
2762 7/21/1865

From: M. B. Lakeman

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2706

47 Long Wharf
Boston

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[47, 48]

Boston July 21st / 65

General
Dear Sir,

Being about applying for a situation in the Custom House here, and it being requisite to have certificates of service and merit, I take the liberty of applying to you as the only General officer now living except Genl Ward, who knows of my service and the working of the Regt.

I have a good recommendation from Gov Cony [Maine], in which he speaks of the 3rd being originally your regiment, and I think if you can give me a certificate it would assist me verry much in obtaining a situation which I am much in need of, as I am now and have been for seven months at a great expence on account of the sickness of my wife, who I regrett to say cannot long be here with me. She is suffering from an inward cancer for which nothing can be done but to make her as comfortable as possible, which I use my utmost endeavor to do.

Be assured General that anything you may do for me will not be misplaced, as I have after so long delay excepted your kind advice and am proud to say that I am a Temperance Man, and by the grace of God shall remain so.

Wishing you great success in your new undertaking, and with the kindest regards for you and yours,

I remain as ever
Yours Very truly
M. B. Lakeman
47 Long Wharf

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Boston July 21st 1865
Lakeman M.B.
Requests recommendation for position in the Custom House.

Answ.

2763 7/22/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2707

Source: Bowdoin

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

[616]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, July 22nd 1865

Dearest,

It is very hot here in Washington this morning and I am greatly affected by the heat and wish I was with you at Augusta. Our house is a cool & pleasant as any in town but that is not saying much just now.

Col. Markland is intending to take his wife to Cincinnati starting Sunday night, to be gone some two weeks. Mrs M. has been very attentive to Guy, has taken him to the Capitol, Patent Office, and other public places. Today they go to see the market. Sam has gone to work as Steward of our mess and has done well. This he has done in addition to his work for me personally, which is comprized in a little aid in the morning and evening at dressing & undressing.

Guy is quite well and I think getting into even better condition than when he came. He is a very good boy, obedient, kind and intelligent. Col. Markland thinks very highly of him. I think Col. M. feels badly that he has no children. Before Guy came he kept saying how much he wanted my children to come & play in the yard to keep it alive.

All matters about servants, housekeeping &c I will leave to talk over with you when I come on I shall surely bring you on when I come back at least part way where I can see you occasionally. I feel too much like a stranger to my family. Everything is so remarkably uncertain now in army and political life, that we must be together when we can and lose not a drop of comfort we always derive from each others society. I need your sympathy and society, and I feel it is wrong to make you struggle along without mine. I hope you are very well, darling, since your happy visit to Washington & Phila. The enjoyment of your visit to me was greater than any other during our wedded life. It almost seems like a dream. Your own freshness and <> affection dwells daily in my heart. I get away from thoughts of responsibility & care by devoting my thoughts to you, and here I find no difficulty in dwelling with pleasure. Our wedded life has surely been happy but it seems wonderfully short and I cant help feeling as if there was danger of our getting old & moving off the stage, before we have had a fair portion of life.

How is Harry Stinson. I do hope he will be improved and strengthened by his visit. Gilbreth is always a source of anxiety to me. I think he is inclined to dissipation and is very worldly and my poor influence dont quite <nachliness>. Give my kindest regards to all my friends. My love to Mrs Jackson. And much love & many kisses to the children. Love to mother if you write. I hope we shall soon be together. God bless & keep you.

Lovingly Your husband
Otis

2764 7/22/1865 *From:* L.J. Putnam

To: Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2708

Bedford L.I.

Source: Bowdoin

[49, 50]

Bedford L.I. July 22, 1865

Dear Sir,

I avail myself of this method to call your attention to the subject of this letter which will convey to you some ideas that may serve the interest of the Freedmen in the southern states. In reflecting upon the history of these people & the relations & the power of the Bureau to control it, I cannot but hope, that my efforts will be fully considered & will be approved by you.

