. 17 "W" Ass't Comr. B. Ref etc Bft SC. 65

Whyte Alex jr
2nd Lieut 128th U.S.C.T.


Rec'd AAG.O. Bft S.C. July 29/1865
Rec'd. July 29, 1865

Hd.Qrs. Port Beaufort
July 28 1865


It is the opinion of Lt. Whyte (who was sent by me to listen to the speech of which the within is a memorandum) that the general tone of the speech was such as to produce discontent among the Freedmen.

C. H. Howard
Col. 128th U.S.C.T.
Comdg. Post.
Memorandum of extracts from speech by Major Delaney, African, at the Brick Church, St. Helena Island, S.C. Sunday July 23d 1865.

I came to talk to you in plain words as as you can understand how to throw open the gates of oppression and let the captive free-xxxx. In this state there are 200 in able, intelligent, honorable negroes, not an inferior race, mind you, who are ready to protect their liberty xxxx. The matter is in your own hands. Yes I will fight them and take them man by man, xxxx. I want to tell you one thing, do you know that if it was not for the black man this war never would have been brought to a close with success to the union, and the liberty of your race. If it had not been for the negroes, I want you to understand that- do you know it, do you know it, do you know it, cried of yes, yes, yes. - they can't get along without you, xxxx, Yankees from the north who come
down here to drive you as much as ever it was before the war. Its slavery over again northern, universal U.S. slavery, xxxx, but they must keep their clamps off xxxx. If I were a slave I would be the most worthless one on the plantation. I would not do anything. xxxx. They (i.e. before the war) have often told you, Sam, you lazy nigger, you don’t earn your salt, if you don’t do better I’ll sell you to the first trader that comes along, at the same time they were making their thousands annually on every one of you, xxxx. And so it is with these Yankees from the north, they don’t pay you enough. I see too many of you are dressed in rags, and shoeless xxxx, these Yankees talk smooth to you, o yes’ their lung like a drum. (laughter) but its slavery over again as much as ever it was xxxx. They have often told you, Sam, you lazy nigger, you don’t earn your salt. If you don’t do better I’ll sell you to the first trader that comes along at the same time they were making their thousands annually, by every one of you, xxxx. And so it is with these Yankees from the north, they don’t pay you enough. I see too many of you are dressed in rags, and shoeless xxxx, these Yankees talk smooth to you, o yes’ their lung like a drum, (laughter) but its slavery over again as much as ever it was xxxx. I expect Gen, Saxton back very soon, he is working with me, when this matter will be settled - I mean about lands - when you can plant and work your own farms. - Don’t be anxious for large places, 40 acres is enough, cotton will bring 30. 1
for two years to come that is putting it at a low estimate (here be explained a mathematical calculation, showing that they could make $900 per year on this staple) and then your little cabins will be floored, barns built, and carpet will take the place of bare floors, xxxx. (The last paragraph is well a.w.fr.) But you must only deal with the Good accredited agents, recognize none but authorized cotton agents. I know that cotton has been raised by you, these fellows have told you they would send it north and sell it for you. Months pass, and when you ask for money they will tell you the cotton is not yet sold. xxxx, there are good Yankees and when you come across a good Yankee he is smart, xxxx. (Here followed a description of a Yankee, the figure is yellow trousers, & claw hammer coat, dealing in wooden houses and nutmegs.) (and calculated to impress the negroes with feelings of indignation towards the white people from the north now residing here, engaged in the products of this climate.) But what I don't like, and what we won't have is these
fellows from the north, who were nothing at home, and ape the southerner, with a big broad brim hat. He has his overseer too, a chuckleheaded slave driver on the fence or in the crotch of a tree, and say Sam or Jim do this do that, light my pipe, as lazy as any southerner or overseer was. They promise you, .30¢ task you are to get 1/3 crop - and I will see that you get it __ xxxx, you must not think that you are yankees, you are negros the same as I am, xxxx, (he gave the idea that the real yankee is smart - but those here were not conscientious.) __ xxxx, there is something rotten in Denmark. ___ xxxx.

Alexander Whyte Jr.
2d. Lieut. 128. USC Troops
June 25th, 1865

I.B. 19 "W" Ass't Comr B. Ref etc Bft SC 65

Wild Edw. A.

Forwards names of Comd Officers to be detailed on his staff.

Rcvd A.A.G.O. Ass't Comr B. Ref etc Bft S.C Aug 10 65
Application made to Maj. Gen. Gillmore
June 25th 1865 for the following Staff Officers

Major John M. Gould 29th Maine Vols now Georgetown

to be referred to respective regiments
Separate application already made.

Capt. Walter H. Wild - 36th U.S.C.T. ) have always been on my staff -
    nearly 2 years.
    A.C.

Frank H. Scudder - Captain and C.S. - now at Petersburg Va. or late,
    Post Commissary
    now or late, Post Q.M.
Capt. Constantin Nitzsche - 37 U.S.C.T.
Chaplain Wm A. Green - 37 U.S.C.T.
Hilton Head S.C.
August 17th 1865

IB 21
I.B. 17 "W" Ass't Comr B. Ref etc Bft S.C. 65

Wight, Charles W
Surgeon 32d U.S.C.T.

Requests that Major (Bvt) Stuart M Taylor A.A.G. will act as his counsel when he is tried by a General Court Martial.

answered August 18, 1865

Rec'd. A.A.G.O. Bft. S.C. Aug. 17, 1865
Hilton Head S.C.
Aug 17th 1865

Brevet Major Stewart Taylor A.A.G.

Sir
The Court, for my trial, has been convened.

If it is possible for you to act as my Counsel I wish you would.

On Saturday night last I was notified by the A.A.S.C. [?] Head Quarters that all charges had been withdrawn against me, and was restored to duty.

On Tuesday 15th I was notified that I would be tried on the first set — and to day I am notified that I am to be tried on the 2d set also.
I don't understand why there is so much confusion in the matter.


please reply by return of mail whether you will consent to act or not.

I am yours very Respectfully
Charles M Wight
Surgeon 32 Rgt
U S C T
I.B. 260 "W" D SC & Ga 1865
Charleston S.C.
I.B.W. 185. M.D. of C.
Aug. 9th 1865
I.B. 20 "W" Ass't Com'r R.F. & A.L. Bft. S.C 65
I.B. W 110 P of C.

Wall O.S.B.
Capt 104th U.S.C.T.

Makes statement in regard to the treatment of Colored people, dressed in Soldiers clothes, by the Poor. Marshal at Charleston S.C.

R'd back Ass't Com'r B. Ref etc Bft SC Aug. 29 '65
R'd Ass't Com'r R.F. & A.L. Bft S.C Aug 14/65

EMBB 13 39 P of c
Hd. Qrs. Asst. Com'r
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
S.C. Ga. & Florida
Bft. S.C. August 14, 1865
E.B. "33" Ass't Com'r [[strikethrough]] R.F. & A.L. Bgt. S.C
[[strikethrough]] 65
Respectfully referred to Maj'r General Q.A. Gillmore Comm's Dept. of South Carolina for his information & such action as he may deem proper in the case wit a segment that this paper may be returned.
R.Saxton
B't Maj'r General
Asst. Comm'r
[[stamp]] REC'D HD QRS. DEPT. SOUTH CAROLINA AUG 16 1865
[[stamp]]

HEADQUARTERS Dept. of South Carolina.
Hilton Head, S.C. Aug 16 1865
Resp'y referred to Bvt Major General J.P. Hatch, [[?]] Dist of Charleston, for remarks
These papers to be returned
By command of Major Gen'l QA Gillmore
I. D. [[Hodges?]].
Cap'n 35 U.S.C.F.
A.A.A. Gen'l

E.M.B.B. 39
[[?]]
[[?]] Aug 17

Resp'y refed to Gen'l Bennett who will ascertain report if the citizen bakery are allowed to wear soldiers uniform.
By Command of [[?]] Major General Hatch
[[?]]
Asst. Adj. Gen'l
Rec. [[?]] August [[?]]

Smithsonian Institution Transcription Center, Freedmen's Bureau
Brevt Major Gen R Saxton
Beaufort S.C.

Charleston So Car
Aug 9th 1865

General

I have the honor to Respectfully to submit for your consideration a very
brief statement of Sunday cases of cruel and unjust treatment of
Freedmen by officers and their subordinates now in authority in this city
which seems to be not only in violation of the laws of Congress and
Policy of the government as meant to apply to these people, but
consulting to refined society.

While our business at the Provost Marshal's office on the 3rd inst I
witnessed the disposal of several cases which came before that officer
among them was presented three colored lads or boys ranging in age
from 13 to 18 years old, by two white gards or Patrol, who stated to the
Marshal that they had taken these fellows with soldiers cloths on, the
Marshal turning to the boys very abruptly asked them how they came by
the clothes to which they very timidly replied they were given us by the
soldiers which all present could see were only the most miserable
discarded old cloths of soldiers.
The next moment the peremptory order was given by the Marshal to this orderly to take them out and make graves of them which seemed to mean to strip them. For in less than five minutes two of them was striped of every thing but their olde shirts and the third one had the legs of his Pants cut off several inches above his knees then driven into the street among the shouts and laughter of the vulgar crowd about the office, next two Colored Gards brought forward two Ex Rebs, dressed in pretty good union soldier clothes. Question by the Marshal, "how came you here" answer, "the Police took us last night and put us in the gard house, but we work at the Garment Bakery" Marshall to the gards, release them, I have just had an interview with five very intelligent freedmen direct from Clarendon district - about forty miles in the interview, who say positively they witnessed a few days ago the hanging to death of of Five of their Brothers and are here now to state the facts to Gen. Gilmore who is now in this city. I can give you a number of similar cases with the facts and circumstances if necessary With considerations of high regard I have the honor to be your obedient servant
O S B Wall Capt 104th U.S.C.T
Head Qrs 1st Sub District
Mil Dist of Charleston
Charleston Aug 19' 1865

E.M. B.B. 39 P of C

Respy referred to Maj Stuber Provost Marshal an immediate and thorough - investigation of the within charges - this paper our witness with a full report.
W.T. Bennett
Bt [[Brig?]] Genl

Officer Pro Marshal
Charleston SC
E.M. B.B. 39 P of C
Aug 21st, 1865

Respectfully returned with this report. The men in question were arrested for wearing the U C uniform no such [[primentory?]] order as specified in recent communication was given to the orderly to [[strikethrough]] strip them [][[strikethrough]]"make graves of them" and to me it is the first intimation I have of its meaning- Since I have been Provost Marshal no person has been driven into the streets in a [[such?]] [[state?]]; nor has any one been shown any favor on account of color. It was an established rule with Capt. Tucker 54 Mass Vol. whom I relieved as Provost Marshal to cause citizens arrested for wearing U C Uniform to have the pants cut off at the knee, and in dealing with such cases I have been careful to see that none were abused - [[strikethrough]] [[illegible]] in a [[illegible]] but generally have cautioned them not to be found dressed in the U C uniform again, relieving them with this reprimand. The Civilians at the Battery are not allowed to dress in the U C uniform

In regard to hanging of five Freedmen in Charleston Dist. as witnessed by five very intelligent Freedmen" I can learn nothing of the case
Levi Stuber
Maj 47 Pa Vol
Pro Marshal
E.B.15. V P.M. L B 3.12

[[strikethrough]] Head Qrs 1st Sub Dist
Mil Dist of Charleston
Charleston S.C. Aug 22' 1865 [[strikethrough]]
Respectfully returned and attention invited to endorsement of Major Stuber, Pro Marshal of the City and 1st Sub Dist. The order requiring that citizens should not wear the U.S. Uniform was issued by me and the Pro Marshal was charged with its execution. This order was necessary for the order and welfare of the city, as many serious robberies and assaults had been made by citizens, white and colored, disguised as soldiers. No favor to or prejudices against, having been shown either class on account of color by me while in command. After the order had been published two weeks, and many citizens were still found in uniform - in some cases having purchased the same from members of the 54th Mass Volts, even to equipments, letters and numbers it became necessary for some strict measures to be adopted, upon which was suggested to Capt Tucker, an officer of Colored Troops, the idea of cutting off the pants as a means of preventing their use. This however was without my sanction although I do not consider the idea barbarous in any respect. As to the charges relating to the hanging of five colored persons, no such report has reached this office, and I think Capt Wall has been guilty of misrepresentation.

