
2846 8/12/1865 *From:* Jacob S. Willets

To: Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-2790

Croton Point
Westchester Co. N.
York

Source: Bowdoin

[211, 212]

Croton Point Westchester Co. N. York
8th Month 12th 1865

Major Genl O O Howard
Commissioner &c
Esteemed friend,

Leaving Indianapolis about ten days since in company with an invalid wife to spend a short time with our friends in this vicinity, I had not time previous to leaving to reply to Queries in a Circular addressed to me as Cor. Secty & Gen Agent of the Indiana Freedmen's Aid Commission, but requested by son W.P. Willets who will represent me in my absence, to reply as far as he could give the desired information. The annual meeting of our Com. will be held early in next month, after which we can reply more definitely for the past year.

I may state that the operations of our Com. have been mainly confined to Clarksville & vicinity Ten. In conjunction with the Western F.A. Com. of Cincinnati, we sent the first teachers there in Jan. 1865, & have maintained several there up to the present time, in conjunction with the W.F.A.C. And the Executive Com. of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Plainfield Ind. These having been from 6 to a doz schools in progress at Clarksville, Providence, and the Contraband Camp, a radius containing a large number of Freedmen, and very interesting fruits have long since appeared.

In April of last year the Contraband Camp was first commenced & in June Capt Wm Brant was placed in Command, an earnest and faithful laborer, using great exertions to improve the condition of the Freedmen & at the same time to make the camp self sustaining. Commencing so late in the season last year, but little benefit could be obtained from cultivating the land but this year he has several hundred acres under cultivation. Feeling the necessity of instructing the people in the various employments and duties of life as well as in literature, Am Com mission has this year appropriated a large amt, in furnishing tools and agricultural implements, to enable them to cultivate the land profitably, and also tools and leather to establish a shoe shop, which Capt. Brunt in one of his letters says "is a complete success".

I suppose Capt. Brunt has given thee a statement of the condition & prospects of the Camp, but I thought, proposing to give thee a brief outline, & suppose at the present time it is or was in a prosperous condition, and we were looking forward with much interest to the close of the present season when after the crops were gathered to see how the accounts would stand. But a day before I left home I rec'd a letter from Capt Brunt who says "I write in haste. I have just had a long interview with Col Barnard, who brings imperative orders that the Camps must be broken up forthwith, and no rations can be issued after the 15th of August." "What will become of the poor people I do not know. Set your friends at work to find places for as many as possible. I can send them to Evansville or Louisville if you can send agents there to receive them." &c. He enquires what to do with the tools and implements &c that we have furnished, and feels much <straitened> to know what to do, and laments for the sufferings that many will have to endure in this being hastily sent away.

He does not state the number but in the sprint, there were from 12 to 1400, the larger portion women & children and infirm men, but the larger portion so employed as to be earning something & attending schools &c. Altho he so earnestly entreated us to find homes in Indiana there is no prospect of its being done.

In a letter received from my son dated the 8th, he says "I rec'd a letter yesterday from Capt. Brunt, who says without further orders he cannot issue any more rations after the 10th. He says many of the Freedmen are going back to their masters in Kentucky, and hard masters they are. I wish thee would write to Gen. Howard in regard to that Camp, for it cannot be known to him how near it is self-sustaining. If they could issue rations a short-time longer they can support themselves."

I write thus particular to call thy attention to this subject hoping thou may see it right to countermand the orders for immediately breaking up this Camp, for we fear great loss will be sustained in various ways. Our Com. has

taken a great interest in sustaining this establishment, believing it to be of great value in instructing the people in the various duties of life, and <not> a few have already been prepared, as teachers and mechanics to instruct others. Commissions buildings have been erected for residences, and workshops, & school rooms and teachers dwellings. A large amount has been expended for tools and implements by our Com. and others on which great loss must be sustained if so suddenly thrown out of use, which if generally known to the community will have a discouraging effect on our future collections.

Thou will excuse me for thus pleading in behalf of this establishment, believing if thou would suspend the order for a time, thou might have an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with its character of management, and if not disposed to continue it as a school of instruction, at least give sufficient time to close it with less sacrifice.

I contemplate visiting Washington before my return and would do so next week, if I could render any service that would be of use in behalf of the Freedmen's Refugees. A letter would reach me directed to the care of Geo. Underhill & Co New York.

Respectfully
Jacob S. Willets Cor Secretary
and Gen Agent of I.F.A.Com.
and Indiana Union Refugee Relief Assn

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

Croton Point, Westchester Co

NY

Oct 12th 1865

Willets Jacob

Answers queries given in Circular from this Bureau relating to the society of which he is Cor. Secy.