The Plan to give the Freedmen Homestead Right to lift them above the position of tenant at will originated from me as you will see by referring to the Washington Morning Chronicle of the 22 of April 1864 in which a communication was published written by me as the way mark to reach the solution of the great problem which is demanded alike for the white man & the colored man who must depend upon the policy of the Government as the guide to the future.

The power vested in you as commissioner of Freedmen, will open to you the way to treat the subject with the seriousness its importance demands as all that they will be in the future may come from the decision to establish these people in a permanent position on all the plantations in the southern states. The first requirement is protection with a field open to them that they may become the industrial class of the south. How can they obtain this without the agency of the Government <say> what Plan will it adopt to lead to that result. To answer the question in a useful manner & without any presumption on my part that would infringe upon its dignity with right, of your Bureau is the object of my solicitude. It has been my determination to make a mark in the history of the colored people & I believe that I have nearly reach the object of my ambition. The contents of the circular herewith transmitted is the key to the principles by which I am governed in writing you this Letter which will served as a link to the efforts to protect my people in the transition & open the way for their elevation. For I cannot but think that their destiny to some extent is in your hands as I will endeavor to show & which will be determined by the plan you may adopt in their behalf.

The surrender of the abandon lands to those who may claim them is the turning point & may become the subject of the highest importance if the condition to provide for the Freedmen to retain their homes for three or five years & be supplied with means to plan provisions for their families under the guidance of you should be adopted. It will enable them on the other hand to cultivate the remainder of the Plantation for any owner wh will need the labor to carry on the culture of the Land until the Government can fix upon the Plan to establish them in a permanent position.

The vitality of emancipation depends upon a national organization of the freedmen into an industrial class to cary on the agriculture of the south & at the same time manage their own affairs on the homestead. In every case where the owner of any land either from opposition to the Government or other cause fail to cultivate the soil, the colored people for self preservation must carry it on as the only means to sustain the system of industry necessary to establish the great principle of self elevation to govern them. To keep them from the allunements of the cities & beyond the reach of whisky & the Police office & other degrading features of civilization would be the greatest blessing that could be conferred upon a people exposed to the pernicious example of the dominant class.

I make the reference not in an offensive sense but it is referred to as a vice that would be decidedly against the moral & the intelligent work that must be done for the elevation of the Freedmen.

While Congress is the source from which success must come, yet, the foundation for its proceedings upon this important subject may depend upon the means by which you are governed & I hope that under the guidance of Providence you will be able to supply.

I am, sir

yr obt servt
L.J. Putnam

To Maj. Gen. Howard

P.S. The circular will not be printed before next week whn a copy will be sent. Should it please you to see me in reference to the subject of this letter I will be happy to anseswr any demand you may be pleased to make.
L.H.P.

Herkimer St near Ralph Ave.

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

Bedford L.I.

July 22d 1865

Putnam L.H.

Gives views in regard to Freedmen

2765 7/22/1865 *From:* W. Reynolds, Jr.

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2709

Dept of the Interior
General Land Office
Washington City D.C.

Super't Freedmen's Bureau
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[51]

Washington City D.C.
July 22d 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard
Super't Freedmen's Bureau
Washington D.C.
General

I would respectfully ask if it be possible for you to give Capt Wm. H. Goodrel of the 15th Iowa Regt 3d Brig'd 4th Div 17th Army Corps, and appointment of some kind in the Bureau, under your charge, either here or in the West. I apply to you per request of Capt Goodrel who is busy now at Louisville Ky, in arranging for the mustering out of the men of the Regiment, and as soon as he is mustered out he wishes to get some employment, until he can get a permanent position. Allow me to say that Wm. H. Goodrel's service commenced with the Wilson Creek Battle Mo, under Genl Lyon, in the 1st Iowa Regt as a private in which engagement he was severely wounded. After his recovery, he re-enlisted for the war (with three brothers) in the 15th Iowa. After battle of Corinth & Juka was promoted to 1st Lieut and has been with your Army from thence via Atlanta Savannah up to Richmond and Washington D.C. He was recommended for promotion to a Captaincy by his Commanding Officer Genl Belknap for the bravery and skill displayed in deploying and managing the advance skirmish line at Bentonville –he being Picket Officer. Enough has been said General to give you an idea of the services performed by one of your many brave boys, and now after over four years hard service, coming into a life as it were, & to enable him to look around, he wishes me to apply for him to you for a position. He is a young man about 26 years of age & has a wife, good, steay, upright and honest, and I think would make a good an faithful assistant.