W T Bennett  
Brevet Brig Genl Comm'dg  
Head Quarters Mily Dist of Charleston  
Charleston, S C Aug 25th 1865

EMB. 2227. M.D. of C.

Respectfully returned, attention invited to reports of Maj Stuber Provost Marshal, and Bvt Brig Gen Bennett Comdg 1st Sub Dist, M.D. of C. and Post of Charleston

Clarenden is within their District

Jno. P. Walch  
Bvt Maj General  
Comdg.

[[stamp]] REC HD QRS. DEPT. SOUTH CAROLINA AUG 27 1865  
[[stamp]]

Rec'd M.D. of C. Aug 24 '65

Hd.Qrs. Dept. So Ca.  
Aug 27th 1865

E.B.1305.
Respectfully returned to Bvt Maj Gen Saxton Com’r &c and attention invited to the within report of Major Stuber & Bvt. Gen Bennett. The most important item of Captain Wall’s statement (the hanging of five men in Clarendon District) has been referred to the Commanding Officer of the Dist. of Ea. So. Ca. in which Clarendon is situated with instructions to investigate & bring the guilty parties to prompt justice. The matter was not reported to me in Charleston.

Q A Gillmore
Maj. Genl.
Comdg

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
War Department
Adjt Genl Office
Washington D.C. Aug 4 '65

I.B 22 "W" Ass't Comr B. Ref etc Bft S.C. 65

War Department
per E.D. Townsend
A.A.G.

Spl Ord 419 Par 13
Musteriing out of U.S. service chaplain Mansfield French

Official Copy furnished
Mansfield French
- Aug 14 '65 -

R'd Ass't Com'r B Refs etc Bft S.C. Aug 14 '65
War Department,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, August 4th 1865.

Special Orders, }
No. 419.       }

(Extract)

13. Under the provisions of General Orders, no. 79, May 1st, 1865, from this Office, the services of the following named Hospital Chaplains being no longer needed, they are hereby honorably mustered out of the service of the United States.

Mansfield French.

By order of the Secretary of War:
(Signed.) E.D. Townsend,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS Dept. of South Carolina
Hilton Head S.C. Aug. 13th 1865.

T. D. Hodges
Capt. 35th U.S.C.T.
A.A.A.G.
Adjt. Genl's Office
Washington Aug 25 65

War Department
per Sec of War
per E. D. Townsend A. A. G.

Par 2. S.O. 458. Ordering Capt. O. D. Kinsman A.A.G. U.S. Vols to
report to Bvt Maj-Gen R. Saxtin.

J.B. 27 "W" B.R F & A L Bfr 65

Reported
Sept 8th-65

Rec'd [?]] Sept 2d '65 [[faintly written underneath words]]
Recd A.G.O. Asst. Com SC & Ga Sept 2" 65
SPECIAL ORDERS.)
No. 458.
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL’S OFFICE.
Washington, August 25th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
2. Captain O. D. Kinsman, Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, will report in person, without delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton, U. S. Volunteers, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, at Beaufort, South Carolina, for assignment to duty.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

[stamp]
BUREAU R.F. & A. L.
WASHINGTON.
REC'D
AUG 26
1865
[[stamp]]
tho
Gen. Howard.
Augusta Ga. Sept 1 1865

Wild E.A.
Brig. Gen S.A.C.

Transmits monthly report
required of freedmen &c

I.B. 36 W Asst Com S.C. & Ga. Bft '65

One Enclosure

file

Rec'd Sept 8, 1865
R'd. A.A.G.O Asst Com'r S.C. & Ga. Sept 8 65
Augusta Geo. Sept. 1, 1865

But. Maj. Gen. R. Saxton
Asst. Comm. Freed. Bureau for
South Carol, Georgia & Florida
Beaufort S.C.

Sir,
I have the honor to transmit herewith the required monthly reports. The report of lands SC amounts to nothing at all. We have no plantation whatever. And whatever buildings we hold, have been assigned to us by the military authorities, and have not been taken up by us; and most of them never can be. So that they would not make proper subject matter for a report.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Edw. A. Wild
Brig. Gen. Vols
Augusta Ga
Sept 1st 1865

Wild E.A.
Brig. Genl. S.A. Com

Roster of Employees

I.B. 37 W Asst Com SC & Ga Bft 65

file

Recd Sept 8/65
Rd. A.A.G.O. Asst Com'r SC & Ga Sept 8'65
Roster of Employees
Sept. 1. 1865.

at Albany.
Frank Clendenin  Major 147. Illinois  A.S.A. Commr  Post Commander

at Columbus.

at Macon.

at Augusta.
See enclosed list

At Headquarters.
J.V. De Hanne  Asst. Surg. U.S.V.  Hospital, Infirmary, &c at Augusta

Edwd. A. Wild
Brig. Gen. Vols
Augusta Ga.
Sept 1. 1865

Wild Edw. A.
Brig. Gen'l. Vols and Sub. Asst. Com'r

Charity Report
from May until Sept. 1.
1865 at Augusta Ga.

I.B. 37 "W." Asst. Com S.C. & Ga Bft. 65

R'd. A.A.G.O. Ass't Com'r SC & Ga. Sept 8 1865
Charity report

from May until Sept. 1st, 1865.

at Augusta Geo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>number persons average</th>
<th>number rations</th>
<th>value rations</th>
<th>amount clothing</th>
<th>value clothing</th>
<th>clothing whence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>asylums or infirmaries with laying-in-Hospital</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>3667</td>
<td>$564.73</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>donation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5359</td>
<td>$825.30</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>donation</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Institute at Largen mostly in camp including small-pox hospital (10) at Ham-burg - and including 3 whites (now 450)</td>
<td>52687</td>
<td>$8113.97</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>agents and employees</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>$67.20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers (including 2 at Ham-burg S.C.)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3211</td>
<td>$102.30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

at the other parts in Georgia these accounts have not yet been fairly opened.

Edw. A. Wild
Augusta Ga
Sept 1. 1865

Wild Edw A.

Report of Schools
at State of Georgia
I.B 37 W. Asst Com S.C. & Ga. Bft '65

Report of Schools Sept. 1st. 1865.

Under the Bureau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Scholars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg (South Carol.)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Not yet under the bureau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Scholars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waynesboro</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>about 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The schools at Augusta, Washington, Hamburg, have been under the superintendence of Mr. Wm. P. Russell, sent out by the Northern Missionary Society.
Those at Macon, & Atlanta were started by Prof. John Ogden sent out by the Western & Northwestern Freedman's Aid Commission.
The school at Greensboro is taught by two soldiers detailed.
Edw. A. Wild
Augusta Ga
Sept 1. 1865

Wild Edw. A.

Brig. Genl. U.S.V. Ass't Com'y

Roster of Employees
for the Month of Sept

Rec'd A A G O. Asst Com SC & Ga Sept 6/115
Re
Roster of employees September 1st 1865
At Augusta Geo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John E. Bryant</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>$150.00 (recommended)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Heasly*</td>
<td>Cap. 33. U.S.C.T</td>
<td>Asst. Agent</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td>District Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob R. Davis</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Asst. Agent</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly T. Hill</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>$50.00 recommended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Campbell</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Ass. Comsry</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Snowden</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Ass. Comsry</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. H. Tillman</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Ass. Comsry</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Coleman</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. H. Barefield</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Orderly</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Thomas</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Orderly</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Johnson</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Orderly</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. W. Boyd</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Steward at Hospital</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. L. Brooks</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Steward at Hospital</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Duboise</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Quares</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avaline</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asbury &amp; Wife</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>in charge of Assylum</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Beard</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>$75.00 (recommend)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Johnson</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>Hostler</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Capt. Heasly was murdered last night.*

Edw. A. Wild
War Dept. Adj. Genl. office
Washington D.C. Sept. 4 '65

Williams R.
Asst. Adj. Genl.

Acknowledges receipts of communications of 1st. Miss. regarding detail of Capt. Hill 13th U.S. Infty. and states that it has not been favorably considered.

file
official copy

War Department
Adjutant General's Office
Washington, September 4th 1865.
Major General O.O. Howard.
United States Volunteers
Commissioner Bureau of.
Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Washington D.C.

Sir:
Your communication of the 1st instant requesting that Captain George
W. Hill, 13th U.S. Infantry, be detailed for duty in the Bureau of
Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, to report to Brevet Major
General R. Saxton, Assistant Commissioner, Beaufort, S.C., has been
received.
In reply, I have the honor to inform you that your application has not
been formally considered.

I am sir:
Very Respectfully,
Your Obt. Servant.

(over)
(signed) R. Williams.
sgd R Williams
Asst Adj. Genl.

Official Copy
Sam'l L Taggart
A A Genl

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of Maj. Genl Saxton.
Hospital for Refugees and Freedmen
Beaufort S.C. Sept 25th 1865

Wakefield A.J. A.A.Surg U.S.A.

States that rations have been refused and its usefulness of the Hospital almost entirely destroyed

I.B. 44. "W" Asst Com SC & Ga Bft 65

Recd bk Asst Com SC & Ga Oct 10, 1865
Recd AAGO Asst Com SC & Ga Sept 25 65

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, South Carolina, Georgia, [strikethrough] and Florida [strikethrough] officer Surg in chief

Beaufort, S. C. Sept 25th 65

Respectfully forwarded
Act Asst Surg. A. J. Wakefield USA in charge of Hospital informs me that the ration reports were refused after approval by the Assistant Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedman, and abandoned Lands for S.C. and Ga. and the Post Commander at Beaufort S.C.

