
2786 7/26/1865 *From:* Wm. E. Strong

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2731

Natchez Miss

Source: Bowdoin

[84, 85]

Natchez Miss
July 26th 1865

Dear General -

I am going down to New Orleans this evening on the Steamer Fashion. I have finished my examination of Col. Eaton's Dept. all except visiting Helena. Will stop at it on my way up the river. I will not be in New Orleans more than two or three days. I am not well and I dare not stay on the river much longer.

I shall see Conway will give his books and papers a thorough looking over, and will see every thing he has to show me in and around the city. I do not feel able to go into the interior of the state.

I wrote you a long letter yesterday evening, as to the condition of the Freedmen in this Dist. I hope you may receive it as well as the other letters I have written from different points.

I see by the papers that my regiment (12th Wisc) was mustered out of the service on the 18th instant, so I judge from the decision of the Adj. Genl. of the Army that I ceased to be an Officer on that day. I presume my orderlies Henry Taylor and George Reid have gone home before this time and that there is no one to care for my horses. I do not wish to trouble you with such small matters, but if you think of it, please ask Captain Gilbreth or some one of the Officers to have some one to take care of them until I return.

My kindest regards to all.

Respectfully Yours
Wm. E. Strong

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

Natchez Miss.

July 26th 1865

Strong Wm. E.

Brvt. <> Brig Genl

States he is going to New Orleans having finished examination of Col Eatons Dept except Helena. Will spend two or three days in N.O. &c.

Recd Aug 5 1865

2787 7/26/1865

From: Chase A Stevens

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2732

Claim, Land, and Loan
Agency
Office, 273 F Street,
Washington, D.C.

Supt. Bureau of Freedmen

Source: Bowdoin

[86]

Chase A Stevens, Attorney,
Claim, Land, and Loan Agency
Office, 273 F Street, Washington, D.C.
July 26th, 1865.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.,
Supt. Bureau of Freedmen:
General,

Please find enclosed a Circular, and after perusal, please express in a written form your views upon the utility and practicability of the plan, that we may have the benefit of your distinguished name. I have just returned from the Eastern States, and from frequent inquiries of prominent citizens there, as to the opinions you entertain upon this matter, I believe you will render your friends and the general community, as well as the Company, a valuable service, by such an expression of your views.

Your obedient servant,
C.A. Stevens
General Agent.

2788 7/26/1865 *From:* Richard L. Shelley

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2733

New Orleans

Source: Bowdoin

[87]

New Orleans
July 26th 1865

Major General Howard
Dear Sir

Permit me to presume on a slight acquaintance formed whilst acting as Special Correspondent of the N.Y. Tribune with your Army in N.C. And call your attention to some recent despatches; in reference to your Bureau, which I have sent to the N.Y. Tribune.

Slavery is at War with you <here> and unless there is a radical change in the Civil State government I do not know what will become of us.

I am much pressed for time, but will write you at greater length soon.

Your obedient Servant
Richard L. Shelley
Special Cor. N.Y. Tribune

P.S.

I think Conway wrong in removing Plumly. No man has done more, or is as capable of extending the benefits of the School system as Plumly.

R.L.S.

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

New Orleans La.

July 25th 1865

Shelly, Richard L

Cor. "ribune"

Calls attention to articles written for the "ribune"&c.

2789 7/26/1865 *From:* G.F. Shepler

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2734

Portland Maine

Supt Freedmens Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[88]

Portland Maine
July 26, 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard
Supt Freedmens Bureau
General

Brig Genl H.G. Thomas informs me that he would like to be assigned to duty in connection with the Bureau under your command.

I have been so situated as to be able to speak confidently from personal knowledge and observation of those qualities as the character of General Thomas which I think peculiarly fit him for such a command.

He is uncommonly energetic and industrious and possesses much executive and administrative ability.

He is firm and decided yet even in his temper and just and impartial to subordinates.

He has commanded a Brigade of colored troops and I found him to be a remarkably successful Brigade Commander as evinced by the good discipline and general good condition of his command in all respects.

I can say with sincerity and confidence that I consider him eminently well qualified for the discharge of the peculiar duties imposed upon an officer having charge of the interests of the Freedmen.

