
2610 6/8/1865

From: Henry Rowntree

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2550

Springdale, Cedar Co.
Iowa.

Source: Bowdoin

[41, 42]

Springdale, Cedar Co. Iowa.
6th Mo. (June) 8th 1865.

Major General O.O. Howard
Respected Friend

My; attention has been directed to the appointment of a Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c. I rejoice on behalf of suffering and oppressed humanity, in our President's good selection.

I am desirous of obtaining employment in the great and useful work embraced in this Bureau.

I have long laboured for the elevation of the coloured people, endeavouring to raise up in them a higher standard and more consistent views of Religious, Moral, and Civil duties, to themselves, their country, and their God; in this way by mental cultivation and training, prepare them to enjoy and appreciate their liberty and blessings, that in due time, they may take their rank in the great human family designed for them by our great Creator.

I fully endorse the language of the Commissioner "That the negro should understand he is really free, but on no account, if able to work, should he harbor the thought that the Government will support him in idleness."

Whilst amongst them the greater part of years '63 & '64, which I spent in the valley of the Mississippi, I taught them this, adding that their future welfare and happiness depended mainly on their individual industry, in mental and temporal application.

My knowledge and acquaintance of the negro, with their habits, customs, manners &c, has not prepared me to unite with the radical Theories of some, but confirmed me in Practical common sense being best influenced by circumstances as actually existing in the immediate vicinity.

I am 50 years of age, healthy and active, born of Quaker parents, and have been for over 20 years, an ordained minister amongst them, as this portion of the christian church does not make any provision for the support of its ministers, but expects them to earn their own livelihood, I am also well conversant in mercantile business, having for 23 years, been an Importer in New York city, can keep books, accounts, &c.

Two of my Sons have been engaged in putting down the late wicked rebellion, one a commissioned officer in the Navy, the other was in the 35th Iowa Inf. Col. Hill.

To find a more extended field, and enlarged opportunity for usefulness, in advancing the true interests of my fellow man in every good way, is the cause of my request for some minor appointment, such being my motives, I do trust that Major General Howard will kindly overlook in me any irregularities in the mode being ignorant of any other way.

If I am furnished with any proper form &c for an application, I shall feel much obliged, and would endeavour respectfully to comply with such requirements.

Should Major General Howard have no places to fill, may I very respectfully ask him, to furnish me the address of Major E. Whittlesey Asst Comr for state of Mississippi, where most of my time was spend, and where I am well known, or of any of the other Commissioners, who would be likely to be in need of such assistance as my abilities, and business qualifications offer.

I am strictly temperate, not knowing the feelings of the drunkard. I am ignorant of all gambling and never in my life practised it, or entered a house or the arms of a woman prostitute. I am free from all debt and I hope at

peace with all men.

Very respectfully asking the favourable consideration of my application, as also the answering me at early convenience of the esteemed Commissioner. I await his kind reply and remains

Very truly
Henry Rowntree

My address is
Henry Rowntree
Springdale
Cedar Co
Iowa

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Springdale June <>

He Rountree

Wants an appointment

A.

Recd B of R F & AL 22 Jun

2611 6/8/1865

From: James H Foote

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2551

Wake County N.C.
Near Raleigh

Washington City D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[39, 40]

Wake County N.C. Near Raleigh
June 8th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard
Washington City D.C.
Dear Sir,

Permit me to trouble you with a few lines. Just after the surrender of Johnson to the invincible Sherman, a considerable quantity of Forage (corn & fodder) was impressed in this neighborhood for the use of the Army, and in many cases receipts were given to those from whom the forage was taken, some signed by the Quarter Master and others by forage masters with the promise that it would be paid for. The forage was taken principally for the 15th & 17th Corps of your brave command. Now will you be so kind as to inform me whether the said recs can be collected and if so how shall we proceed to do so?

They seem to be informal or irregular & not proper vouchers of payment in their present form. I presented them to Col. Boyd Genl. Schofields Chief Q. Mast. who advised me to write you concerning the matter, saying that he thought it was the intention of the authorities to pay for forage taken about this time after the cessation of hostilities. The parties presenting these claims will be able to show that they are true and loyal citizens and strongly attached to the Union.

If these claims can be paid, General, it will greatly aid this community in raising their crops, and relieve them greatly from their present prostration, and cement their affection for the Government which knows no rival.

Fearing that I have troubled you to much already, I close, presuming upon you kindness which was so largely extended to us in protecting us while in our midst.

Please write me at Raleigh and render us under renewed and lasting obligations.

Your obt. Svt.
James H Foote.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Being so far from Raleigh & can not decide the individual cases. The approval however of Gen. Schofield or of either of his Corps Comd to a formal voucher will be sufficient evidence to secure payment. The army of Sherman is mostly in Lou. Ky.

Ansd

2612 6/9/1865

From: A F Stewart

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2552

Source: Bowdoin

Clerk's Office, Select
Council
Philadelphia

[23]

Clerk's Office, Select Council
Philadelphia, June 9th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard
Dear Sir-

You are specially invited to be present at the reception of the returning Philad'a Regiments to take place to morrow 10th inst. Rooms have been provided for all the guests of the City at the Continental House, and Carriages will be ready at 12 oclock M to convey the guests to the reviewing stand.