W. R. DeWitt Jr
Surg U.S. Vols
Surg. in chief

Headquarters Dept. of South Carolina
Hilton Head S.C. Sept 186
I.B. 2. W DSC. 1865.


By command of
Bt. Maj. Gen Chas. Devens

W.L.M. Burger
Lt. Col. & A.A.G.

[[stamp]] RECD HD. QRS.
DEPT. SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPT 27 1865 [[stamp]]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, South Carolina, Georgia, [strikethrough] and Florida [strikethrough]
Beaufort, S.C. Sept 25 '65

Respectfully forwarded to Headquarters Dept. of South Carolina, with a request that orders may be issued by the Mayor Genl Comdg; directing the Ch Com’y of Subsistence of the Dept of South Carolina to cause rations to be issued to this hospital. The patients are absolutely suffering for want of food.
Hospital for Refugees and Freedmen  
Beaufort S.C. Sept 25th 1865  

Surgeon W.R. De Witt, Jr. U.S.V.  
Surgeon in Chief etc.

Sir  
I have the honor to state that I have been refused any Rations for the  
Hospital for Refugees and Freedmen under my care by the Commissary  
of this Post and in consequence I am obliged to discharge all the  
patients that are in any way able to leave and to refuse to admit any  
more however sick or destitute as we have not enough in the Hospital to  
give those remaining what is absolutely necessary for dinner to day.

I am Very Respectfully  
Your Obl Svt  
A.J. Wakefield  
A A Surg U.S.A.
Respectfully returned to Hd Qrs Dept S. C. As Post Com of Sub, I have refused to open an a/c with a Hospital for the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands as I did not think I had any authority to do so. I have issued all the rations that have been called for on proper returns under Circular No 8 War Department. The Hospital can get such Sub Stores as are allowed by Gen orders for Freedmen.

C. S. Langdon
Capt & C.S. Vols
Acting Chief C.S. D.S.C

I.B. 2. W. S.C. & Ga. 1865


There is no authority to open a regular Hospital account with this Hospital; as in the case of U.S.A. Gen Hospital. Rations will be issued to this Hospital to supply all immediate wants.

By command of Chas. Devens
Bvt. Maj. Gen. Comd’g
W.L.M. Burger
Bvt. Lt. Col. & A.A.G.
Office S.A. Com F. Bur.
Augusta Ga. Sept 13/65

Wild Edw A.
Brig. Genl. & S.A. Com

I.B. 46 "W" Asst Com SC & Ga Bvt 65

Reports that Gen Steedman refuses to accede to the request of Gen Saxton, "in relation to Officers reporting to two heads, but will detail 8 Comd Officers to serve in the Bureau"

Recd AAGO Asst Com SC & Ga Sept 24/65
Office S.A. Comm Freed. Bureau
Augusta Geo. Sept 13th 1865

Bvt. Maj. Gen R. Saxton
Beaufort S.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that Maj. Gen. Steedman, Compt. Dept of Georgia positively refuses to accede to your proposition, conveyed to him in your letter of Aug. 7th declaring that no officers nor men of this command can be reporting to two heads at the same time that they cannot perform these double duties. He also states that he wrote you to the same effect, in reply to your letter.

I have the honor to remind you, that your impressions were different on this latter point, during our late interviews at Beaufort.

Maj. Gen. Steedman further states that, although willing to detach officers &c entirely for the service of the Bureau, yet he cannot spare more than eight commissioned officers in the whole State of Georgia for this purpose. I need not remind you how inadequate a force this would be as this must include my Staff officers, and my...
Agents of all Kinds- Gen. Steedman agrees to detail now-commissioned officers and privates- as many as can be spared. These last will be of some assistance- but not great-when we recollect that all the capable men are already detailed for various military duties. Indeed the whole nature of the military service at present is such, that the work is done entirely by details and detachments- for which the present number of troops in the Department is altogether insufficient.

[[strikethrough]] They [[strikethrough]] The above statements from Maj. Gen. Steedman are to be regarded as official.

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
Edw. A. Wild
Brig. Gen. Vols
Adjutant Genl Office
Washington. DC.
Sept 11th 65

War Department
Brev R. Wiliams
A.A. Genl
G.B. 47 W Asst comm SC & GA 12th 65

States in reply to Maj. Taylors
application for permission to visit Washington, that the nature of his
business in that city should be stated

sec L. B. Sept 25th 65
R. A A L Asst Comm S. C Ea Sept 24 1865
War Department, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, September 11 1865.
Brevet Major Stuart M Taylor
Assistant Adjutant General of Vols
Thro. Brevet Major General R. Saxton Assistant Commissioner Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida Beaufort S. C.

Sir
Your communication of the 17th ultimo requesting permission to visit Washington when you shall have obtained the proper leave of absence has been received
In reply I have the honor to inform you, that it is necessary that you state the nature of your business in this city before your application can be considered

Very respectfully your obt. servt.
R. Williams
Assistant Adjutant General
HEADQUARTERS Dept. Of South Carolina
Hilton Head S.C October 1st 1865
Official.
T.D. Hodges
Capt 35th U.S.C.T.
A.A.A. Genl.

Adjutant General Office

War Department
Secretary of War
Per E.D. Townsend A.A.G.

Spl order 501 Ex 11 revoking the appointment of J.D. Terry is Capt of
the 104th U.S.C.T.

Red'd A A G O Asst Com SC & Ga Oct 5, 1865
SPECIAL ORDERS,
No. 501.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, September 19th, 1865.
(Extract.)

*****

11. So much of Special Orders, No. 279, June 5th, 1865, from this Office, as confirmed the appointment of John D. Terry, 1st Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster, 35th U. S. Colored Troops, as Captain, 104th U. S. Colored Troops, is hereby revoked, the aforesaid officer being physically disqualified for the performance of the duties of Captain, by the loss of one leg below the knee, a fact not known at this Office at the time said appointment was confirmed.

*****

By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

[[stamp]] RECD. HD. QRS. DEPT. SOUTH CAROLINA OCT 1 1865
[[/stamp]]

Bvt Major Genl R. Saxton
U.S. Vols.
Charleston S.C.
thro Dept of S. C
I.B. W 155 P. of C
Office S.A. Com
Charleston SC Oct 13.1865

Wall O.S.B.
Capt. & A.S.A. Com

Requests that pass of permission from an Agent of Freedman's Bureau be sufficient guarantee for any boat or boats crew from the Islands
Em BB 284 P of C
I.B. 78. "W" Asst Cm SC & Ga 65

Hd Qr 1st Sub Dist MDC
Charleston Oct 13th 65
Respectfully referred to Bt Maj Gen R. Saxton

Bt Brig Gen Commd'g

Re'd A A G O Asst Com SC & Ga Oct 13/65

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen And Abandoned Lands,
South Carolina and Georgia,
Charleston, S.C., Oct 13” 1865.
C.B. 277. Asst Com

Respectfully referred to Bvt Brig Gen W.J. Bennett Comdg 1st Sub Dist with the request that, inasmuch as Gen Sherman's order recognizes the propriety of the freedmen bringing their produce to markets, the passes of all the agents of the Bureau may be held sufficient authority, and that, where any of the freedmen's property has been seized as stated within, it may be returned to them.

By order of
Bvt. Maj Gen R. Saxton
Asst Commr
O. D. Kinsman
A.A. Genl

Hd. Qrs 1st Sub Dist M.D.C.
Charleston Oct 20th 1865
Respectfully returned to Maj Gen Saxton Agent F.B.

The within statement of Capt Wall that the agent of the Bureau have been ignorant of the working of the order is erroneous.

No restriction was placed upon trade on these rivers until Capt Montell - agent of the Bureau informed me of the information practiced upon the Freedmen by unprincipled traders, and requested me to give no passes except parties recommended by the agent of the Bureau, this I did in the hope of being of more assistance to the agents of the Bureau in the Discharge of their
duties. The Provost Marshal is instructed to issue permits to [??] recommended by Gen Saxton and to keep a list of the same in his office, in order that no unprincipled trader may be allowed to swindle the freedmen by purchasing their produce at low rate, causing thereby great distress in the county.

W. T. Bennett

[illegible]

file
Maj. O. D. Kinsman
Asst. Adjt. Genl

Major

I share the honor through you to call the attention of Brev. Maj Genl. R. Saxton Asst. Comm. Bureau R. F. & A. L. for So Ca & Ga. to the operation of the existing system of passes & licenses on the waters around Charleston.

The present orders were issued with a view to prevent unprincipled white men and colored men from bringing Rough Rice & Cotton down the Cooper, Wando & Ashley Rivers & to preserve order in this section of country. [strikethrough] but [strikethrough] and the application of these orders was without doubt intended almost entirely for this section. Almost every day boats from James, John, Wadmalaw & Edisto Islands are seized and their contents- generally wood or hay, are confiscated & the freedmen are sent back home. It is requested that a
pass license or permission from the Agent [strikethrough] of the Freedmen's Bureau residing on any of these said Islands may be a protection & sufficient authority for any boat or boats crew coming from these said Islands to this city. It is proper to add that both the freedmen & the agents of the bureau have been ignorant of the working of these orders.

Most Respectfully your Obt. Svt.
O.S.B. Wall
Capt & Sub Asst. Comr. F. Bureau
Adjutant General's Office
Washington Sept 7th 65

War Department
War Secretary of
Per E. D. Townsend A.A.G.

S.O. 481 ex 22 Assigning Col Chas H. Howard 128th USC Troops to
duty in Bureau Refugees etc. and to report to Gen Saxton

Reported

SPECIAL ORDERS,}
No. 481.}

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL’S OFFICE,
Washington, September 7th, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
22. Colonel Charles H. Howard, 128th U. S. Colored Troops, is hereby assigned to duty in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, and will report in person, without delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton, Assistant Commissioner of said Bureau for the states of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, at Beaufort, South Carolina.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

[[stamp]]
BUREAU R. F. & A. L.
WASHINGTON.
REC'D
SEP 8
1865
[[/stamp]]

General Saxton
thro. Gen. Howard

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
Adjutant Genl. Office
Washington Sept 19. 1865

War Department
Secretary of War
Per E.D. Townsend A.A.G.

MaJ. Genl. O. O. Howard U.S.V.
war Inspecting tour through the Southern States
I.B. 84 "W" Asst. Com S.C. & Ga. '65

Re'd A.A. Asst. Com S.C. & Ga. Oct 5, 1865
War Department.
Adjutant General's Office.
Washington, September 19th, 1865.

Special Orders 
No. 501. 