With great respect
I have the honor to be
Yours &c
G.F. Shepler

2790 7/26/1865 *From:* F. McRae

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2735

Phila

Source: Bowdoin

[90]

Phila July 26th 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Sir

I am in receipt of the transportation you were so kind to grant me, and for which you will accept my sincere thanks. I shall ever feel myself indebted to you for furnishing me with the means of reaching my Home & Family from whom I have been so long seperated.

Respectfully Yours

F. McRae

2791 7/26/1865 *From:* John Mendenhall

To: Maj General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2736
Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Light
Artillery Reserve, Dept
Tenn.
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Washington City, D.C.

[91]

Head-Quarters Light Artillery Reserve, Dept Tenn.
Chattanooga, Tenn. July 26 1865

Maj General O.O. Howard
Washington City, D.C.
Dear General

In the event of an increase of the Regular Army I intend to apply for promotion such as my services and standing in the Army ought to entitle me to.

If you can send me a letter addressed to the Sec'y of War which will add to my claims for promotion I will be under lasting obligations.

I am General
Very truly yours
John Mendenhall
Maj Comdg Lt Arty Res
& Capt 4th U.S. Ifty

[Written in pencil in the margin of the first page, in a different hand.]
Answd <shkr> Genl absent –would lay before him on return

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]
Chattanooga Tenn
July 26th 1865
Mendenhall John
Major
Requests commendation for position in regular Army

2793 7/27/1865 *From:* Jeannie H. Grey

To: Dear friend General
[OO] Howard

OOH-2737

Buttermilk Falls

Source: Bowdoin

[92, 93]

Buttermilk Falls
27 July 1865

Dear friend General Howard,

Do you remember among the best & most faithful friends of Jesus, (the methodists of this Village) one lady a Mrs Ryder? If ever there was a christian, she is one.

Well, she had two boys when you were here, the eldest not twenty, the younger Isaac, a fine little fellow, used to read to my poor papa before he went away. The eldest enlisted in Sept 1861 and was killed before Petersburg the 7th of April '65. "ky"enlisted on West Point, for five years –in February & was not seventeen till the next July! A mere boy you see! Now this bereaved mother yearns to have her remaining son back safely, as she nobly says, "ince his country does not need such a child any longer, she wants him!" He is at or near Petersburg. I know your heart will feel for him but cannot do more? Cannot you bring influence to bear to send him home? He is so much under age he can learn a trade by the time he is twenty-one. If you only could help her! & restore her darling to her arms, it would make her so happy. Her splendid boy is imburied before Petersburg –give her the consolation you have in your power!

If J.J. Davis or Charles Sedgewick of Syracuse are at Washington it may be they could aid in this, I know they would if you will tell them, & mention my name as asking it, I presume you can do it yourself. May I hear from you as soon as convenient, as a mother's tears are falling and her prayers are rising to God for the restoration of her boy to her arms.

How and where are your precious ones Is Mrs H. well? Our best love to her, & for you both.

Our most affectionate & grateful remembrances! I have not heard from Cousin Willie in quite a month and do not know where he is. Do you? You see I am reckoning on an answer to so many questions.

Ever truly grateful.
Jeannie H. Grey

P.S. Mama says,
Our most fervent prayers shall always follow you, for heaven's richest & choicest blessing on you & all you love.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]
Buttermilk Falls
July 27th 1865
Grey Miss J.H.
Requests efforts be made for the discharge of Isaac Ryder.
Answrd

2794 7/27/1865 *From:* F. H. Lafon

To: Maj. Genl Howard [OO]
Howard

OOH-2738

Columbia, So. Ca.

Source: Bowdoin

[94]

Columbia, So. Ca. July 27 1865

Maj. Genl Howard:
My Dear Sir -

Your very kind and never-to-be-forgotten, answer to my Letter of application will never cease to be remembered by me. You state that there is no way in which citizens would be compensated for their labor as enlisted men of the Army is to do the duty I thank you kindly for your trouble, in my behalf, also accept my mother's prayers for your welfare. The fact alone, of you replying to my letter is characteristic of a gallant, noble, veteran Soldier of many a hard-fought Battle field, to a poor insignificant being like myself. You did render me service –yes great service on the eventful night of the burning of Columbia So Ca. And remember when you are far away, and your name –the name of “Howard” is mentioned in conjunction with the burning of that once proud city –remember that you have at least one representative to stand up and cry: Genl Howard, never was, nor never will be guilty of a mean action. I hope you will pardon me for trespassing upon your few leisure moments. I've made application to the President of the U.S. for the office of Post-Master of the city of “Columbia” and if you can aid me in any way Gen'l, I'll be very thankful to you for your kindness. I can give the best of references, among which is Hon Geo. M. Botts and other distinguished men of Va and also this State. Hoping you will do all in your power for me, tho' a stranger to you, I will be under an everlasting obligation to you. I've filled the place of Post-Master at Rockbridge Alum Springs Va and that too to 1700 people satisfactorily.