By order of the Committee
A F Stewart
Clerk of <Committee>

2613 6/9/1865

From: Carrie Borden

To: Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2553

Source: Bowdoin

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and
Abandoned Lands,
Washington

[43]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington June 9th, 1865

Gen Howard,
Dear Sir,

I came up to your Quarters this morning to present to you and Mrs. Howard, the compliments of Col. and Mrs. Richard Borden, my good Father and Mother, with a cordial invitation for you to pay us a visit when you are again in New England. It would afford us all very great pleasure to welcome you to our quiet home, in Fall River, and we should enjoy so much the expression of that friendship in which the service of our beloved Country has entwined the earnest loyal hearts. My good Mother wishes very much to see you. Since the dear old Flag suffered the expulsion, but not the <martyrdom> of Sumpter, she has scarcely ceased her prayers and her toils for the soldiers. It has been a great comfort to us that while our noble men were in the Field enduring the terrible labor of redeeming our Country we at home might minister to their wants in so many ways.

If you have not shared in the supply of our hands dear General, you have I trust received a richer portion in the wisdom and blessing which our Heavenly Father has been pleased, to bestow in answer to the prayer of faith.

Now please, do come and see us with Mrs. Howard and the children, and very soon if you can. Gracie will remember little Hattie Borden. Mrs. Borden will be very happy to see you at her home with Mrs. H.

I am yours with highest regard and esteem.
Carrie Borden

Miss Carrie Borden
Care of Harris, Shortrid
Philadelphia, Pa

[A calling card was attached.] Miss Carrie Borden

2614 6/9/1865

From: T.A. Meysenburg

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2554

City Engineer's Office
St Louis

Source: Bowdoin

[44, 45, 46, 47, 48]

City Engineer's Office
St Louis, June 9, 1865

Dear General,

A long time has elapsed since I wrote to you last and during this period many things have occurred of great moment to the Country. With the greatest interest have I followed up your movements through the heart of the Confederacy and have enjoyed your achievements the same as if I had been with you. Your slow and steady promotion is the surest sign that it was well deserved, of which I for my part have been long ago convinced. It was not the momentary impulse and exaltation over one act, but a promotion on reflection, which it seems to me, makes it of much more value.

And even if the government should not have regarded your merits, the opinion of the people is but one and that is that the one armed soldier stands among the first of the nation.

You know very well General, that I am not disposed to flatter a person, but excuse me for having said so much and for allowing my candid feelings this expression. Believe me, if I assure you that I regard the period of my life which I spent in your association, one of the brightest, which will remain inscribed on my memory for ever.

Now I must trouble you with a matter relating to the old 11th Corps. It is about the books and papers of the same. You remember General that, when the 11th Corps was dissolved, two books were retained by you which you intended to send to me. The remainder of the papers &c, I kept until I could send them altogether, not wishing to have any of the books missing on examination at the War Department.

Now as you are stationed in Washington, I have taken the liberty to send the box containing all the books & papers in my possession to your address, so that, after adding the books with you, I would ask you to have them turned over to the Adjutant General office. For a long time have I had the desire to comply with the order requiring the transmission of these documents which, without any fault of mine has been delayed inexcusably. I must apologize for charging your officers with something which should be done by me, but under the circumstances I am in hopes to be excusable.

Now and then, I hear from the officers formerly connected with the 11th Corps. Among them is Col Balloch who undoubtedly is the same good man. He speaks of you always as the kindhearted good General, which in the mouth of Balloch is really meant so.

You have probably heard of my resignation in December last. In short, I will give you my reasons for doing so. My last campaign and career was attended with so little success, that no matter whose fault it was, it gave me a disgust for a life without activity as I had to lead for several months last year. Another reason is that my aged father wished me here and that it so happened, that before tendering my resignation a position in this office was offered me by my former chief.

Although I have many times felt a desire to be present when active operations of the army were in progress. I am now pretty well satisfied with my condition.

A great part of my leisure time I spend in adding to my little knowledge of my profession, Civil Engineering and all other time that can be spared I apply to general studies, which is the greatest satisfaction that I have found so far.

Excuse my encroaching upon your time with such a long letter containing so many useless remarks.

With the greatest respect and my best wishes

I have the honor to remain
Yours, sincerely
T.A. Meysenburg

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]
St. Louis Mo.
June 9, 1865
Meysenburg, T.A.
Friendly letter

2615 6/9/1865

From: James Wood

To: Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2555

Source: Bowdoin

Camp of the 136th
Regt. N.Y.V.I.
Near Washington D.C.

[189]

Camp of the 136th Regt. N.Y.V.I.
Near Washington D.C. June 9th 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard,
General:

I annoy you once more, and for the last time. The war is over. The rebellion is crushed. The flag of the Union waves proudly & triumphantly, over every foot of territory, subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Those who abandoned the peaceful pursuits of civil life, for the stern realities of bloody war, can once more return to the way of life so abandoned. Those who survive, with hearts filled with gratitude to God for his protecting care & mercy, those who have faithfully discharged their duty, with the proud consensness that they have aided in upholding the Government of their fathers, against the assaults of the most formidable rebellion the world ever saw. These are comforts and convolutions to the Christian soldier, of which no human authority can deprive him. But it must be conceded, that the officiants of the Govt, do not, and perhaps cannot, distribute the rewards of service with any thing like even handed justice.