(Extract)

****

4. By direction of the President, Major General, O.O. Howard, U.S. Volunteers, Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, will proceed on a tour of inspection through the Southern States, with a view to the gaining information and correcting of abuses in the agencies connected with that Bureau.
On the completion of this duty he will return to his station in this city.

****

By order of the Secretary of War:
(Signed) E.D. Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS Dept. of South Carolina
Hilton Head S.C. October 1 1865
Official
T. D. Hodges
Capt. 35th U.S.C.T. and A.A.A. Gen'l
Office A.S.A. Com

Charleston SC. Oct 14, 1865

Wall O.S.B.
Capt. & A.S.A.C.

Calls attention of Asst Com to treatment of servants by James Hopkinson

I.B. 88 "W" Asst Com SC & Ga 65

E.
1 copy made

Gen S.

Act No 15

Recd AAGO Asst Com SC & Ga Oct 15. 1865
Charleston, SC. Oct 14th, 1865.
Maj. O. D. Kinsman
Asst. Adj. Genl.

Major,

I have the honor through you to call the attention of Brev. Maj. Genl. R. Saxton, Asst. Comr. F. Bureau for So, Ca, & Ga, to the treatment of Mr. James Hopkinson to a large number of his colored people, formerly his servants. About four (4) years ago this map (Hopkinson) carried away all his servants - about 200 in number - from Johns & Edisto Islands to a plantation about 18 miles from Abbeville Court House. During the past four (4) years many of these people died - 81 of these people are now in this city - about 30 being grown persons - men and women - about 50 being children. About 30 colored people are still left on the Abbeville Plantation. About 20 of these being grown persons and ten (10) children. All of these 111 people have been treated this past summer the same as in former years - there being one overseer and two drivers on this plantation this summer. These people have raised 95 four horse wagon loads of corn and 100 acres of corn were yet ungathered when these 81 people were sent away. Also 303 bushells of wheat were raised on this place. Also fifteen (15) acres of very good up-country rice
Omitted - 60 Acres of cotton were cultivated.

Also Peas were planted in and among 200 acres of the corn and were a good crop. Also about four (4) acres of Sweet Potatoes, and 1/4 acre in Flax. These people have not had even as much as former weekly rations - no meat being given and but very little salt. Omitted - one thousand (1000) gallons of Chinese Sugar Cane (Sorgham) Molasses or Syrup was raised - All the above produce was raised in this summer. On the 2nd of this month Mr. Hopkinson [strikethrough] started and [strikethrough] sent away from this place, with two wagons to carry the children and some bedding &c these 81 people for the islands - promising to meet his people in this city at the Charleston Hotel. His people cannot find him. The wagons and mules were to be sent back to Abbeville but they broke down before reaching Orangeburg & the Military Authorities there sent the people to the city by Railroad. These people are in a destitute condition, and are thrown upon the support of the Government. Mr. Hopkinson caused these ignorant people to believe that he (Hopkinson) was acting by authority and by Orders of U.S. Officers & that they would be taken care of somehow. Hopkinson also told these people they had no share in the crop. As provisions here are to supply a regular demand - an extra requisition is asked for for these people.

Most Respectfully
Your Obt Svt
O. S. B. Wall
Capt and Sub-Asst. Comr. F. Bureau
By A.C. Richmond. Asst. Agent
Adjutant Generals Office
Washington Oct 14. 1865

War Department
Sec of War
Per E. D. Townsend A.A.G.

S.0 545. Par 9 Assigning
Capt James P. Low A.Q.M. to duty in Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and
Abandoned Lands
I. B. 95 "W" Asst Comm. S.C. & Ga. '65

Official copy furnished Capt. Low A.Q.M. for his information

SPECIAL ORDERS,}
No. 545.}

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 14th, 1865.

(Extract.)
*****
9. Captain James P. Low, Assistant Quartermaster of Volunteers, is
hereby assigned to duty in the Bureau of Refugees, freedmen and
Abandoned lands, and will report to Brevet Major-General Saxon, U. S.
Volunteers, Assistant commissioner of that Bureau, at Beaufort, South
Carolina, accordingly.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

[[stamp]]
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
WASHINGTON
REC'D
OCT 16
1865
[[stamp]]

thro. Gen. Howard
James Edward S.C.
Oct 23. 1865
Webb. R.W.
Gives statement of facts in case of Wm. Brown
James Island S.C. Oct 23d 1865
Bvt. Maj S.W. Saxton
A.D.C. Bureau RF. & A.L.

Maj:
I have the honor to acknowledge greeting of Genl Saxton order to make report in case of Wm Brown. I have the honor to state that this the 3d report ease that I have sent to your head Qrs. Hear the second report was carried to your Hd Qrs. by Surg. C.H. Brownley who handed it to Maj. Kinsman personally in the Maj's office I hear that report has annexed it & embodied as a part of it the first report bearing endorsed pour order to take Brown before the Provost Court. The facts in Brown cases are these viz:
ON the 16th of this month or thereabouts I learned that Albert Shanks at Ft. Pringle had been stabbed by Wm Brown. The Surgeon & I at once went to Ft. Pringle and found Shanks stabbed over the left eye making a very bad wound and destroying his eye. I immediately sent guards to arrest him. They did not find him but brought back his horse

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
I saddle and bridle the horse is branded "US" the saddle and bridle are of Gov. make. I retained them as a decoy for Brown and it proved successful. He came and acknowledged in presence of myself the surgeon and three freedmen that he had stabbed Shanks. I immediately sent the first report asking for instructions it was returned with Genl Saxton's order to take Brown before the Provost Court immediately went to Charleston to as certain where the Provost Court sat. While gone the prisoner escaped I scoured the Island for him and have since learned he was in Charleston this morning previous to recovery your order to report in his case I sent a request by WM McCant (a reliable man who knows Brown offering his services to designate Wm Brown) to Capt Wall requesting the Capt. to arrest Brown confine him and notify me. Brown is a desperate character & the leader of a band of ruffians at this Hundred Pines. & his being made an example of will contribute much to the safety of the Island I of course have no desire to release the horse and await your orders. Hoping my course of procedure in the case may meet your approval I remain

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
Very Respectfully Your Obt Svt
Robt W. Webb
Capt. Bureau R. F. & AL
Genl Sup in Ch
James Island S.C.
Hd Qrs 33rd U.S.C.I.,
Morris Isd S.C. Dec. 3rd 65
One Enclosure
Respectfully forwarded with the request of Capt. N.S. White.

C T Trowbridge

Hd Qrs 1st Sub Dist WDC
Charleston Dec 6/65

Respectfully forwarded, and attention invited to enclosed report of Capt N S White, 33 USCT.

W.T. Bennett
Bt Brig Gen Commd'g

Hd Qrs M D of C
Charleston Dec 8th/65

Respectfully re'td
Bt Maj Genl Saxton
Bureau RF & AL
attention invited to enclosed report.
Lt. Col Trowbridge 33rd USCT has been instructed to try Sergeant Hodges by a Field Officers Court.

By command of
Bt Maj Genl Devens
T. D. Hodge
Capt 35th USCT AAA Genl

file
James Island SC
Nov 8, 1865

IB W 8 M D of C

Webb R.W.
Agent &c

I.B. 117 "W" Asst Comg SC & Ga 65

Makes complaint against one 1st Sergt Thos. Hodges 33 C U.S.C.T. for cruelty to Freedman "Bryant".

Hd Qrs 33d U.S.C.T.
Morris Is. S.C.
Nov 30th 1865,
Respectfully referred to Capt. N.S. White Co. "C" who will investigate this matter & report to these Hd. Qrs. This paper to be returned.

By order of
C.T. Trowbridge
Lt. Col. Comdg
33rd U.S.C.T.
E.W. Hyde
Lt. & Actg. Adjt.

[[stamp]] RECEIVED NOV 27 1865 [[/stamp]]

Recd A.A.G.O. Asst Com SC & Ga Nov 25 1865

Head qr. Asst. Commr
Charleston S.C. Nov. 15, 1865
E.B. 511 Asst Com SC & Ga 65

Respectfully referred to Bvt Maj. Gen'l Chas. Devens who is requested to have this matter investigated, and the guilty parties brought to justice.
By order of
Bvt. Maj Genl R. Saxton
Asst. Com.
H.W. Smith
Asst. Adjt Genl

Hd Qrs MD of Charleston
Charleston S.C. Nov 27/65

Respectfully referred to C.O. 33d USCT, thro Sub District Hd Qrs for investigation and report
By Command of -
Bt Maj Genl Devens
Gen. [[?]] Hooker
A.A. Genl
EMBB 383 P of C
Hd Qrs 1st Sub Dist MDC
Charleston S.C. Nov 28/65.

Respectfully transmitted and attention invited to Endorsement from Dist
Hd Qrs
By order of
Bt Brig Gen Bennett.
George Burger
Capt 54 NYV & AAA Gen.

Hd Qrs. Co. 'C' 33d U S C Troop
Fort Johnson James Island S.C.
Dec 2 1865
Respectfully returned with Report
Nel S. White
Capt 33d U.S.C.T.
Comd’g Co. "C"

Rec'd AAAG of P of C Nov 28/65.

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received,
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
James Island S.C. Nov 8th 1865

Maj HW. Smith
Asst Adjt Genl Bureau R. F. and A.L.

Maj,

I have the honor to report that on or about the first of this month one Bryant a Freedman on this Island was tied up by the wrists his arms being behind him & he raised clear from the ground & hung by the wrists until his wrists became badly swelled & while in this position struck with a brick upon his head inflicting a serious wound, that all this was done by one 1st Sergt. Thos Hodges Co. C. 33d U.S.C.T. that owing to pressure of business I have been unable to investigate the matter until now that in presence of Surg C H Brownly the said 1st Sergt Thos Hodges admitted having so tied up the said Freedman Bryan, that the difficulty I suppose to have originated in a disagreement between the 1st Sergt. & the said Freedman Bryan whose wife the said 1st Sergt had in
in his camp at St Johnson as his mistress that said freedmen Bryant went to the camp of said 1st Sergt in Command of said Co C. at St Johnson in order to get his wife when said 1st Sergt with his men seized & as above stated tied up & assaulted said Freedman Bryant.

All of which I have the honor to submit

Very Respectfully Your obt Svt

R. W. Webb
Capt. Bureau R F & A L
Gent Sup James Island SC
Fort Johnson James Island
So. Carolina
Nov. 30th 1865
White Nel Capt.
33 USC Troops Comg Co. "C"

Reports in compliance with orders from Regal Hdr Qrs in regards to an
indictment B't against Serg. Thos. Hodgens Co. "C" 33 USC Troops by
R.W. Webb Agent &c James Island Salem, for an assault upon one
Bryans freedman on said island

Hdqrs, 33d U.S.C.I.,
Morris Isd S.C. Dec 3d 65.
Respectfully forwarded with the report
Fort Johnson, James Island, S.C.
Nov. 30th 1865

Lieut E.W. Hyde
Acting Agt 33rd W SC Group

Lieut I have the honor to report in compliance with orders from regimental HD Qrs in regard to an indictment brought against 1st Sergt Thos Hodges, 33d US C Corps, by R. W. Webb Supt. of Freedmen & Refugees on James Island, S.C. for an assault upon one "Bryant" Freedmen on said island. That I have investigated the matter and report the following facts for your consideration.