I have the honor to be
most respectfully your
obed't serv't &: friend
F. H. Lafon

Columbia, So. Ca.

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

Columbia, S.C.

July 27th 1865

Lafon F.H.

Desires recommendation for position of Postmaster of Columbia

Answrd L.B.

2795 7/27/1865 *From:* Wm Bell

To: Gen OO Howard

OOH-2739

Richmond

Source: Bowdoin

[95]

Richmond 7th month 27th 1865

Gen OO Howard
Respd friend

I am in rect of thine of 22d inst. N our mutual friend CH <Shieltun> suggesting the matter to me I wrote the Co whose Secy replied that they would deduct the <adjustment> on the risk off next payment of prem'n. The amount of which I shall advise thee of in good time and now as that war has ceased would it not be advisable for thee to increase thy Insurance to \$5000 as originally proposed? All that will be necessary for thee now to do in order to obtain a policy for the additional of \$3000 is to obtain a Certificate from a medical man thy health has not been impaired having been in the Army or something to the effect. If thou conclude on this addition I shall send thee a Blank to get filled or if thou wouldst prefer the nonforfetry or Tenzene plan I can furnish thee with all the necessary information.

<I am> Respy
Wm Bell

2796 7/27/1865

From: Thomasine M.
Kearny

To: My Kind Friend [OO
Howard]

OOH-2740

No. 136 Amity St.
Brooklyn

Source: Bowdoin

[96, 97]

No. 136 Amity St. Brooklyn
Thursday Afternoon

My Kind Friend,

I desire to express sooner to you my appreciation of your courtesy and to assure you that I applied with the greatest reluctance, realizing perfectly your besieged position, and my want of claim - only a Brother's urgent need could have tempted me to the effort.

When your answer came, I concurred in it with my whole heart, for I felt that the soldiers had the best right. Then I would have written, but my Brother had decided to go to Washington, and ask a favor of you, and I would not seemingly importune further.

Need I tell you how my heart was "delighted" by your kindness and that I shall welcome any opportunity of reciprocating it. I feel very sure that my dear Brother possesses many traits of character calculated to win your respect - he is so thoroughly conscientious in word, and deed - and strictly temperate. He seems to lack <mettle [CHECK ORIGINAL- Glued edge]>, even to other than a Sister's partial eyes - save that which you and I consider "the one thing <?ful>". You have aided others to seek, and find it. Oh! General Howard, will you not say a word sometimes in your intercourse with him?

Mrs. Sargent wrote me a day or two since, and spoke of your Mother's hope of having all her children with her next month. I trust her desire may be realized, and how much will your pleasure be enhanced by the thought of the restoration of peace to our beloved Country, in which our Heavenly Father "counted you worthy" to bear so signal a part.

With kind remembrances to all your family

Believe me your sincerely
with warmest esteem
Thomasine M. Kearny

July 27th 1865

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]
Brooklyn N.Y.
July 27th, 1865
Kearney Miss T.M.

2797 7/27/1865 *From:* C.C. Augur

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2741

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters
Department of
Washington,
22d Army; Corps,
Washington, D.C.

[93]

Headquarters Department of Washington,
22d Army; Corps,
Washington, D.C., Jul 27, 1865

Dear General,

I have been to see you this morning, but found you out. I have communicated with the mayor of Alexandria, and he expresses himself perfectly willing to transfer all cases affecting colored persons to a Provost Court, and states that if such a court is established the Virginia Courts will not take cognizance of any such cases. I propose to establish such a Court and think it will settle all the difficulties. Will this be satisfactory to you?

Respectfully yours,
C.C. Augur

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

Hdqrs. Dept of Washington July 27th /65

Augur C.C.

Maj Genl.

States that he proposes to establish a provost court at Alexandria

Recd July 29 1865

[Written in a third hand.]

<lt> will be perfectly <sf> & just what <ln> <> will instruct Coms to bring all such cases before it.