If necessary he will forward papers of recommendation from Brvt Major Genl Belknap, Brig'd Genl Hedrick, Gov. Stone of Iowa, Adj't Genl Baker of Iowa & Ex Gov Kirkwood and others which he informs me have volunteered to assist him in this way, when out of the Service. For the favor of a reply to the above request that I may forward the same to him I will be under obligation.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W. Reynolds, Jr.
P.O. Box 455

Dept of the Interior
General Land Office

P.S. I inclose W.H. Goodrel's correspondence, & official orders

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

Washington D.C.

July 22d 1865

Reynolds H. Jr.

Genl Land Office

Recommends Capt. Wm H. Goodrel 15th Iowa Vols for position in Freedmen's Bureau

Answd

[Attached 3 clippings from newspaper articles.]

From North Carolina.

Correspondence of the Daily State Register.

Headquarters 4th Division 17th Army Corps

Goldsboro Mary 27, 1865.

We have, after fifty-eight days of weary marching, arrived at our destination, where we are preparing for another and last campaign. Our march through South Carolina was a perfect success, compelling the Rebels to evacuate Charleston, destroying all their railroad communications, both north and south. We arrived before Columbia, South Carolina, on the 19th of February. During the night of the 16th, Col. Kennedy, 18th Iowa, Lt. H.C. McArthur and Lt. Wm. H. Goodrell, of the 15th Iowa, and A.D.C. to Gen. Belknap, fitted up an old boat preparatory to crossing the river the next morning. The 15th Army Corps was on our left, fighting for the bridge across Broad River. We however crossed without opposition and with nineteen men and the colors of the 18th Iowa Infantry, advanced through the city until we came to the main street, where we captured a horse and buggy, in which we mounted our color-bearer with the colors, Col. Kennedy and Lt. McArthur as passengers, and Lt. W.H. Goodrell as conductor, started on the "double trot" for the State House. We arrived in about one square of the Capitol building when we were attacked by a squad of Wheeler's Rebel Cavalry, and one feminine. As usual, they fired their one round and "skedaddled." We gave them the contents of one gun, the only one we had with us, and proceeded on our way, amidst a crowd of "darkies" (dancing, shouting and performing all kinds of gymnastics,) citizens, &c., which had by this time surrounded us, thinking, no doubt, that the army was at our heels following us in. Col. Kennedy, Lt. McArthur, and the color-bearer started for the old Capitol building; the soldier that carried the banner and Lt. Wm. H. Goodrell proceeded to the new Capitol building, and planted the banner of the 18th on the Capitol of South Carolina. The colors of the 18th Iowa were planted and waved over Columbia an hour before any other troops reached the city. The town surrendered to Col. Stone, 25th Iowa, and he with his Brigade took possession of the city, with the exception of the Capitol building. The 15th Corps occupied the city first, notwithstanding the statements of correspondents to the contrary. At dark whisky was found, and the consequence was that citizens, darkies, and soldiers even, were on a general jollification, and the next morning the city of Columbia was nothing but smoking ruins. No one can be to blame, save the citizens themselves. If they had taken the precaution to destroy the liquors, all would have been right. Our march was through swamps, wading sometime waist deep, the men ragged, and a great many barefooted, but all was endured without a complaint. We lived on chickens, turkeys, and whatever the country afforded, must to the disgust of the Old Ladies who prize their poultry very highly.