In my case, I have discharged my duty faithfully, zealously, and allow me to add, efficiently. In my judgment, I have been treated with great injustice. As a personal favor I ask you to read carefully the enclosed paper. Having done so, I think you will say I am right. I am well aware, that I have been thrown into my present unfortunate position, by the force of fortuitous circumstances. It was my misfortune (at least I so regard it) that my Regt. Was assigned to the 11th Corps in the fall of 1862. It was a greater misfortune (I mean to myself and my military advancement) when the 11th Corps was broken up and its commander (who had been with it long enough to become acquainted with relative merits and capacity of each and every officer in it) transferred to another Corps. My chances of promotion were utterly destroyed, when Genls Butterfield & Hooker left the army & Genl Slocum succeeded to the command of the Xxth Corps. There indeed arose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.

In a military hierarchy, as you are aware, it is the person of the Superior office to present the services of his subordinate, however mentions, from being acknowledge or rewarded. In our service, the subordinate seems to be in the power of the Superior. Hence the Superior is bound by the highest of all honorable and moral obligations, to do justice to his subordinates. Now I respectfully submit to your good judgment; have I been treated justly, fairly? Have I not been, without cause a <parraction>, humiliated and degraded? Have I not been compelled to suffer from palpable favoritism?

I write you, because I have served under you longer than any other Corps Commander; because I know you abhor injustice; because I believe that if I had continued under your command I should have been subjected to no such unjust treatment; and because I have no doubt that, with your aid, even now, justice can so far be done, that I can go home with honor. You may say that the consciousness of having faithfully discharged his duty, is the good man's reward. Indubitably this is so. Earthly power cannot deprive him o this. It is his support & consolation under injustice contumely & oppression. But this, I apprehend, is no reason why he should be subjected to injustice contumely and oppression. It is the successful man that carries off the henna. The meritous ought to be successful, but you know that merit & success are not always companions.

I undertake to say that the assignment of Cogswell to my brigade cannot be justified. It was against every military usage. It was in violation of the practice and policy of our military service. It has been pronounced unjust & unwarranted, by every military officer in the Corps to whom the facts have been made known, but to add to the injustice (I will not now qualify it by fit terms) Genl Slocum has put in circulation the Statement that the 3d Brig of the 3d Div o the 20th Corps was the best brigade in the Corps that Cogswell had brought out its merits & qualities. You know that this (in regard to Cogswell) is not so. You know its discipline, its efficiency, and its reputation, one older than Cogswells commission as a Colonel. The remark was intended as reflection upon Cogswells predecessors, and you know that in that respect, it was (to me no harsher term) unwarranted.

If there is any think I have the right to be proud of, and I am proud of, it is the conduct of the Regt I brought into the field as you were pleased to say of it on another occasion "it never turned its back to the enemy". The conduct & services of my brigade on that terrible campaign against Atlanta, was equaled by few & excelled by none. Look at its record. It is written in blood. Its march from Buzzards Roost Gap to Atlanta can be traced by the graves of its dead heroes fallen in battle. I cannot think of it, if the sacrifices I have made, of the services I have rendered, and the treatment I have received, without feeling indignant. I dislike to leave the army with such feelings of oppression & injustice weighing on m mind. Perhaps I ought not to entertain them, but is it in human nature to do otherwise?

I have so much confidence in the President & Sec'y of War that I believe that they would when <> from my present position if my case could be placed fairly before them. I am aware of the difficulty of accomplishing this, in the immensity & pressure of the public business. If any officer in the Service can do it, I respectfully submit, you can. Under you, I have served, and with your name & fame I am associated. Together we have rejoiced in <perpenty> & victory; and together we have walked in the dark Shadow of adversity. I labored at all times, and in all places, to the utmost of my ability, to the extent of my capacity, to maintain & uphold the hour of the Corps & its Commander. In view of "these things" I am now emboldened to appeal to you in the day of my adversity with which as a Commander you are not associated. It is my last effort to obtain redress from the military tribunals. This failing my defence (and I am placed on the defensive) will come from my own voice & pen. With your permission I will have a personal interview with you to day or to morrow.

I am with great respect yours &c
James Wood

[Written across the last page in red pencil in a different hand.]
Col. Wood
No answer.

2616 6/9/1865

From: C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2556

Source: Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Camp
Stanton
Beaufort S.C.

[181]

Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton
Beaufort S.C.
June 9 1865

My dear brother

Capt. Cole surprised me much by stepping into my tent last Monday evening. He brought a brief letter from Maj. Stinson. The only words in your hand-writing were Beaufort S.C. upon the exterior of the envelope containing my Brevet appointments. These (the Brevets) were a complete surprise and of course gratifying.

I walked down to Gen. Saxton's with Capt. C. that evening. The Genl was glad to have some word from you. He had nearly decided to visit Washington.

