

---

2951 9/16/1865

*From:* M.J. Hewitt

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2893

*Source:* Bowdoin

National "Freedmans'  
Savings and Trust  
Company,"  
American Exchange  
Bank Building,  
No. 87 Cedar Street,  
New York

Washington D.C.

---

[101]

National "Freedmans' Savings and Trust Company,"  
American Exchange Bank Building,  
No. 87 Cedar Street,  
New York, September 16, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Freedmans Savings and Trust Company held in the Directors Room of the Am. Exchange National Bank, Sept 14th 1865 the President, Wm A Booth in the Chair "EA Lambert Esq. Chn. Agency Com. nominated Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, as a Corporate member of this Board. When after balloting, the President declared Maj. Gen O.O. Howard unanimously elected".

Dear Sir. In handing you the above extract from the minutes of our board, permit me to say that their earnest wish is that you may find it consistent with your other laborious duties to serve as a member of this Board.

I have the honor to be  
Your Obt Servt  
M.J. Hewitt  
Vice Prest

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

New York City, 87 Cedar St.

Sept 16, 1865

Hewitt M.J.

Vice Pres. NFS&TCo.

Notification of election as Trustee of the National Freedmans Savings & Trust Co.

ans Sept 19, 1865

Recd BRF&AL Sept 18

Think it very much better for me not to identify myself with the Savings Co. I can better encourage deposits therein and facilitate its operations by not being so identified. Thanking you & your board most cordially for your action. I respy decline honorable distinction conferred.

---

2952 9/16/1865 *From:* Juliette A. Kinzie

*To:* Major Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2894

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[71, 72]

Chicago –Sept. 16th 1865  
Major Genl. Howard, U.S.A.  
Sir -

Though personally a stranger, I presume upon the friendship you have shown to my dear daughter, Mrs Gordon of Savannah, to address you upon a subject of deepest interest to her.

Her dear Uncle, Gen Mercer, who, except for his being a rebel, is one of the <truest> Christian gentlemen that ever breathed, has been arrested and sent to Fort Pulaski, at the instance it is said, of Maj. Gen. Carlin.

The charges against him are, his having caused the execution of certain soldiers formerly of our Army, a short time before the surrender of Savannah.

The statement sent to me alleges that these men although they have been prisoners at Florence, S. Carolina had then enlisted at their own request, into the Confederate Army, thus expressing themselves indignant at the refusal of our Government to exchange them. They were formed into what was known as Brooks' or the Foreign Battalion, and fought zealously against the Union troops in Carolina before being sent to Savannah. Gen Mercer knew nothing of the origin or composition of this Battalion. They were clothed and rationed and paid exactly like the other Confederate soldiers, and sent to his command while conducting the defence of Savannah.

At the approach of Sherman's Army, the men began to show uneasiness, as they naturally might, knowing that if taken in the rebel uniform they were likely to meet with "a short shrift and a strong cord" At length about twenty deserted in a body to join their old Comrades and Commander, where they told I suppose that story, which may possibly differ materially and yet truthfully from the representations which Gen. Mercer received.

As Gnl. M's position was a critical one, the whole defence of the City resting upon his prudence and conduct, he <> to send the rest of the Battalion to the city where there would be less temptation to their fidelity; and accordingly the order was given for them to march at 10 o'clock at night. About dusk, one of the officers of the battalion came in great agitation to Gen Mercer to inform him that a plot was discovered –that these soldiers had determined when ordered to fall in, in order to march to Savannah, to rush upon their officers, seize and bind them, killing them if they made resistance –spike all the cannon upon the ramparts, kill or capture the pickets and escape to Sherman's Army. Gen. Mercers line was so attenuated that he could spare but few men –he sent his aid de camp to Gen Wright for a guard, and dispatched at the same time his Senior Colonel to take such measures as he should deem necessary. The arms were seized as well as those of the mutineers who were pointed out as ring leaders –a military Court was organized forthwith –the men were condemned to be shot they confessing their guilt, and they were summarily executed. Gen. Hardee and Gen. Wright approving the sentence.

Poor Nelly is almost frantic. She seems convinced that Gen Mercer has no chance if tried by a Military Court –she is sure that time will not be allowed him to send and find the witnesses who are able to prove the circumstances under which these men were executed, or to establish Gen. Mercer's entire innocence of any part in their enlistment. She sees that it is indisputably necessary for the survivors of this battalion to swear vehemently against her beloved relative, and she conjoins me to apply to every military power to secure moderation and justice for him.

I was certain, my dear Sir, not less from your well-known qualities as a Christian Commander but from my grateful remembrance of friendship shown my darling child in her hour of distress, that you would give your influence to save her uncle from any <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> in the manner of conducting <> so fraught with severe Consequences to him. I <> feel emboldened to ask you to write to Gen. Steedman with whom, I am told, the chief authority in the premises resides and give him such information, or make such suggestions as you own good judgment may prompt.