2847 8/13/1865 *From:* HW Beecher

To: Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2791

Brooklyn

Source: Bowdoin

[225]

Copy

Brooklyn Aug 13 65

Genl Howard

Dear Sir

Col. Harrison White, now in the 6th NYV Cavalry, desires to continue a military life, & I do not know where you could find a young man who would be more faithful industrious, discreet, & eminently conscientious, for superintendence in any field in the south where you need a true man.

He is one in every way to be relied upon, & has earned by four years and scores of battles, a high reputation for courage skill & prudence.

I am very truly yours
Signed HW Beecher

2848 8/13/1865 *From:* H. T. Newton

To: Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2792

Portsmouth Scioto Co
Ohio

Source: Bowdoin

[184]

Portsmouth Aug 13th / 65

Genl O.O. Howard
Dear Sir

The anxiety of a Parent to learn the whereabouts of his Son from whome he has not heard since your Army was in Richmond Va. Will I feel assured be sufficient excuse for my troubling you with this note. My Son Edwin T. Newton has for some time been at your head Quarters. His Regiment the 27th Ohio Infentry having been mustered out of service, and not having heard from him as above stated, I thought I could possibly obtaine some information concearning him, by writing to you. If you are aware of his where abouts, and it will not cause you to mutch trouble, I will ever feel graitfull to you for any information you may afford me concearning him.

Youres Respectfully
H. T. Newton
Portsmouth Scioto Co Ohio

Genl O.O. Howard

2849 8/13/1865 *From:* Edward B Hubbard *To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2793 Kane McKean Co. Pa.

Source: Bowdoin

[173, 174]

Kane McKean Co. Pa.
Aug 13th 1865

My Dear Sir -

I am expecting before long to go on to Washington for the purpose of getting an appointment in the Regular Army. I was a Cadet at West Point when the war broke out, but left there and went home to Ohio and accepted a Lieutenancy in the 2nd Ohio Vol Cav. I served until last Sept. when poor health compelled me to resign.

My class has all graduated.

I have excellent recommendations now in the War Dept'mt - from Maj Genl <Y. Stute> and others. My application has been filed for some time but as yet have never heard from it.

I have been in the Army so long that I now cannot feel satisfied out of it. I wish to make it my profession.

While at West Point I received special attention from you. I think you will remember me when you see me. If it is of no use please let me know.

Truly Your Obedt Servt
Edward B Hubbard [USMA Class of 1864]

To.
Maj Gen OO Howard
U.S.A.

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

Kane Pa.
Aug 13, 1865
Hubbard Ed. B.
Desires opinion whether it is best for him to proceed to Washington to obtain position in regular Army.
Recd Aug. 16, 1865

2850 8/15/1865 *From:* Andrew Morrill

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2794

Elmira, U.S.A. Hos.

Source: Bowdoin

[175]

Elmira, U.S.A. Hos. Aug. 15th 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,
Dear Friend,

Adj. Gen. Thomas, while recently here to arrange for closing this hospital, offered me a position as Surgeon of some colored regiment, in which he believed there were several vacancies. I am to write him soon if I desire one.

As my duties here will soon terminate, I will thank you very much to inform me of the status of a Surgeon of a colored regiment. Is it regarded a respectable position? Are the officers generally intelligent christian or moral men & are there hopes of promotion for merit?

Do you suppose I could be located so far north as to render it safe to have my family with me & would we be likely to have any social or religious privileges outside the Army?

If you can spare time to give me any information or advice, it will be received with many thanks, as I am entirely ignorant about this new branch of the service.

My application for the Geneva P.O. was unsuccessful & therefore it was not best for me to have it. I thank you for any effort you may have made for me in that direction.

Very respectfully
Your ob't serv't
Andrew Morrill
A.A. Surg. U.S.A.

2851 8/15/1865 *From:* John D. Baldwin

To: Maj. Gen. O. M. Howard

OOH-2795

Worcester, Mass.

Commissioner of the
Freedmans Bureau,
Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[176]

Worcester, Mass.
August 15, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O. M. Howard,
Commissioner of the Freedmans Bureau, Washington, D.C.
Sir,

I write this to introduce to your acquaintance and favorable consideration Mr Thomas J. Harrington, of Millbury, Mass., who visits Washington to see you on business of Mrs. Mary E. De Graffenreid, of Chester, S.C., who accompanies him, and whom he will introduce. Mr. Harrington is one of the most respectable and loyal of our citizens, and what he may state in behalf of Mrs. De Graffenreid may be relied on as correct.