I can hardly tell you how glad I was to see some one from you – from the personal staff. Capt. C. gave me some idea of your situation and how you are occupied. I am very glad to know Lizzie is with you.

I have so much to say that I hardly know where to begin. Besides I have been in the habit, you know, of having long talks with you during the past 4 years so that pen & paper seem a very inadequate means of communication. I was sorry Capt. C. could not remain longer. He left next morning for Savannah. But he came back to my Camp at Reveille and I had a Dress Parade & Drill (Battalion) for his inspection about which he will tell you.

I think you could not have done better than to appoint Gen. Saxton to the position you did. Will it not be permitted him to have control of some troops? You know the execution of every measure now depends and will for some time depend entirely upon the military. If the Colored troops in these two states could be organized into a Divn and Gen. S. assigned to command it, although it would probably be advisable to distribute it in garrisons yet Gen. S. would then have power to carry out any policy. It would give him more respect of the existing military authorities also more deference from the inhabitants. With a military organization & command come also staff officers and many prerogatives, as you are well aware, which would facilitate his operations much. I am convinced, were you in his place, you would consider it highly important to have some (4) troops under your control at least for a year to come. There seems to be a propriety in giving a military man who retains his rank some actual command if it is deemed, also, for the good of the cause.

Gen. S. now has under his control these two Regts. 128th & 104th – (the latter not yet mustered in & some fear that it will not be thought it seems to me better that the Govt. accept a Regt. just organized & full to the maximum, which it has cost so much to recruit. Besides it is undoubtedly better to provide for as many colored men, & families as possible by getting the men into the Army.

My men are learning to read and write. Have become quite neat and soldierly in appearance and you would certainly say are much improved from what they were as recruits.

(5) I expect my Regt. will be turned over to Gen. Gillmore for duty soon. Gen. S. will ask to have it returned here and the 32nd U.S.C.T. sent away. This (if accomplished?) will give me command of the Post here and even if Gen. S. has no control of troops by any arrangement from you, we shall work very harmoniously together of course as I see you have permitted his Hd. Qrs. to remain here. This is certainly the most advantageous place – easy of access to the islands and about mid-way between Charleston & Savannah.

Capt. Cole says Maj. Whittlesey is to have Florida. I am pleased at this for I may see him sometimes.

(6) The Lieut. Col. of 32nd U.S.C.T. came to me this morning about applying to you for that State. He will see

Capt. Cole. I know nothing about him.

Dont you think you will come down here this Fall? Sometimes I think it would be well for me to take a respite & go North in August. I get rather weary here sometimes & they all say it will be intensely hot in August. Still I have not settled to go. I do not trouble myself any about the healthiness. I think I will be well. But it sometimes seems that I would come back to my work with more vigor & would really accomplish more after a little relief & contact with the vitalizing thoughts & feelings of friends a the North. I do hope that you will visit us if you can & bring Lizzie. I (see margin Page 1st) suspect Mrs. Saxton would be almost beside herself with delight at such a prospect. She named her horse (which Gen. Blair gave her) Gen. Howard . (See Page 7th)

(Page 7th) There is one important matter that I wished to mention. I hear from different sources that Gen. Grover at Savannah seems almost in sympathy with Rebels. He has even prohibited the Drum Corps of the 33d U.S.C.T. to play a certain air which he considers incendiary . It makes one think of the dark age of Slavery to see that word incendiary . He is certainly not in sympathy with those who are laboring for the Freedmen. Rebel officers record their names at the hotels as Captain so & so of C.S.A .

Hatch at Charleston & Potter of District Port Royal are complained of as of the same stripe. Lt. Col. Beebe is to have a Leave in July and would (8) visit Maine if you & your family were there. He may do it at any rate as he has a special attraction at Belfast – Dr. Monroe's daughter. You may remember Dr. M. He used to be surgeon 20th Maine & was in the legislature last Winter.

We are all expecting to be brought before an Examining Board. Some of my officers are resigning on this acct. Perhaps I had better but I think I will wait & see. Do you suppose Gillmore will remain here? He has been doing much apparently to <con?iate> the Freedmen interest of late.

Induced Chief Justice Chase to think he (Gillmore) was as good a friend the black man could have. He appointed several officers of Colored Regt on his staff. Woodford you will remember. Gave you the reception speech at the Astor House when we first came through with 3d Maine. He is Bvt. Brig. Gen. & Chief of Staff for Gen. Gillmore.

<[CHECK ORIGINAL, sideways writing on page 7 hidden by tape.]> What can I do to deserve such a favor?

Yr affectionate brother
C.H. Howard

P.S. You have my warmest thanks for remember me, to secure the Brevets. C.H.H.

2617 6/9/1865

From: Royal E Whitman

To: Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2557

Source: Bowdoin

Quartermaster's
Department,
Thirtieth Reg't, Maine
Veteran Vols.,
Savannah Geo.

[48]

Quartermaster's Department,
Thirtieth Reg't, Maine Veteran Vols.,
Savannah Geo. June 9th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard
My dear General

You are undoubtedly aware of the assignment of our Divn to this Dept. I had the honor of calling at your Head Qrs. before I left W. and found you absent. As we shall probably remain here or near here for a considerable time, it occurs to me I may possibly be of some service to you in furnishing you with informations statistical or otherwise in lieu of a more valuable correspondent. Please to command me at any time I can be of Service to you, only do not overrate my abilities. I simply claim to be a yard Soldier so far as I have had opportunities to learn. With best wishes for yourself and Mrs. H.