We have traveled five hundred miles through the very hot-bed of Secession, and are all packed, clothed, and fitted up for our onward march—probably via Raleigh, and hope to be in reporting distance of Gen. Grant soon. I send you herewith the report of our march by Brig. Gen. W.W. Belknap, and Brevet Maj. Gen. Giles A. Smith's order relative thereto.

Yours truly, G.H.W.

Headquarters Third Brigade,
4th Division, 17th Army Corps,
Goldsboro, N.C. March 25, 1865

Captain: I have the honor to make the following brief report relative to the movements of this brigade on the late campaign:

Leaving Savannah on the 6th of January, it moved from Pocotaligo, on the 29th of the same month, entered Orangeburg on February 12th, and Columbia, the Capital of the State of South Carolina, on the 19th of February. Camped near Cheraw, S.C., March 3d, near Fayetteville N.C., on March 11th and entered Goldsboro, N.C. on March 24th, having been transported 60 miles, and marched 484½ miles; corduroying the roads, rebuilding bridges, and traveling much of the distance through swamps, which had to be waded by the men.

On February 7th the 11th Iowa Infantry under Lt. Col. Ben Beach, marched from Midway to the bridge over the Edisto River, which was defended by the rebels, and compelled them to evacuate their position and destroy the bridge.

On February 16th, a detachment of the 18th Iowa Infantry, under command of Lt. Colonel Kennedy, accompanied by Lieuts. William H. Goodrell and H.C. McArthur, of the 15th Iowa, of my staff, crossed the Congaree River to Columbia, while a portion of the enemy were in the city; marched through town and planted, in advance of all others, the colors of that Regiment on both the old and new Capitol buildings. Col. Kennedy and his men deserve great credit for the successful accomplishment of this movement.

On March 20th, near Bentonville, N.C., the brigade went into position, and on the 21st a new line being established, the skirmish line was ordered to advance, which they did, driving the rebel skirmishers from their

pits and actually charging a heavy line of battle of the enemy, only retiring when opposed by an overwhelming force. Our loss on the skirmish line was 25. Few fields show more traces of severe fighting than the ground occupied by this gallant line.

My thanks are especially due Lieut. Wm. H. Goodrell, brigade picket officer, for the manner in which he handled his men on that day.

On the campaign the following amount of Railroad has been destroyed: Feb 8th, 3½ miles of S.C. railroad, between Midway and the Edisto River; Feb. 18th, two miles of the Columbia Branch S.C. railroad, near Orangeburg; Feb. 18th, 1½ miles of the Charlotte railroad, between Columbia and Winnsboro; Feb. 19th, one mile of the Charlotte railroad; Feb. 20th, one mile of the same road; Feb. 22d, two miles of the same road. Total 11 miles.

The duties of the campaign have been performed, and the trials of the march endured cheerfully by both officers and men for which they have my thanks.

I am, Captain, very respectfully,
Your ob't servant,
Wm. W. Belknap,
Brig. Gen. Comd'g 3d Brigade.

Headquarters 4th Div., 17th A.C.,
Near Columbia, S.C. Feb. 17, 1865

Brig. Gen. W.W. Belknap: - Sir: Allow me to congratulate you and through you, Lt. Col. J.C. Kennedy, 13th Iowa Vet. Vols., and the men under his command, for first entering the city of Columbia on the morning of Friday, Fevruary 17th, and being the first to plant his colors on the Capitol of South Carolina. While the army was laying Pontoon bridges across the Saluda and Broad Rivers, three miles above the city, Lt. Col. Kennedy, under your direction, fitted up an old worn-out flat boat, capable of carrying about twenty men, and accompanied by Lieuts, H.C. McArthur and Wm. H. Goodrell, of your staff, crossed the river in front of the city, and boldly advanced through its streets, sending back the boat with another procured on the opposite shore for more troops and on their arrival, with seventy-five men in all, drove a portion of Wheeler's cavalry from the town, and at 11½ a.m. planted his two stand of colors, one upon the old, the other upon the new Capitol.