On or about the first of the month a woman came to the Qtrs of 1st Sergt Thos. Hodges, 33d US C troop (Co "C") and applied to him for protection saying that the man with whom she had been living had been living with had beat her, and that she did not want to stay with him any longer. The Sergt told her that she must go to the Provost Marshal for Protection that he could have nothing to do with the matter and sent her out of Camp. A few days after the occurrence a man came to his Qtrs name unknown and inquired for his wife and seemed disposed to create a disturbance supposing [[strikethrough]] that [[strikethrough]]
that Sergt Hodges had concealed her. The Sergt told him that he did not know where she was and ordered him from the camp. A few days after the above took place the woman came back to the Sergt. Qrs. and again claimed protection and was again ordered from the camp that he the Sergt had now power to adjudicate in the matter. A few minutes after the woman left the man before referred to came into the camp and asked for the woman and was told she has just been ordered out by the Sergt. and that he must leave immediately, and if he came back again the Sergt would tie him up and the man left with the reply that if he came again he might tie him. A few days after the above took place the man came back between the hours 12 M. and 1 a.m. in the night and woke the men up in the Company street. and Sergt Hodges hearing a loud noise went out of his tent, and asked the man what he wanted, he replied that he came for his wife and was told she was not in the camp. Then the man endeavored to turn the matter of by saying that he came after some tobacco. Sergt Hodges then ordered him tied up and kept him tied for about fifteen minutes and then let him go. but before he was released he acknowledged that he had done wrong and that if the Sergt would release him he would not trouble the
camp again, Sergt Hodges further testifies that he never laid a hand
upon the man and he does not know of anyone of the Company
touching him while in the camp.
In regard to first Sergt. Hodges Co "C" 33 USC troop keeping the before
mentioned woman as his mistress I believe it to be totally false and
without any foundation whatever for I know that during his command of
the Co. he would not allow a woman in the camp except the regularly
appointed C. Laurie dresses and I have the testimony of my most
intelligent non commissioned officers that the woman above referred
was never in Sergt. Hodges tent and was never kept by him as a
mistress.
The Sergt's heretofore good conduct and soldierly bearing is in itself
sufficient toward off the above charges based upon sheer malice. The
party who framed the indictments threaten to have the Sergt.
stripes torn off and send him to some island for three years and further
said that if it had been a Commissioned officer he would be dead if he
would not have him Cashies.

The above is a compendium of the 1st Sgts and other non
commissioned officers
of the Company testimony, in regard to the charge
All of which I most respectfully submit
I have the honor to be
very respectfully your obt Svt
Nel S. White
Capt 33 U.S.C troop
Comdg, Co, "C"
H'd Qrs. A.S. Asst Comm'd'r
4'Sub Dist M D C
Georgetown S.C.
Nov 19th 1865.
I.B. 120 "W" Asst. Com SC & Ga 65

Willard A.J.
A.S. Asst Comm'r

Transmitting Draft of proposed Order for approval requesting that it may be printed & returned for circulation

Four Enclosures
Head Qrs. A.S. Asst Commr
B. R. F. A. L. 4 Sub Dist MD. C.
Georgetown S.C.
Nov. 19th 1865
B’t Maj. W. H. Smith
Asst Adjt Gen’l -

Major,
I have the honor to transmit herewith a Draft of a proposed Order which is submitted for the approbation of the B’t Maj. Gen’l Asst Commissioner.
If approved, I desire that it may be printed there being no facilities at this place for such work, and returned for circulation. -
Enclosed are also communications heretofore sent to H’d Qrs. Mil D of Charleston explaining the necessity of such action

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt

A. J. Willard
Lieut Col 35th U.S.C. Troops
A.S. Asst Comm’r 4 Sub D
Charleston SC Nov 17. 1865

Wall O.S.B.
Capt &
I.B. 121. "W" Asst Com SC & Ga
Statement in regard to treatment of negroes, by their former owner Mr Bearing

6
1 copy made

December
No. 4

Head Qrs. Asst. Com
Bureau Refugees &c SC & Ga
Charleston SC Nov 23 1865
E.B. 554
Respectfully returned to Capt O.S.B. Wall A.S.A. Comm'r for information as to where Mr Bearing is to be found
By order of
Bvt. Maj. Genl. R. Saxton
Asst. Commr
H W Smith
Asst. Adjt. Genl

Office Sub. Asst. Com A A G
Charleston SC
Dec 21st/65
Respectfully returned To Major [[strikethrough]] Kindsman
[[strikethrough]] Kinsman we can not be more explicit that the statement in the 1st Paragraph of this report.
Respectfully
Your obdt Sevt
O.S.B. Wall
Capt & Sub Comr &c

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
A man, Charles Bearing by name, owns a plantation in St Pauls Parish. A considerable time ago he took all his servants - sixty (60) and upwards to a place near Flat Rock, P.O. Henderson Co. North Carolina. During this past summer these people have been treated nearly like slaves. Only a short time since Mr. Bearing compelled 45 of these people to start from NC and to make their way as best they might to the old place on St Pauls Parish, where they arrived about two (2) weeks ago entirely destitute. These people sold some pigs, fowls, and a little corn. Amounting in all to $100.00, which they spent in getting to Orangeburg. Afterward the Authorities assisted them to this city and they made their way to St Pauls. Mr. Bearing told them they must get a living when they should get to St Pauls "as other negroes did," and somehow", but did not make scarcely any remuneration for their summers.
Labor or any provision for their future support. All of which is most respectfully submitted.
I have the honor to remain, Major.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
O.S.B. Wall
Capt & Actg Sub-Asst. Comr. F. Bureau,
By A.C. Richmond, Sub-Agent.
Georgetown S.C. Nov 19, 1865

Willard A.J.  
Lieut. Co. Comdg

Transmits Special Requisition for stationery  
I.B. 124 "W" Asst Com S C & Ga

file

Approved the Requisition order Nov. 22' 1865.

Rec'd Asst Com S C & Ga. Nov 22.1865
Head Qrs A.S. Asst Commissioner
Bureau R. F. and A.L. 4' Sub Dist
Georgetown, S.C. Nov. 19' 1865.

B't Maj. W. H. Smith
Ass't Adjt Genl

Major,
I have the honor to transmit herewith Special Requisition for Stationery. - The amount of Paper asked for may seem large - but unless Blank
Books can be furnished (which would be preferable) these must of
necessity must be made from paper. Should the Requisitions not be in proper form I hope the Stationery may
be furnished and the requisite Blank Forms supplied.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt Servt.

A. J. Willard
Lieut Col 35 U.S.C. Troops
A.S.A. Comm'r 4 Sub Dist
H'd Qrs 4th Sub Dist. M.D.C.
Georgetown SC Nov 7. 1865

Hillard A J
Lieut Col Comdg
I.B. 125 "W" Asst Com. Gen'l

Requests instructions in regard to the course to be pursued by the Military authorities in regard to the removal of families from plantation who refuse to perform their contracts &c

Rec'd A.A.G.O. Asst Com SC & Ga Nov 22, 1865
Head Qrs 4th Sub. Dist. M.D.C.
Georgetown S.C.
Nov 7th 1865

Captain Geo. W. Hooker
Asst. Adj. General

Capt.-

I have the honor to request instructions in regard to the course to be planned by the military authorities in reference to the removal of families from plantations on which they have resided during the summer, and who refuse to perform the stipulations of their contracts.

An issue is made between the planters and the Freed people of the most serious character, and in which perfect (?) seems to prevail among those constituting the different parties to the controversy.

The planters hold that they are entitled to remove from their plantations all laborers and their families who refuse to perform the usual plantation work down to the 1st day of January next, or who refuse to perform that work in the manner required by the planters. This privilege is very generally stipulated for in the contracts, and, I have no doubt, in the great mass of cases it is the strict right of the Planter.

The position taken by the laborers is that they never intended to contract for anything beyond the harvesting and division of the growing crops, that it was never explained to them that more than this was expected of them. They positively refuse to do more than this. The division of the rice crop will soon
commence. When this work's done, the most disagreeable part of Rice planting is to be performed- namely cleaning ditches and repairing banks.

In my report of Oct 21st, last, on the condition of the freed people I alluded to this subject.

Additional inquiry satisfied me that in an agricultural point of view the performance of this work is of the utmost importance. Should the crop of next year prove a failure as the present one is, incalculable suffering and mischief will be the consequence, and the question of the settlement of a system of the labor of the country will be seriously embarrassed.

I have still further proof that the health of the country has suffered during the present year from imperfect drainage, although nothing like a general failure had occurred to drain last fall.

I feel confident that unless this work is performed the health of the district will be seriously affected another year.

I am of opinion that regarded as a sanitary measure the military authorities would be satisfied in using proper measures to compel its performance. But a serious question arises even suffering the military authorities to have abundant authority in the base.

The practical result of an attempt to enforce such measures will depend upon the amount of resistance offered.

There is no reason to fear that any open or armed assistance would be offered but that they would submit to any penalty imposed.

Should compensation be claimed by the Planters
for the violation of their contracts, the food of the people will be swept away and general starvation followed. Followed by crime and violence the result. Should the Government take the matter in hand and punishment by confinement be resorted to the capacity of the jail and the burden of supporting prisoners may to onerous.

I think that the real difficulty with the laborer in regard to this question, arises from the fear that after having prepared the ground for another years crop the planters will not contract with them on fair terms, but will insist on having them by the month which they are not willing to submit to. They have been accustomed to working by taste, which has always given them leisure to cultivate land for themselves, and therefore very correctly, I think, that with such a change in the march of labor all their privileges will go, and their conditions will be less to their taste, than it was when they were slaves.

They want to work for an equal division of crops. The yield of the present year is about ten (10) bushels of rice to the acre, instead of forty (40) to fifty (50) bushels in former years. While the product of corn is not much more than three (3) bushels to the acre.

During the present year the laborers have subdivided the lands among themselves, and great difficulties have arisen from their unwillingness to do anything except cultivate and harvest their own little lots. This evil I have in some measure corrected insisting that the labor of the plantations shall be dissected by the planters, but providing for the separate divisions.
divisions of each subdivision of the plantations-

Such a system cannot be maintained for any length of time, as it is contrary to the laws of nature and civilization as I understand them. The planters do not agree among themselves as to the solution of this difficulty, but seem to lean on the strong arm of the Govt, and to rely to a great extent upon its wisdom in the matter.