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Royal E Whitman
Lt Col. 30th Me Vols

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Savannah, Ga,
June 9th, 1865
Royal E. Whitman
Lieut. Col. 30th Me. Vols.
Proffers his services in furnishing information statistical or other.
Recd. (Bu. R.F. And AL.) June 15, 1865

2618 6/9/1865

From: Robt Goodenow

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2558

Farmington Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[49, 50]

Farmington Maine
June 9 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard,
Dear Sir,

I address you at this time, to ask you, if you can and will detail or appoint my son Capt Nathan C. Goodenow, now at Louisville Ky, acting ordnance officer of the Calvry Depo at that place, and formerly on Genl Stonemans staff to some duty in your department?

My son has been in the army now nearly three years, first apptd a Lt in a mounted Battery in Illinois, and very soon after a Capt. In the 16 Illinois Cavalry. He was with Genl Shermans Army to the taking of Atlanta and after that was ordered back to Ky to attend to the duties pertaining to the refitting several Cavalry Regiments. In November last he applied for orders to join his regiment, instead of which he rec'd orders assigning him to duty at Louisville, where he has since been. On the 14 Decr last he was taken suddenly and violently ill at Louisville, and was confined to his room for 53 days with fever and rheumatism, which terminated in his recovery, with the loss of the sight of his right eye, and depriving him of the oppy he had hoped for, the more active duties of the service. I have understood he has a good reputation for energy and ability in the duties he has been assigned to and that Genl Stoneman has spoken well of him as an officer.

I have good reasons for believing his habits of temperance, sobriety and good morals are well established, and I know him to be more than ordinarily capable in business. He has two motherless boys depending on him, and it seems to me he is among the thousands who being earnestly and patrioticy given their services to the country from pure motives, and are entitled to consideration. For you personally, I know from letters to me two years ago, he has the highest respect and admiration. If you can therefore, assign him to some duty or place in your department, I should be grateful to you.

If need be I think I could furnish you with testimonials from many of your personal friends.

With the highest respect
Yours truly
Robt Goodenow

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]
Farmington Me June 9,/65
Goodenow, Robt.
Asks to have his son detailed into the Bureau.
June 12, 1865 Recd
Ans
Either of the Asst. Com. might employ him.

2619 6/10/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2559

Richmond Ind.

Source: Bowdoin

[51]

Richmond Ind.
June 10, 1865

My dear brother:

You see by the enclosed circular that I am into business. I have done something at it already. Can you immediately send me a copy of the laws passed during the last two sessions of Congress. I suppose they are bound & ready for distribution & if you could send them to me without the expense of purchasing them you would do me a favor. If they are not some of the perquisites of your office, I can get them in Cincinnati, to which city we are sending nearly every day.

I saw by the papers that Mrs. Gen. Howard was at Washington a few days ago. Is she there now? If so give her much love from her brother Dell. Are there any of the children with her.

I am enjoying life very much and am rapidly getting acquainted with the people.

Mr. Siddall, in whose office I am at present located, is a pleasant man.

Uncle & family are nicely.

Your aff. brother
R. H. Gilmore

P.S. Mr. S.R. Deane, who is the father of a certain young lady in whom your brother is somewhat interested, has requested me to write you inquiring whether you know of a Freedman & his wife who would like a good situation, such as Mr. D. could give upon his farm, & if so would inform him or me immediately. R.H.G.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Ind.
June 10, 1865
R.H. Gilmore

Requests copies of the laws passed during the two last sessions of Congress.

Ans'd by sending the Report

Recd. (Bur. R.F. and A.L.) June 15 1865

[Enclosure. Printed Circular.]

PENSIONS,

BOUNTY AND BACK PAY

The undersigned has taken a license as

U.S. War Claim Agent

for

INDIANA,

And will give particular attention to the collecting of Pensions, Bounties, Arrears of Pay, and all other demands against the Government of a war nature.

Advice and information in regard to claims FREE.

NO CHARGE UNLESS SUCCESSFUL

OFFICE OVER CITIZEN'S BANK,

(The Office of J.P. Siddall, Esq.,)

Richmond, Ind.

R. H. GILMORE,

Attorney at Law.

REFERENCES:

Major General O.O. Howard, Chief of Freedman's Bureau, Washington, D.C.

Hon. Ira Harris, United States Senator, Albany, New York.

C.H. Strickland, Esq, Richmond, Indiana

J.P. Siddall, Esq, "

Col. John A Bridgeland, "

Wm. Parry, Township Trustee, "

2620 6/10/1865

From: C.A. Whitlan

To: Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2560

Head Qrs Cmd of 2nd
A.C.

Philadelphia

Source: Bowdoin

[41]

The American Telegraph Company
North, South, East and West

Dated: Head Qrs Cmd of 2nd A.C. [June 10] 1865
Rec'd, Philadelphia
To: Maj Genl O O Howard

The 69th P.V. is a veteran organization & will not be mustered out of service.
C.A. Whitlan

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]
June 10th 1865
C.A. Whitlan
States the 69th Pa. Vols a Vet. R.C. Will not be mustered out.