The swift current of the Congaree River, and its rocky channel rendered his crossing both difficult and dangerous, and the presence of the enemy, but in what force unknown, rendered the undertaking still more hazardous.

Lt. Col. Kennedy and his regiment are entitled to great credit for its successful accomplishment.

I have the honor to be very respect'ly
Your ob't servant,
Giles A. Smith,
Brevet Maj. Gen. Comd'g.

2766 7/22/1865

From: A. Hickenlooper

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2710

Hd. Qrs. 3d Brig'd 4th
Div.
Near Louisville, Ky

Washington City

Source: Bowdoin

[53, 54]

Hd. Qrs. 3d Brig'd 4th Div.
Near Louisville, Ky
July 22d, 65

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Washington City
Genl

I have the honor to acknowledge this receipt of your Communication of the 15th.

I was not aware that my Battery was mustered out, and since writing to you I have rec'd a letter from it, which states that a portion only (the non veterans) was sent home, rather indicating that the organization was to be retained. I suppose however that it is liable to be mustered out at any time.

The last regiment of my brigade will be mustered out tomorrow, or next day, when I will be ordered to Cincinnati and to report from thence to the Adj. Genl for muster-out, or assignment. Of course I do not wish to go back to my battery now, and if it remains in service, will resign in preference to doing so.

I was only desirous of remaining in service at the present time, with a wish of going into the new organization. I have passed the examination required by order for Corps Hd. Qrs. and have been recommended by the Board for a Majority in Artillery and if there is any prospect of securing a position, I did not wish to enter into business 'till that was decided.

The proposition which you mention as having made, you will recollect was very indefinite, as you simply remarked to me, in your room at the Hotel, that if I suddenly found myself a citizen or out <ga> position to remember that you had made an application for me.

I assure you that I feel under deep obligations for your universal kindness, and can only hope that I may at some future time have an opportunity of reciprocating.

Very Respectfully
A. Hickenlooper

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]
Near Louisville Ky
July 22d 1865
Hickenlooper A.
Bvt Brig. Genl.
Friendly letter
File

2767 7/22/1865 *From:* SP Chase

To: Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2711

Concord N.H.

Source: Bowdoin

[55]

Concord N.H. July 22, 1865

Dear General

Your reply to my last letter is received and is satisfactory. Accept my sincere thanks for it.

I cannot believe that the impressions of Gen. Grant – though my confidence in him is perfect – concerning Gen. C [Carrington] are quite correct, but you could only act as you have done.

So far as I personally know the Assistants selected they are well chosen; and I feel a strong assurance that under your administration the Bureau is to be a first blessing to the colored citizens and to the whole country.

Very cordially & respectfully yours
SP Chase [Salmon P Chase]

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

2768 7/23/1865 *From:* Mrs J. J. Dana

To: Major Genl Howard

OOH-2712

119 Prospect St.
Georgetown

Source: Bowdoin

[56]

Mrs J. J. Dana

presents her kind regards Major Genl Howard and would be glad to see him with his son tonight at 6 P.M. to commemorate Louisa Miller's birth day and meet the children of his friends in a cool & pleasant place.

119 Prospect St. Georgetown. Last house but one in the St. next to the residence of Mrs Southworth the novelist.

Monday July 23d [1865?] [Monday July 23d occurred on 1866. Keep it as 1865, because Guy was in Washington with his father at that time.]