The laborers, on the other hand, have their own opinion and inclinations, and are not displaced to place any large amount of confidence in the judgment of those whose duty it is to look after their interests.

I do not think the planters will yield to the demand to divide the crops another year unless freed to do so. A plan has been suggested by working rive by task work, paying so much for each task in cash or in produce.

The planters have no means to pay wages with and therefore it would seem to be a necessity that the laborers should in some way be paid in kind. Besides the notions of the laborers as to money value of labor appears to be impractically high.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that it is not easy to arrest the direct presentation of the issue between the planters and the laborers. When it is considered that their contracts allow this privilege had received the approval of the Agents of the Government is involved.

While on the other hand the public safety will, I think, be compromised if any
large number of these people including women and children and the old and infirm are driven themselves from plantation to plantation during the winter.

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Serv't.
(Signed) A. J. Willard
Lieut Col. Comdg 4th Sub. Dist
M. D. C.
Georgetown Sc Nov. 19, 1865
Willard A.J.
Lieut Col 35th U.F.C.T.

transmits copies of these orders No. 1,2,3 and No. 1 from his office and requests that Cir No. 5 may be sent him for circulation.

four enclosures

circulation

20 copies furnished Nov. 25/65

23

Rec'd Asst Com SC & Ga Nov 23, 1865
Head Qrs. A.S. Asst Commr
Bureau R.F. & A.L. 4 Sub Dist M.D.C.
Georgetown S.C. Nov 19 1865

Bt Maj. W.H. Smith
Asst Adjt Gen’l-
Major -

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of General Order No. 1, 2, 3, & Circular No. 1 from these Head Qrs. for your information.

I would respectfully request that a number of copies of Circular no. 5 Hd Qrs. Asst Commissioner (which I republished as Genl Orders no. 3) be sent me for circulation, as our clerical force is very small

Very Respectfully,
Your Obt Servt
A.J. Willard
Lieut. Col. 35th USC Troops
A.S. Asst Commr. 4 Sub Dist
Head Qrs. A.S. Asst.
Comm'r B. R. F & A.L.
4' Sub Dist M D C
Georgetown S.C. Nov. 6 1860

General Orders
No. II.}
Head Qrs Act Sub Asst Commissioner
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands 4th Sub Dist Mil. Dis.
of Charleston, Georgetown S.C.
Nov. 6th, 1865.

General Orders)
No. 1.)

In obedience to orders received from Head Quarters Assistant
Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands
South Carolina and Georgia the undersigned hereby assumes the duties
and authority of Act Sub Apt Commissioner B.R.F. and A.L. of this Sub
District
H'd Qrs. A. Sub Asst.
Comm'r Bureau R.F & A.L.
4' Sub Dist M.D.C.
Georgetown, S.C.
Nov. 15' 1865

Gen'l Orders
No. 3}
General Orders

The following Circular from Head Qrs Assistant Commissioner, Bureau Refugees Freedman and Abandoned Lands, South Carolina and Georgia, is hereby re-published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

Head quarters Asst Commissioner
Bureau Refugees, Freedman and Abandoned Lands.
South Carolina and Georgia
Charleston, S.C. Oct 19† 1865
Circular
No 5)
I. The impression prevails to a great extent among the freedmen that on the 1st January, 1866 the U.S. Government is to give them lands, homesteads of forty acres - and that for the coming year it is not necessary for them to contract with their former masters or other employers, for their labor. To correct this error, all Officers and Agents of this Bureau in South Carolina and Georgia, are hereby directed to give notice to the freedmen within their jurisdiction, that such expectations on their part are erroneous, and that the U.S. Government has no lands to divide among them.
To provide for the cultivation of the soil, give a proper direction and
organization to labor, and insure the raising of sufficient of the necessaries of life, to prevent suffering and starvation, the freeman are urged at once to make contracts for labor for 1866; the contracts to commence on the first of Jan, 1866, and terminate with the year. To facilitate the making of contracts, the Assistant Commissioner directs that the Sub. Assistant Commissioner or Agent of the Bureau in each District, shall be associated with two citizens, residents of the District, each selected to the satisfactions of the respective contracting parties, the three to constitute a Branch whose duty it shall be to arrange equitable contracts between the employers and employees for the labor of the freedmen. In districts where there are no Agents of this Bureau, the civil authorities are requested to constitute the Board as above, the two citizens choosing a third to replace the Agent, to act as Agents of the Bureau for the same purpose. All contracts should be in duplicate, one for each of the contracting parties; and a correct copy must be sent to the office of the Assistant Commissioner.

R. Saxton
Bvt. Maj. Gen Ast Commissioner

By order of
Lieut Col. A.J. Williard
Act. Sub Ast Commissioner
Henry Krebs
1st Lieut 35th U.S.C. Troops
Assistant Adjutant General
Act Sub Asst Comr
Hd Qrs 4 Sub Dist
M.D.C. Georgetown S.C.
Nov. 6 1865

General Orders
No. 2}
IB 126W 1865

Head Qrs. Act Sub Asst Commissioner
Bureau Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned
Lands, 4th Sub Dist. M.D.C.
Georgetown SC. Nov. 6th 1865

General Orders
No. 2.

Reliable information having been received that portions of the new crop of Rice are being removed from plantations within this Sub District and sold before the division of the crops upon such plantations, and that such transactions are secret and in fraud of the rights of parties interested in the crops; it is therefore ordered.

I. All purchases, sales and removals from plantations of Rice grown during the present year on the plantations within this Sub District are prohibited until the division of the crops in completed.

II. All trade and barter in Rice except at the usual places for the transaction of business of the class in former years by travelling traders, speculators, forestallers and pedlars in forbidden.

III. The penalty for the violation of this order will be the forfeiture of the value of the Rice illegally purchased or sold, but in no case less than the sum of Twenty-five Dollars ($25)

By order of Lieut. Col. A.J. Willard
4th Sub Dist. M. D.C.

Official
Henry Krebs
1 Lieut & A.A.A.G.
Hd Qrs 4th Sub Dist. M.D.C.  
Georgetown Oct 20.1865

Willard A.J.  
Lieut Col 35 U.S.C.T.

I.B. 127 "W" A.C. S.C. & Ga 65

In relation to crops &c in the vicinity of Georgetown SC

Rec'd Asst Com O. SC & Ga Nov 23.1865
Copy.

Head Qrs. 4th Sub District M.D.C.
Georgetown S.C.
Oct 20 1865
Capt Geo. W. Hooker
Asst Adj Gen

Captain,
I have the honor to report that I assumed command of this Sub District on the 16th inst.
The Sub Dist as organized under the District of Eastern S.C. consisted of the local Districts of Georgetown extending along the Coast from the Santee River to the Northern Boundary of S.C. embracing a large number of estuaries, Rivers, Creeks bordered by Rice lands containing relatively a small amount of lands suited for general agricultural purposes.
The Colored populations of Georgetown Dist is stated as high as Twenty-five thousand (25,000) while the White voters are by well informed persons stated not to exceed Three Hundred (300) - In common with other portions of the State affected by actual hostile operations last Spring, the lands were generally seeded by the Blacks in anticipation of being left to enjoy the fruits of their labors. Contracts have since been made between Freedmen & their former proprietors based on an equal division of Crops calling for the customary labor of the plantations and generally terminating by limitation on the 1st day of Jan next.
The Corn Pea & Potato Crops are generally meager & have been already to a considerable extent divided The Rice crop
the great staple of this Sub Dist - has been has - rested, and is being thrashed, and by the latter part of Nov, will be completely thrashed & divided.

As is customary with this climate, proprietors & Agents of plantations have generally resided some distance from their plantations in healthy locations. They are now returning to reside on their plantations. They have very generally apprehended that their presence upon the plantations will give rise to serious difficulties but no disturbance of any kind have yet been reported, although it is known that within the last few days several planters & agents have gone upon their plantations with the view of making arrangements for moving their families there. There is no reason to anticipate any serious difficulty from any facts yet reported, although I have had personal interviews with planters & agents representing a large portion of the Dist & especially those plantations supposed to the most subject to disturbance from the cause afore stated.

During a portion of the month of Nov and the month of Dec a portion of the plantation labor is to be performed after which the productiveness of next years crop largely depends. It consists in cleaning ditches & repairing dykes, by means of which the Rice fields are alternately inundated & drained - Representations are made to me by the most experienced planters that the health of the Dist during next year, would be materially affected by the failure to perfect the drainage. The plantations laborers as a general thing refrain to perform this work, claiming
that with a division of crops this labors are at an end. In my opinion, good faith on the part of the laborers demands that the work should be performed, while the public authorities are deeply interested in its performance as a master of Sanitary regulation.

As arrangements are yet made for the labor of the coming season, and is apprehended that the laborers will defer entering into such contracts until the winter is too far advanced, to admit of the work of drainage being accomplished, in time for the operations of next Spring. The excitement that has existed in regard to the Colored Troops, is rapidly disappearing: As an evidence of this, it has this evening been agreed at an interview between several planters agents that a trusty Sergeant of the 35th A.S.G. Troops should accompany them to their plantation, for the purpose of exercising such influence over the laborers as may be required to reduce them to a faithful compliance with the terms of their contracts, and to promote good order, and good feeling on their plantations.—

I have reason to believe, from representations made by a local magistrate and by a large number of respectable and influential planters, as well as by the resident agent of the Freedmens Bureau that notwithstanding the division of the Rice crop has not yet commenced, a system of underhanded dealing by traders and dishonest bargains waste the entire proportion of the Rice crop falling to over
the share of the Freed people, notwithstanding there is barely provision
enough made in the Dist for the support of the population until the Crops
of the next year can be realized.
I am about to promulgate a General Order intending to check this abuse
and transmit herewith a copy of the draft of the same.
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
(signed) A.J. Williard
Lieut Col Comdg 4th Sub Div

file

[[strikethrough]]
Dis'
No Authority
[[strikethrough]]
Adjutant Gen'l's Office
Washington Nov 14.1865
Official Copy

War Dept
Per E.D. Townsend A.A.G.
I.B. 128th "W" Asst Com SC & Ga

States that Steamer "Planter" has been turned over to the "Treasury Dept" and therefore can not be assigned to Gen Saxton for use of Freedmen's Bureau.

Rec'd Asst Com SC & Ga Nov 25. 1865
War Department
Adjudant Generals Office
Washington Nov. 14th 1865

Major General Q A Gillmore
Comdg Dept of South Carolina
Hilton Head S.C.