2621 6/10/1865 *From:* M.H. Wright

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2561

Madison, Ga

Chf. Frdmn Bureau
Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[53]

Madison, Ga
June 10, 1865

My Dear Friend:

Perhaps the mad current of Evintos which has swept over our land for the last four years, has not so entirely washed my name from your memory, as to render the above caption less true than I was want to mean it - & that I may still claim it without being considered presumptuous.

The fierce struggle is over –the will of God is plainly stamped on our destiny, & I pray that His Grace may be sufficient to sustain us all, in our prosperity & success, alike in our misfortunes & adversity.

I cheerfully acquiesce in His wise decrees & am more than willing to aid by whatever fate may be mine in this world, looking, through faith, alone to the world on High as the goal of all genuine happiness.

This fearful tragedy has been <reached>, surely it was the working of a Higher Power than mortals & all must admit that the part borne by the South was a essential to the consummation of the ends obtained, as was that of the National Government –may God sanctify the results to the good of all His people.

You most likely have not learned of my marriage, which took place Sept. / 63 near Atlanta, Ga, when I was married to Miss Sehon, daughter of Rev. E.W. Sehon of M.E. Church, & Missionary Secy of the <>.

My wife is all that man could desire & in her I am signally blessed –a most affectionate wife & an earnest, zealous member of the Churhc, & in our Precious Boy of 10 months, we have a great treasure, and earnest pledge of God's love for us.

Please present my kindest regards to Mrs. H & the Children.

I could, nay I would write much more –but not now –I must await & see, if I can still subscribe myself,

Truly Yr. friend &c
M.H. Wright
(Col –Paroled)

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Chf. Frdmn Bureau
Washington, D.C.

P.S. I shall remain in Madison until I fully understand my status; & know what I am to do, or is to be done with me. Should you have the time & inclination to write me, it will give me great pleasure to write you fully. M.H.W.

2622 6/11/1865 *From:* Amelia Feaster

To: Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2562

New York
Astor House

Source: Bowdoin

[54, 55, 56]

New York June 11th [1865]
Astor House

Genl Howard
Dear Friend

In reply to your kind inquiry of what you could do to assist me, I beg leave to suggest that you would have an interview with Sec Stanton urging his attention to my case. If I could have remained some time in Washington it would have been of advantage. As we were under the care of Mr Weed we felt bound to return when he did. Could there be any arrangement made for my spending some time in Washington it would be advantageous. I have no doubt no one seems to realize our painful position. I feel that my heart is breaking and my anxiety in regard to my children is very great. Does it not seem hard after having suffered so much for the cause, and braved all dangers to succor and assist our brave men who perilled their lives to save their country, that I should have become beggared so suddenly deprived of wealth of a home of luxury and comfort, and to become a houseless homeless wanderer. Many wise men who examine the matter agree in thinking the Sec has the power to grant relief. Will you not add your influence, see him in person and urge my necessities. Do you think it would be of any advantage to see the President in my behalf. Mr Sec Seward expressed much sympathy for me and would add his influence. If you have an opportunity to speak with him on the subject I would feel grateful. I hope much from your interview with Mr Stanton. One fourth of what I expended on the prisoners would now make me comfortable, which is all I desire. I beg my friend you will be able to propose some way of relief that may meet the Hon Secs views. Mr Weed has done nothing since our return. He is awaiting a promised letter from Mr Stanton and I fear the whole matter has escaped his memory, and will you not revive the matter, and keep up his interest. I have received many letters from the Prisoners. Would like you to see them. My daughter sends kind remembrances. We both indulge in hopes of ultimate success and feel your influence will be great and will not be withheld. I hope to be able to come to Washington again. At the suggestion of Mr Weed my daughter wrote to Mr Stanton to day.

Respectfully
Amelia Feaster

If this matter has to be referred to Congress could there not be some relief granted by an advance or a requisition on the quarter master department. I am so anxious to have a home for my family. I cannot bear the thought of separation. The convent is the only Asylum I see at present and I shudder at the thought. I know that I expended one hundred thousand dollars on the prisoners in four years. This they will vouch for. It cost a mess of <four> one hundred dollars to get a dinner. One fourth of what I expended would now place me above want. It would be a mite to the Government and so much to me at present. I feel that I need not urge you to speak in my behalf. Your Native goodness of heart will prompt you to do all you can for me and my dear little ones. Poor little tutu is now sheltered in the convent to relieve me of expense. I have been waiting so patiently for some action. My hopes are again excited. God grant success may crown the efforts of my friends. Much of that hope rests upon you my kind and good friend. Would others felt as you do I would soon feel comparatively happy.

Truly yours
A F

[Written in red at the top of the 4th page, in a different hand.]
Mrs. Feaster

2623 6/11/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Lee]

To: My dear Cousin [OO]
Howard]

OOH-2563

Milford

Source: Bowdoin

[57]

Milford June 11, 1865

My dear Cousin

I truly beg your pardon for troubling you again, knowing how very busy you are and will be brief as possible.