Mrs. De Graffenreid is a Massachusetts woman who became an inhabitant of South Carolina by marriage. She is a widow. Such correspondence as she could maintain with her friends here, during the war, showed that her sympathies were on the side of the national government. She will explain her object in visting you; and I commend her case to your most favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be
Your Most Obedient Servant,
John D. Baldwin,
Representative of the
Massachusetts 8th Congressional District

2852 8/15/1865 *From:* Susan T. Hillard *To:* Major Gen. Howard

OOH-2796 62 Pinckney St Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[177, 178]

62 Pinckney St Boston
August 15th / 65

To Major Gen. Howard
Sir

May I trouble you with a request regarding a young man formerly a Slave in whom I am interested? I am very desirous to learn some tidings of him to communicate to his worthy and anxious relatives in Boston and will take the liberty to state to you what I know of him hoping that if it be in you power to procure any intelligence of him you will have the kindness to forward it to me.

John Page about twenty one years of age, was sold by Mr. James Garrison of Norfolk Virginia about eight years ago to Mr. Chamberlain residing in the town of Lumkin in Georgia. No tidings of John have been received since the war broke out.

I enclose an envelope with my address upon it and should there be any response to the enquiries you may institute, please enclose the information and forward the same to yours respectfully.

Susan T. Hillard

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

Boston, Mass.

Aug. 15, 1865.

Hillard, Susan

Desires to ascertain the whereabouts of John Page (Colored).

Recd Aug. 17, 1865

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

Answd Aug. 17th.

2853 8/16/1865 *From:* J.A. Anderson

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2797

Lambertville,
Hunterdon Co. N.J.

Source: Bowdoin

[185, 186]

Lambertville, Hunterdon Co. N.J.
August 16th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Sir -

Our Aid Society are engaged in securing funds for the erection of a monument to our deceased soldiers. The first local effort of the kind so far as I have heard. The Ladies have been working for the living soldiers for nearly four years under the generalship of Mr Geo. H. Stuart, and propose to conclude their labors in this direction in the manner stated. On 30th inst, the Ladies will hold a festival in our grove for the purpose of adding to their funds. They have desired me, in their behalf, to invite you to be present and address the people who will be there in immense numbers if your name is announced. I have supposed that your engagements would prevent your acceptance of any such invitation, but am led, from some considerations, to hope that I might be mistaken.

I know that the object is one that you would gladly aid if in your power, and Mr Stuart (who expects to be present) has promised to endorse our request. More important than all is the fact that this is a section in which sound sentiment on the great questions of the day, especially those with which you are now practically engaged, does not much prevail, and some of the earnest and powerful utterances which we have heard from you elsewhere, with delight and profit, would do much to set the people right.

We do not invite you to any "grand reception", as we have no great people here, but simply to a quiet day in the woods.

As you may remember that Brig. Gen. Fisk announced our state as "out of the Union" we do not know but you may feel it to be a duty as an officer of the General Government to assist in restoring us to our "proper constitutional relations" to the Govt. If you visit us however you will find some good American Citizens here.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J.A. Anderson

2854 8/16/1865

From: J.S. Fullerton

To: Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2798

Source: Bowdoin

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

Augusta Me

]181, 182, 183]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, Aug. 16, 1865

My Dear General,

I have first received your letter of the 12th inst. I will write you but a few lines this morning, as I have not yet worked off all of the papers that have accumulated in my desk.

I telegraphed to Baird to know about assigning him to Ga. Have rec'd a letter from him asking for information of the duties that would be required of him. I have answered his letter, and in a day or two will get a telegram stating whether he will accept. I think he will.

Herewith I inclose two letters from Gen Tillson. I wish more could be done for him. He is doing good work where he is. Gen Thomas told me that he is the best organizer, and a man of the best administrative ability in his Department. It would be well, if possible, to attach North Mississippi to his west District. All of the R.R. in North Miss. center at, or start from Memphis, and it is the point to which the people from that part of the State go to transact business. If Conway "is found wanting", Gen. T might have Louisiana. Mentioning Conway a report has been rec'd from B. Rush Plumley at N.O., this morning, stating that Conway has not the capacity for the position. Gen Strong I suppose will report fully in this case when he returns.