Sir
In reply to your application by telegraph of the 10th inst, on behalf of
General Saxton for Commissioner to retain the Steamer "Planter" for
service in the Freedmens Bureau, I have the honor to inform you that
the Steamer "Planter" has been ordered turned over to the Treasury
Department, and the request cannot therefore be granted.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt
(Signed) E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS Dept. of South Carolina
Hilton Head S.C. Nov. 23 1865
Official
W.L.M. Burger
Bvt. Lieut Col & A A General
Adjt. Genl's Office
Washington Nov 18, 1865

War Dept
Sec of War
Per E.D. Townsend A.A.G.
I.B. 129th "W" Asst Com SC & Ga

S.O. 606 Ex 2. Ordering 6 Apr
George T. Bassett C.S. Vols to report to Gen Saxton Asst Com

Reported Dec 14, 1865

Rec'd A A G O Asst Com SC & Ga Nov 25, 1865
Special Orders,
No. 606,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 18th, 1865.

(Extract.)

*****

2. Captain George T. Bassett, Commissary Subsistence of Volunteers,
will report in person, without delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton,
Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands, at Beaufort, South Carolina, for duty with that
Bureau.

*****

By order of the Secretary of War:
E.D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Official:
ED Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Bvt. Major Gen. Saxton
thro Gen. Howard

[[stamp]] Bureau R.F. & A.L. Washington Nov 20 1865 [[/stamp]]
James Island SC Nov 28/65

Webb R. H.

States that he accepts proposition to remain in charge James Island until 1st Jan 66 on terms proposed

I.B. 130th "W" AC SC & Ga 65

file

Rec'd Asst Com SC & Ga Nov 29, 1865
James Island SC
Nov. 28 1865
Bvt Maj Gen'l R Saxton
Gen'l
I have the honor to accept your proposition to remain in Ch. James
Island until 1st Jan 1866 upon the terms proposed.
I am Gen'l
Very Respl'y
Your Ob't Sv't
R.W. Webb
Agt. Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Gen'l Sup. James Island
Charleston SC Nov 29.65
Hall O.S.B.
Capt vc.
I.B. 132 "W" AC SC & Ga 65
States that colored woman named Phoebe Gillison makes complaint of
having been whipped by Mr Dupont (her former master) Daughter.

Respect as to
per Gen H W Smith
Ast Adj
with the infer [[information]]

Ref'd to Col Clitz for insp as to whether the named parties are within his
jurisdiction and if so to

Head Qrs Asst. Comms
Bureau Refugees &c SC & Ga
Charleston Nov 30. 1865
E.B. 606 AC SC & Ga 1865
Respectfully referred to Col Greene 6th US Infantry, with the request
that this case may be investigated and the guilty party brought to
punishment.
By order of
Bvt. Maj. Genl R Saxton
Asst Comms.
H.W. Smith
Asst Adjt Gen1

Head Quarters Dist Port Royal
Hilton Head S.C. Dec. 5th 1865

With reference to preceding enclosures this paper is respectfully
referred to Lt Col H.B. Clitz Comdg So Subdistrict for his action, provided
that the parties against whom the accusation has been brought are
within his jurisdiction

over
By order of Col J D Greene
James M. [[?]]
1st Lt. 6th Reg US Inf
A.D.C.
P R DDSE B 1157 - 1565

Hd Qrs S.S. Dist.
Hilton Head So. Ca.
December 12th 1865
Resp'y referred to "C.O." U.S. Forces
Grahamsville So Ca. for his investigation and report
This paper to be returned
By order of
R.H. Willoughby
Maj. 21 U.S.C.T.
Comd'g SS Dist.
James F. Graves
1st Lt. & A.A.A.G
Office Sub-Asst. Com'r Bureau R.F. and A.L.
Charleston SC, Nov. 29, 1865,
Maj. H.W. Smith
Asst. Adjt. Gen'l

Major,
A Col'd woman, Phoebe Gillison, represents at this office, that she was once owned by a Mr. Dupont near Grahamville, SC: that about four (4) years ago Mr. Dupont carried all his Col'd people -about 40 or 50 in number, to S.W. Ga, near Albany, 15 miles distant. & hes since made four (4) crops with his Col'd people. This woman complains that Mr. Dupont's daughter, without cause, wished to have her, Phoebe, whipped. The young lady and her brother induced a Sergeant Clark, of Major Bush's command, stationed at Albany, GA, to whip this woman, Phoebe, brutally, her wounds requiring treatment, and she still has marks of the beating on her body. Her clothes and everything of any value that she possessed were taken away from her, and she, through fear, made the best of her way to her former place of abode. She went to Hilton Head to make her complaint and was sent by Maj. Delany, of this city. I have the honor through you to ask the attention of the Maj. General Asst. Comm'r to the foregoing statement.
Most Respectfully
Your Obt. Svt.
O.S.B. Wall. Capt. & S.A.C. F.B.
Willard A.J.  
Lieut. Col 35th U.S.C. Troops  
Act'g Sub Asst Commr  
I.B. 139 “W” AC SC. & Ga. 1865  

Respectfully reports in relation to the limits of his command as Act'g Sub Asst Commissioner.  
(((strikethrough)) Four (((strikethrough))) 2 Enclosures)  

file  

Re'd. A.A.GO. Asst Com SC & Ga Dec 5. 1865r
IB 139 W 1865

Estimate of Funds required for expenditure during the Month of December, 1865.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
<th>Cents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumber for building Bunks, Coffins, &amp; shelving for Dispensary</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carpenter Tools &amp; Nails</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hire of Cart for Transportation of Small Pox Patients</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For Hire of Attendants for Small Pox Patients</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I certify on honor that I believe that the amount stated in the foregoing Estimate will be required for expenditure during the month of December 1865, in behalf of the Bu. R. F. and A. L. for this Sub District.

A. J. Willard
Lieut Col, 35th USC Troops
Act Sub Asst Comm.
Act. Sub Asst Comm

File

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
Head Qrs. Act Sub Asst Commissioner
Bu. R. F and A.L. 4th Sub Dist W.D.C.
Georgetown Sc, Nov. 30th, 1865
Br. Maj. H. W. Smith
Asst Adjt Genl
Major
I have the honor to state, in reply to your communication of the 11th inst
(but which was not received until the 27th inst) that in accordance with
the original instructions of the Assistant Commissioner I assumed
charge of the affairs of the Bureau of the territory embraced in the 14th
Sub District of the Military District of Charleston, which, as defined by
recent orders includes the Civil Districts of Georgetown and Horry, and
embraces, as I understand it, the section of country alluded to in your
communication, - the southern boundary being, as shown by the map,
the Santee and South Santee Rivers.
I have the honor to be, Major,
Very Respectfully,
"over"
Your Obedient Servant
A. J. Willard
Lieut Col 35th U. S. C. Troops
Act Sub Asst Commd
Account
of
Monies received and remaining on hand and account of the Bureau
R.F & A.L. by
Lieut Col. A.J. Willard
Act Sub Asst Comm'r

Nov. 30th 1865

file

5
Account of Monies Received from all sources on account of Bureau R. F & A.L. 4th Sub list by Lt. Col. A.J. Willard Act Sub Asst Commissioner Dv.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date. 1865</th>
<th>Dolls.</th>
<th>Cts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>To Rent for 2 mos from Mrs. E. Rhodes</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>To Rent for 1 month from D. F. Peck</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>To Rent part paymt from Sept 8' to Oct 8' M. Bocote (Colored)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>To Balance</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I certify that the above is a correct account of all monies recieved & remaining on hand for the month ending November 30th 1865.

A. J. Williard
Lieut. Col. 35th U. S. C. Troops
Act Sub Asst Comm
Adjutant Gen'l's Office
Washington Nov 21.1865
War Department
Sec of War
Per E.D. Townsend A.A.G.
I.B. 140 "W" A.C SC & Ga 1865

Spl Order No. 609 Ordering Capt A. P. Ketchum 128 U.S.C.T. to report for duty to Gen Saxton

Rec'd Asst Comr S.C. & Ga Dec 6.1865
SPECIAL ORDERS
No. 609.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL’S OFFICE,
Washington, November 21st, 1865.
(Extract.)
*****
8. Captain Alexander P. Ketchum, 128th U. S. Colored Troops, is hereby assigned to duty in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, and will report in person, without delay, to Brevet Major-General Saxton, Assistant Commissioner for the States of Georgia and South Carolina, at Charleston, South Carolina.
*****
By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
E D Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.

Genl. Saxton
tho Gen Command
[[stamp]] BUREAU R.F. & A.L. WASHINGTON REC’D NOV 21 1865
[[/stamp]]

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, P–Y, May–Dec. 1865, Part 3 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers Extracted Oct-08-2020 02:42:04
Columbia SC Dec 1.1865

Walton E.W.
A A Surg U.S.A.

Requests to be ordered to report to Genl Howard, so that he may receive transportation.
I.B. 141 "W" AC SC & Ga 1865

Granted See S.O. No. 42
Dec 8, 1860
Re'd Asst Com SC & Ga Dec 8,1865
Doctor,

Enclosed please find my pay accounts as directed by Capt Low. I have not filled it out but leave it for you to do. It is proper I should be paid until I am relieved and I do hope it will be soon have Capt. Low to send me the money as soon as possible. I would also again ask for transportation or a certificate from Genl Saxton that it is due me. Genl. Saxton could order me to report to Genl Howard. This would entitle me to transportation if not let the Genl give me a certificate that no transportation has been furnished me. The commissary here will not furnish me with bread or flour only hard tack, no coffee [[coffee]], no sugar, only as the order says for Freedmen he has seen the order of Genl. Howard No. 5. he say he cares nothing for that. The requisitions for wood have been in
The Quartermaster's office for some days but no wood has come. They promise every day. I think they have conspired together not to furnish us but drive us away from Columbia. I do hope I will get away in a few days. Genl Ely will receipt for all the medicines until you can send me a Surgeon. Enclosed please find papers.

Very respectfully yours obedient
Servant
E W Walton
A A Surg USA

Wm R. De Witt Jr
Surg. U.S.V.
Surg in chief District
S.C. & Geo.

P.S. Please send me my Contracts annulled.
Edisto Island SC
Dec. 4 1865
Whitemore De Witt
Agent Bureau
Request rations may be sent him for destitute Freedmen
I.B. 142 "W" AC SC & Ga 1865

Ration return made out in accordance with the enclosed Dec 8' 1865.

Re'd AAGO. Asst Com Sc & Ga Dec 8. 1865
H'dq'rs Agent Freedmen Bureau
Edisto [[strikethrough]] M [[strikethrough]] Dec 4th

Bvt. Maj Gen'l Saxton & Ass't Com'r

Dear Sir,
I respectfully request that rations for the destitute Freed-people on this
Island be sent here as soon as possible as they are very much needed.
Genl. Jas C. Beecher has sent a force here to preserve order so that
hereafter the rations will be issued only those actually in need.
I am Sir yours very truly
De Witt Whittemore.
Agent Bureau.
Rations required for 500 Destitute Freedpeople for 31 days, commencing the 1st day of December, 1865, and ending the 31st day of Dec. 1865.