I take the liberty of sending Perrys letter which tells the story [See letter dated 6 June 1865, OOH-2542]. And ask a favor of you, for which I should <con>feel very grateful as I do for your many past acts of kindnesses. Can you not detail him so he might be examined in Washington before an impartial board.

I do not think it just for a Col and Lieut Col to examine their own Officers. Col W. had the making of the Corps before and I know of many & many a field officer who if they could would protect against his making it over. Gen Fry and he have had interests together are friends so he will support him in everything.

Perrys position is and has been very trying but it has proved to me his noble principal.

If the poor fellow had not an empty stare I should wish him to leave the Army, but his profession is gone (he cant take the <seas>) and he has little business experience.

I fear the sympathy of most business men does not include heart and purse.

I feel he has earned his positions and that two men ought not to be able to make him give it up.

His life has been one long struggle and I do think he feels discouraged. Will you not please give him a few lines of comfort and advice.

Fearing you might be home & this not reach you I am going to write to my old friend Gen Underwood who is President of a Court Martial to see if you are not in the city & he can detail Perry to please do so. I write these without his knowledge remembering the fable of the mouse who freed the Lion from the snare. I may at least try & help him.

With a great deal of love for you & yours I am ever lovingly your affec coz
Lizzie [Elizabeth (Fiske) Lee, wife of Perry]

2624 6/12/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Otis [OO]
Howard]

OOH-2564

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[59, 60]

Farmington June 12 / 65

Dear Brother Otis

I have received a letter from Mr. J. L. Schick of Gettysburg who, you recollect gratuitously entertained me and gave his house for a Hospital for Perry Lee & others, inviting me to spend the 5th with him, and saying that "e would be proud to have you accept of his hospitalities while in Gettysburg" If public arrangements will not permit you to gratify him by accepting his invitation, I do hope you will be able to call (or see) & thank that noble Christian patriot & his wife, for all that they so generously did for us & the Union wounded. He met with Charles & wants him to come. I wish we could all meet there.

I go to Boston this week and a letter will reach me addressed to Fr Gilman, 107 <H> Street. Ella & the children go to Bath. I expect to be away 10 days at least.

Mother was up & spent last Thursday night with us. She seemed pretty well & cheerful, but is quite lonely there at Leeds alone.

With love to Lizzie if still with you.

Affly
Rowland

P.S. I have not heard from you since your new apptment.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]
Farmington June 12, 1865
Howard, Rowland

2625 6/12/1865 *From:* J. Whoveney

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2565

Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[61]

Washington, D.C.
June 12th 1865,

My Dear Sir,

Mr Wm. S. Hine line the bearer, has just been selected as Departmental and local reporter for the Daily Chronicle. I cordially recommend him to you and will be greatly obliged if you will give him any daily intelligence or items that you may think proper to publish from your Department.

Yours Very Truly
J.<Whoveney>

Major General Howard

2626 6/12/1865 *From:* S. Louis Johnson *To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2566 Camp Stoneman, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[62]

Camp Stoneman D.C.
June 12th 1865

Maj Genl Howard
Sir:

Pardon me for the liberty I take in thus addressing you. I wished to know if your brother the Co'l has command of a Col'd Regt and if so, could you assist me to obtain a position in it. I was acquainted with Charles when at Brunswick where I reside and would write him if I knew where to direct. I have served three years in the old Fifth Me and am now in "Hancock Corps."

If you can assist me any General I should be under the greatest obligation to you.

I am sir
Very Respectfully
Your obdt ser'vt
S. Louis Johnson
Co "D" 8th Ret 1st Corps
Camp Stoneman DC

P.S. I can furnish the best of recommendations as to character, ability &c.

2627 6/12/1865

From: Mrs. J. B.
Richardson
Washington, D.C.

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2567

Commissioner Freedmen's
Bureau
Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[64]

Washington, D.C.

June [14? added in pencil, probably 12] 1865.

Genl. Howard,
Dear Sir,

I wrote you a note some days since, begging you, if it were in your power, to give me some writing from your office. As I have received no answer to it, I can only suppose it has never reached its destination. Since I applied to you for a clerkship in your Bureau I have obtained the appointment to one in the Treasury Department, at the sum of \$50.00 per month. After most earnest endeavor I find that I cannot obtain board for myself and child for less than \$48.00 per month in this city. Pardon me for writing these particulars to you, but I merely wish to state that that sum is totally inadequate to my support, and that I must find some other employment. If you could give me some writing from your Bureau, which I could take home with me, and do nights and mornings, I assure you I should not only be most truly grateful to you, but I think you would feel that you had assisted one who was really in need. I hope it is needless for me to state that I should try most faithfully to do my duty to your satisfaction.

I am not accustomed to asking favors and I hardly know how to word my request, but "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and if in your kindness, you do see fit to grant my request, the blessings of Him, who had promised to befriend the widow and the fatherless, will I am sure cast upon you. I will call again tomorrow morning to get an answer to my request.

With the utmost respect.
Mrs. J. B. Richardson.

Major Genl O.O. Howard,
Commissioner Freedmen's Bureau
Washington

[Written sideways on the front page in pencil, in a different hand.
No answer.