2769 7/23/1865 *From:* Royal E Whitman

To: Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2713

Savannah Ga

Source: Bowdoin

[57, 58]

Savannah Ga Jul 23d 1865

My dear General

I have delayed writing you for some time hoping to have something of interest to communicate but my opportunities for observation here have been limited to the city and its immediate surroundings. And I presume that what could be said of the status of the freedmen here would apply equally well to all Southern Departments. I have noticed them closely, and it seems to me what is most needed by them is an increased number of men appointed by the Government whose duty it is to provide employment for them at proper wages and homes for the poor unfortunates who are unable to work. By mixing freely with the people here I <am> noticing the <instindios> hatred they almost universally manifest for the negro free and the swearing way they speak of all efforts to enlighten and instruct him. I have been able more fully to appreciate the great weight of responsibility the Government has put upon you. There seems to be a determination on the part of former Slaveholders to withhold their support of the Government in an indirect way, by allowing their estates to lie idle, and as they have lost many of their best hands to drive the balance after them to be supported by the Government. There are hundreds without clothing or employment that draw their Subsistence from the Commissary of this post who seem to be entirely without the encouragement or opportunity to labor which ought to be afforded them. This idleness although compulsory in a great degree is an argument used against them. And the ignorance and stupidity of the poor creatures who have hardly ever before been outside the boundaries of their own plantations is another. I have had my sympathies so warmly enlisted in their favor and have so much faith in the effect of kindness & encouragement, with a proper system of labor and remuneration, that were I out of the service I would make application to have a <planton> myself and give the subject a fair trial.

Bvt Maj Genl Brannan is in command of this District is generally liked I believe. I hardly think his sympathies have kept pace with the policy of the Government in relation to the negro. My Regt is permanently attached to this post. Col Hubbard has resigned which leaves me in command. You will be kind enough to inform me when I can render you any service.

I am General

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Royal E Whitman [First cousin of Otis' wife Lizzie (Waite) Howard]

Lieut. Col. 30th Me Vol. Inf.

To

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

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

Savannah Ga

July 23d, 1865

Whitman, Royal E.

Lt. Col. 30th Me Vols

Friendly Letter

No answer required. Col Whitman's regt mustered out.

2770 7/23/1865 *From:* Thomas Jeff Rawls,
M.D.

To: Maj General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2714

Columbia, S.C.

Washington City
D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[59, 61]

Columbia, S.C. July 23d, 1865

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard,
Dear Sir,

I address you on the subject of which perhaps you may have some recollection whilst you were at this place.

Cap Henry Hescook of 1st Mo Lt Arty Co. G. and 2d Lt Alex M. Briscoe of the 1st Md. Cavalry living at 419 Saratoga Street Baltimore Md. were both under my care as Physician at the College Hospital here, and they gave me a paper addressed to you requesting that my property should not be burnt, as I could not be at home on account of attending to them as sick prisoners of war; and Genl. Stone promised to send a guard to my house, but forgot it, and consequently my house and office, medical books, furniture and clothing were all consumed. My wife you will recollect obtained the favor of two ambulances from you to convey her little that was saved to the Hospital also an order from you for a barrel of salt. I mention this so you may perhaps remember if either one of the above named gentlemen spoke to you of my misfortune as they promised me to see about it.

My father is 93 years of age, was Postmaster at this place under Jackson and Van Buren. My brother was then Postmaster under J.K. Polk. I now ask the favor of you to see Mr. Dennison P. M. General (if it meets your approbation) and state my case and ask him to give me the appointment of Postmaster at this place. I have been clerk in the P.O. For ten years during my father's and brother's occupying the post here and am well acquainted with the business. Mrs. Amelia Feaster who has been kind to the federal prisoners whilst here is the wife of my wife's brother. Mrs. F. is now in Philadelphia. I will take it as a great favor if you will use your influence to obtain the appointment for me. I send you a copy of the paper mentioned in this letter.

Very Respectfully
yr obt servant
Thomas Jeff Rawls, M.D.

[Envelope]
[Postmark unreadable] 30
Maj General O.O. Howard
Washington City
D.C.

Politeness of Mr. Wing

[Written on the envelope, upside down, in a different hand.]
Columbia S.C.
July 20d 1865
Rawls, Dr. Thos J.
Asks recommendation for position of P.M. at Columbia S.C.