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For 150 Sick People.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For issue to Destitute Freedpeople on Edisto Island*

*No Pork unless a guard is sent.*
Georgetown S.C.
Dec 14th 1865

Willard A.J.
Lt Col. Comd'g
4th Sub District M.D.C.
I.B. 149 "W" A C SC & Ga
States that in connection with instructions from Bvt Brig head C.H.
Howard he has recommended the making of Contracts but that the
planters seem indisposed to comply; he judges however, that not a long
time will elapse before they will invoke the aid of the Bureau in making
satisfactory Contracts with freedmen.

Re'd  A C SC & Ga Dec 19th 1865
Head Quarters 4th Sub Dist M.D.C.  
Georgetown SC Dec 14th 1865.

Brevet Major H. W. Smith  
A.A. Genl

Major:
In accordance instructions communicated by Bvt. Brig. Genl. C. H. Howard, under date Dec. 4th 1865, and just received, I have the honor to state that the form of Contract recommended by General Orders, &c. Assistance Commissioner, has been communicated and recommended, and is generally understood here, but there appears to be little disposition to adopt it; still less, on the part of the planters, to cooperate in the establishment of a Board to decide questions of that character. While the planters appear to be frank in discussing the subject, and stating their views, and, on the whole, are not unreasonable, still I find they are disposed to act independently of the Government as long as they can get along without assistance. They propose to submit their Contracts for approval, it is true, but are actuated by the idea that the freedpeople should begin to look to them, rather than to the agents of the Government, as the authority to be respected in all questions of labor.

I already see evidence that they will meet with disappointment in pursuing this course, and apprehend that it will not be long before they will of their own accord, invoke the aid of the agents of the Bureau in this matter. It has been my object to guide the action of the planters into the channels market out by the Bureau with the least possible show of disposition to dictate to them “over”
Since my report of the condition of the freed people, of Dec. 6th, I have received further information of the state of things on the South River. The planters are, with very few exceptions, absent from their plantations in that region in fact there have been, and still are but a handful of white people, most of whom are overseers in that region. I have been in communication with only three owners and one or two overseers from that entire section. One of the owners resides in Charleston; another is incapable, by reason of deafness, of managing the people; and the third is called on only occasion only to ask a single question, professing himself satisfied with the estate of things on his plantation.

I have kept a sergeant and assistants in that region, who have been ready, at all times, to give assistance to all requiring it. But no work worthy of mention has been done there, and no responsible parties have been there to enforce or direct labor. This state of things is unsatisfactory, but the absence of those whose duty and interest it is to apply their personal influence and exertions to the solution of the embarrassments that attend the reorganization of labor.

Very respectfully
Your Obdt. Servt.
A.J. Willard
Branchville S.C.
June 24 1865.
I.B 1 "Y" Ass't Com'r B. Ref. &c Bft S.C 65

Young, William F.

Lieu Supt

Makes report of state of the county & people & his operations in & around Branchville, S.C.
Branchville, S.C. June 24th, 1865

Bvt Major S.W. Saxton
A.D.C.
Beaufort, S.C.

Major.

I have the honor to report, that I arrived at this place on the 21st. I was two days in reaching Charleston and was delayed there two days, on account of some misunderstanding in regard to transportation, the S. Carolina Rail Road having been turned over to the company by the military authorities on the morning of the 19th, without any agreement for Govt. transportation.

Branchville, I find a small place deriving whatever of importance it may possess, from being the point of junction of the Columbia and Augusta branches of the S. Carolina Rail Road. It contains but a few scattered houses and is the centre of no business. But the country laying westerly, and bordering on the Edisto River contains many fine plantations and a larger population.

I find a very general state of uncertainty and distrust, existing among the planters, as to the purposes of the Government respecting plantation labor and the present status of the people, formerly held by them as slaves. They claim to have little or no faith in any system of compensated labor, not possessing the essential elements of slavery, and consequently are not well disposed towards any experiment looking to the permanent improvement and independence of the colored population. I shall do what I can to inform them of the intentions of the Government, respecting them, as well as modify - if desirable to correct - their peculiar inveteracies.
I find considerable members of the freedmen remaining upon the plantations of their former masters, render verbal agreements, between themselves and the proprietors, or under written contracts effected by some military authority. The terms of these contracts are similar to those which prevail in the more immediate vicinity of Beaufort and Charleston.

Col. James C Beecher, commanding the Branchville Dist. has been quite active in settling disagreements and arranging contracts within his district, manifesting a lively interest in the work. He has used the printed form of contract, & copy of which I herewith enclose, for your inspection. I presume it has no legal force, but may answer the temporary purpose for which it was intended.

I shall visit the plantations west of Branchville next week and, probably, be present at a public meeting of the planters, to be held at Bamburgh on Wednesday next.

I am informed, that at Columbia and throughout the northern portions of the State, the fact of Freedom is ignored and the relations of master and slave, still, insisted upon by many. I shall do what I can to get the light of the gospel of liberty into that region.

No Rations have been issued to the freedpeople at this post, and I am not aware of any cases where an immediate issue will be required. On some of the plantations, the supplies will become very short before sufficient food can be produced; but the general condition is hopeful. The only danger to be feared, which may cause lack of food among the freedpeople in this vicinity, before another spring, will come through dishonesty and fraud in the division of the present crop, at next harvest.
The nature of my duties, in this sparsely settled part of the state, renders it very necessary that I have a horse at my command. Horses are not to be obtained at this post, and the lack of one may embarrass my labors, as the main field of operations is among the plantations.

Of course, little or nothing can be done, at present, in this vicinity, in the matter of education. This must necessarily [necessarily] be different, at least, until the present crops are secured.

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Wm F. Young
Gen. Supt. &C.
Beauford S.C.

July 10 '65
I.B 2 "Y" Ass't Com'r B. Ref &c Bft S.C '65

Young Wm. F.  
Genl. Supt

Makes statements in regard to the condition of affairs of Ref and Freedmen in the different Districts of Summerville, Branchville, & Orangeburg S.C.

R'd Ass't Comr B. Ref. &c Bft S.C. July 10 '65
Beaufort S.C. July 10th 1865

Brevt. Maj. Gen Rufus Saxton
Assistant Commissioner
Freedmen’s Bureau

General,

I have the honor to state, that since my communications from Branchville under date of 24th June, I have become satisfied, that under present attitude of the military affairs, my labors in that vicinity must prove without any practical results except, perhaps, as a mere matter of observation. So far as I have been able to inform myself, not one of the orders relating to the Freedmens Bureau, emanating from the War Departments Gen. Howard or yourself has been promulgated through Department or District Head Quarters, to the several commands. The post Commands at Branchville, Summerville and Orangeburg, acting under orders from Dist. Head Quarters; have full control of the duties assigned to me, and however well disposed towards the Bureau, which I had the honor, through you, to represent, were without proper authority from their superiors officers to extend to me anything more than an advisory recognition.
Col. James C. Beecher, commanding at Branchville, at the time of my arrival at that place, manifested a lively interest in the objects of the Bureau, but did not seem disposed to turn over any of the duties pertaining to it and therefore, necessarily committed to me, as its duly accredited agent. Brevet Brig. Gen. Van Wyck, commanding at Summerville was equally cordial towards the objects of the Bureau, but was under orders to move his command to the western part of the State. From what I could learn through the freedpeople and others, I cannot report as favorably of the commanding officer at Orangeburg. Representations coming through creditable sources, leave no doubt, that under the administration of this officer, both spirit and letter of the reasonable and humane and policy of the Government’s daily set of defiances. The sight of the former masters & police control of the freedpeople is largely questioned and in all matters of dispute, arising between employed and their former masters, the testimony of the former is not regarded as competent. Indeed, Save the technical questions of ownership, it would seem, the former owner -loyal or otherwise- is still supreme; exemption from the auction block being the only thing settled.

Under this state of things, without power to command such changes as would enable me to carry out your
instructions, I decided to repair to Beaufort, and in your absence, I make the brief statement. I did not understand it to be my duty to contest authority with district or local commanders, or to subject myself to them beyond clear and well defined limits. Permit me to add, in this connection, that if a spirit of actual hostility to the Freedmen’s Bureau does not exist in the Dist, commanded by Rev. Maj. Gen. Hatch, there is manifestly, a lack of their cooperation essential to be successful prosecution of the work. I am forced to believe, that much of the prejudices, apparent among subordinate commands to what is divisively termed “negro Equality” is largely the echo from District Head Quarters at Charleston. I regret to observe, that this narrow and belittling spirit - so insulting to the Government and unjust to the colored man just struggling for manhood and independence with the fearful disabilities, imposed by generations of bondage, is not confined to offices in Command of white soldiers, but is especially prevalent among those commanding colored troops. Thus, instead of proving themselves this helpers, teachers and friends of the colored man - the ones to whom he can look to for encouragement and sympathy, in his efforts to become a man, as well as a soldier, taking advantage of position they join his enemies, around his ambition and lessen his self respect - thereby
causing lasting injury to the public service and the cause of humanity. Unfortunately for the country, too many such men are in command of posts and detachments throughout the State, and are called upon to adjudicate questions affecting the interests and rights of the freedpeople.

I trust, however, these evils are but temporary, perhaps the unavoidable incidents of the great social and political changes through which the nation is passing and that with our rapidly advancing civilization, this cruel prejudice against a weak and unfortunate race will disappear.

As the season is far advanced and I am, still, without any settled post of duty, and finding my health somewhat impaired through climatic influences, I regret feeling obliged to resign the appointment which I had the honor to receive at your hands.

With high appreciation for the signal ability and fidelity which you have brought to the important work, to which you have been called,

I remain General

Very truly

Your obt. Sevt.

Wm F Young
IB 2Y 1865

Beaufort, S. C. July 10th 1865
Bvt Maj Genl Rufus Saxton
Assistant Commissioner
Freedmens Bureau &c

General
I have the honor to state that since my communication from Branchville under date of 24 June, I have become satisfied, that under present attitude of military affairs, my labors in the vicinity must prove without any practical results except, perhaps, as a mere matter of observation. So far as I have been able to inform myself, not one of the orders relating to the Freedmens Bureau, emanating from the War Depart't Gen'l Howard or yourself, has been promulgated through Department or District Head Qr, to the several commands.

The fort commanders at Branchville, Summerville and Orangeburg, acting under orders from Dist Head Qr, have full control of the duties assigned to me, and however well disposed towards the Bureau, which I had the honor, through you, to represent, were without proper authority from their Superior officers to extend to me anything more than an advisory recognition. Col. James B. Beecher commanding at Branchville, at the time of my arrival.
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With high appreciation for the signal ability and fidelity which you have brought to the important work, to which you have been called.

I remain, General.

Very truly,
Your Obl. Serv.

(Sgt) Wm. F. Young.
The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

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