[Written sideways on the back page in red, in a different hand.]

Washington June 1865
Richardson, Mrs J. B.
Recd June 13th 1865

2628 6/14/1865 *From:* David Barker

To: Genl O O Howard

OOH-2568

Exeter, Maine

Washington
D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[64]

Exeter, Maine
June 14, 1865

General,

I see it stated in the papers that you are to deliver the oration at Gettysburg on the 4th proximo.

Will you oblige me by saying if that announcement is correct.

Very respy
Your obt servant
David Barker

Genl O O Howard
Washington
D.C.

2629 6/14/1865 *From:* W. French

To: Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2569

Beaufort, S.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[65, 66]

Beaufort, S.C. June 14, 1865

Dear Sir,

I desire to express, to you, my gratitude to a kind Providence, who has placed you in charge of so many of the very important interests of the freedmen. I pray that you may be endowed with wisdom for the great work, & that you may be able to find men preeminently fitted to aid you, without meaning the work. The real elevation, having anything like a symmetrical development, of this people, is a slow work. Men of weak faith in God, or who cannot do this work heartily as unto the Lord, are very apt to soon grow weary of it. The cross of the colored man's cause, is not without its odium, true christian love & a certain amount of courage, are requisite, or not only will the cause suffer, but the laborer himself will sustain moral damage, as has too often occurred.

Genl. Saxton desires me to make out a code of regulations relative to the marriage relations. I hope to have them ready by next steamer. I find it a very important, & also very difficult work.

There is another field of immense importance to be provided for. I refer to the settlement of the estates of deceased freedmen & the care of their minor children. Even if the states were reorganized, their laws ignore all the interest of the freemen. All their courts are barred against them.

Once case, which I will give, that occurred on one of the islands a few weeks since will at once illustrate the wants I refer to. A freedman died, leaving two motherless children, one a babe of a few months, the other perhaps three years. There was no one to look after either his children or property. The property, by military order was sold for nearly \$500 & this deposited in the Freedmen's bank. Who shall be guardian of the children & expend these funds for their education? Several thousand similar cases will occur before one year. Would it not be well to establish something like a "Commissioner of Estates" department? He could oversee this whole field.

A court of some kind, in which the freedmen shall be allowed to give testimony is absolutely necessary.

Necessity is being laid on us by Providence, through the force of stubborn facts involving equally the white man's interest, to do some sort of justice to the colored man.

I trust I shall be excused for naming another matter, Genl. Grover has been relieved of the command of Savannah, by Genl. Gillmore. Brig. Genl. Woodford has been placed in command of the Port & Genl. Birge of the District. Genl Grover was the favorite of all the disloyalists, as is generally understood. His restoration cannot aid, in any way, the interests of the freedmen. I think Sec. Stanton knows this & between you, the Secretary and other friends, I trust Genl. Grover will be assigned to duty elsewhere.

I pray that God may give you all needed wisdom for your work, & good men only to aid you. Pardon my <freedom> & believe me

Yours truly
W. French [Winsor Brown French]

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Beaufort S.C.
June 14, 1865
French W Gen.
Recd B of R F & AL 23d June

2630 6/14/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2570

Source: Bowdoin

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands,
Washington D.C.

[606]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Washington D.C. June 14th, 1865
(Wednesday night)

Dearest,

I presume you are quietly at home by this time and I hope quite well. I shall look for a letter tomorrow or next day. I came straight back in the 12 m. train reaching here about 6 P.M. Col. & Mrs Markland had joined the mess and we are now living quite pleasantly. Col Markland & wife, Gen. Strong, Col. Fullerton, Capt Taggart, Maj Stinson, Maj Gilbreth & Lt Sladen will all be in. They do not all room here yet. I am now getting along well with my business. Capt Cole has just returned from Beaufort S.C. from Saxton & Charles. They are well and Saxton sends a good report. Col Markland & Gen Strong have started for the West on duty. Stinson has gone to Richmond. Oh, there is much, much to tell you, but it is too late tonight. I have written four pages of my 4th of July Oration and it is near 12 midnight.

Give much love to the children.

God bless you all
Lovingly
Otis

2631 6/14/1865 *From:* Wm. A. Leech

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2571

302 Walnut Street
Philada.

Source: Bowdoin

[182]

302 Walnut Street
Philada. June 14th. 1865

Major General O.O. Howard
General,

I called to see you when I was in Washington some weeks ago and again when you were in this city last week but on each occasion I was disappointed. My object in calling upon you was the natural desire I felt to see an old friend, but this was not my only object. I wanted besides to enquire of you whether as "Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau" you had in your gift any office or appointment that I could fill. As you are aware I entered the service of the very commencement of the war and after participating in most of the engagements I was finally taken prisoner last August on the Weldon Rail Road. Last spring I was released and soon after, my term of service having expired, I was mustered out. I at once opened an office for the practice of my profession, the Law, but times are not now what they were, when I abandoned my business and took to the field. After a trial of some months I find myself with scarcely any business on hand, and very little prospects at present of getting any. Thinking that perhaps in starting a new institution you might be in want of assistants I thought I would apply to you.

I am general
With much respect,
Your old friend
Wm. A. Leech