Gen Wm Birney now says that he would rather go to Maryland than Ga, as the officer who goes to Ga, should be one who knows the military authority of the Dept. & <Mil.> Div., and one who could cooperate well with them. He does not know either Genls Thomas or Steadman. Judge Bond & Henry Winter Davis wish Gen B. to go to Maryland. The Secy. Of War has been spoken to in this matter, and he also wishes him to go to the same place – so Judge Bond says.

I wish you to enjoy your trip as much as possible, and therefore will not write to you any more than I can possibly help on business matters.

Things progressing as usual. A fine article in this mornings Chronicle on you &c. I include it herewith.

My kindest regards to Mrs Howard. Rembr me to Guy.

Truly <yr frd>
J.S. Fullerton

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard
Augusta Me

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

Washington
Aug 16, 1865.
Fullerton, J.S.
A.A.G.

Concerning affairs of the Bureau in the absence of Maj. Genl. Howard

2855 8/18/1865 *From:* Wm E. Strong

To: Dear Genl. [OO Howard]

OOH-2799

Racine Wisc.

Source: Bowdoin

[187]

Racine Wisc.
18th August 1865

Dear Genl.

I arrived in Chicago a day or two since on my way to Washington, and not feeling well, I decided to come up to Racine and spend two or three days on the Lake shore, thinking the change might benefit me. I have not been well since I left Little Rock over a month ago.

I will spend the sabbath in Racine with my Mother and sister and will leave Chicago for Washington on Monday next.

Love to all.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Wm E. Strong
Inspector Genl.

2856 8/18/1865

From: J.S. Fullerton
A.A.G

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2800

Source: Bowdoin

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

Augusta Maine

[188, 189, 190, 191]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, Aug. 18, 1865

Dear General,

I inclose herewith copies of papers on which are endorsements of the President. These papers are self explaining.

The President sent for Col Eaton this morning and stated to him that complaints have been made of the action of the Agent of this Bureau at Pulaski Tenn; also, concerning the Agent in Ga. (Gen Wild & Chaplain French). He said that he did not wish to have an Agent in East Tennessee. Genl Fisk will be written to concerning the Tennessee matters today. And in reference to Gen. I am momentarily looking for a telegrams from Genl. Baird stating whether he will go to Georgia at once. If he says no, I will <use> your name, ask for G. Tillson. Good reports are coming from East Ten. of Tillson.

I fear Conway will bring us into trouble. He is working, it appears, against the Presidents policy in the restoration of Civil Government in Louisiana. The article included in Gov Wells letter, was a newspaper report of a universal negro suffrage speech that Mr C. made in N.O. It was a harangue that would cause discontent if not stir up quite an excitement. He, like some other Agents of the Bureau, may be endeavoring to make it (the Bureau) the vehicle for carrying out certain political designs. Mr Johnson is very kindly disposed towards you & the Bureau, but if we attempt to work agains him or oppose his policy, thus "look out for breakers".

Will you go to Chicago? If so how long will you be away. Please telegraph to me a reply.

I have not written to Saxton yet. Col Osborn has gone to relieve him of Florida. I think my visit has had the effect of awaking him up, and he is now doing something in South Carolina and Georgia.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt Servt
J.S. Fullerton
A.A.G

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Augusta Maine

P.S.

The Adjutant Genl. has reduced me from Lt. Col. to Major. I do not know whether it is a hint from him that it is time for me to leave the service.

Remember me kindly to Mrs Howard & Guy.

Yrs truly
JS Fullerton

P.S. 2d.

Col. Whittlesey says that he was promised a leave of absence, & he would like to have it as soon as he can leave his work for a time if agreeable to you.

J.S.F.

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

War Dept. Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Washington Aug. 18, 1865

Fullerton, J.S.

A.A.G.

Encloses copies of papers on which are the Presidents endorsements, also giving statements concerning affairs of the Bureau in the absence of Genl Howard

2857 8/18/1865 *From:* G. M. Kimbark

To: Gen O Howard

OOH-2801

Chicago

Freedmen's Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[186]

Chicago, August 18th 1865

Gen O Howard
Freedmen's Bureau

You are most cordially invited to attend the Inauguration Ball of the Board of Trade in the new Hall, Chamber of Commerce Friday Evening Sept. 1st 1865.

Committee,
G. M. Kimbark, H.D. Booth, H.C. Ranney,
G. H. Wheeler, Howard Priestly, Geo. C Walker,
J. E. Maple, S. J. Glover, D.C. Scranton,
C. B. Pope, S. A. Kint, H. Botsford,
J. P. Clarkson E. D. Cogswell, W. M. Wills.

Tickets can be procured of the Committee.