I do not know Gen. Mercer personally, but his loving sympathy with our sorrows, when we were called to mourn for our dear Son, killed in the fatal explosion of the [USS] Mound City, has drawn my heart towards him - <with> his paternal tenderness to my Nelly in her hour of desolate separation from her home, demand my utmost exertions in his behalf. May our merciful Father help and prosper the efforts you may kindly use –and may He bless you for having used them.

Very respectfully

Juliette A. Kinzie [Juliette Augusta Magill Kinzie was an American writer and historian.]

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

Chicago Ills

Sept 15, 1865

Kinzie Mrs.

Requests the genl to assist Gen Mercer late of the Rebel army in getting an impartial trial for certain curious charges against him

[Faint writing in pencil not transcribed.]

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

---

2953 9/17/1865

*From:* Francis Barlow  
Maj. Genl.

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2895

Brookline  
Massachusetts

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[103, 104]

Brookline  
Massachusetts  
Sept. 17/65

My dear General

Major Henry L. Wigginson late of the 2d Mass. Infantry & 1st Mass Cavalry & Lt. Col. C. J Morse 2d Mass. Infantry (which Regt. was in your Army I believe) are going into the Southern States with a view to buying & hiring land of your Bureau & raising cotton &c. They are both good officers & good fellows with sound Massachusetts principles & are just the people whom it is for our good to settle in the South. Can you send me a sort of Circular letter introducing them to the various officers of your Bureau in the South & asking them to give my friends such assistance as they can. I shall esteem it a great favor if you will do so.

Sometime ago I wrote you saying that I wished to get assigned to a command in the <South> & to be made Superintendent of Freedmen in the District where I had Command. Do you think this would be possible? I have not yet been ordered anywhere but hope to when Gen Gran goes back to Washington.

If you can do anything for me or my friends will you write me to Brookline, Mass.

Truly & Respectfully  
Francis Barlow  
Maj. Genl.

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
&c &c

[Written sideways along the left margin of page 1.]

As these two officers may not be going together I will thank you if you will make two circulars instead of one.

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

Brookline Mass  
Sept 17, 65  
Barlow Maj Gen

Requests letter of introduction for his friend & asst commr &c.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 21 1865  
ans Oct 3.

---

2954 9/18/1865      *From:* John B Cresson      *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2896                      1618 Mt Vernon St.  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[105]

Philadelphia Sept 18 1865

To Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

About the 4th or 5th of last Month (Augst) I took the liberty of writing thee on behalf of my Son Col Charles C. Cresson, late of the 73rd Regt P.V. 2nd Brig, 2nd Division 20th Corps, to ask thy influence to get him appointed to assimilated Rank in the Regular Army.

I have felt more free to ask this of thee, in consideration of a most flattering endorsement of a Recommendation thee gave him while under thy command in the 11th Corps (Bushbecks Brigade) also the willingness thee kindly expressed to Col Cresson late Brig Gen, (P H Jones) to do all thee could for him.

In January 1862 my relative, Hon Thos E Franklin of Lancaster, obtained from Hon Simon Cameron (the Secry War) the appointment of my Son (then 2nd lieut, in the old 30th afterwards 66th P.V.) to be 2nd Lieut in the Regular Army, the transfer was to of been made about the time of the change, when Hon E.M. Stanton, succeeded Gen Cameron this prevented its accomplishment, owing to an order from the War Department, that no transfers were to be made from the Vols to the Regulars. I called on Hon Edwin M Stanton in March or April 1862, and he told me, that he did not think anything could be done in relation to transferring my Son then, but, if (then) Lieut Cressons record should prove a good one during the War, there would be no difficulty whatever in getting him appointed to assimilated rank, in the Regulars, at the close of the War.

Lt. Col. Chas C. Cressons Application written by himself, together with a number of most excellent Recommendations (the one endorsed by thyself amongst them) were some time back sent to the War Department.

If thee would kindly be willing to bring the matter to the notice of Hon E M Stanton, I believe the matter will be accomplished.

Maj H M Stinson, wrote me on Aug 7th that he had recd my letter & paper, that thee was then on a visit to Maine, & on thy return he would lay them before thee.

Respectfully  
John B Cresson  
1618 Mt Vernon St.

Please direct to Care Poinons & Weightman 9th & Parrish St.

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

Phila Pa.

Sept 18, 1865

Cresson Jno B.

asks recommendation for his son Col Cresson.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

---

2955 9/18/1865 *From:* Thos A. Walton

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2897

Quaker Bottom,  
Lawrence County, Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[107, 108]

Quaker Bottom O.  
18th Sept. 65,  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Sir,

There are a number of Freedmen in this County whom have left the Slave States. They are industrious and saving, but came here without anything to start on, and consequently have bought no land.

The Copperheads are opposed to their staying here among us and the Freedmen wish to go where they can enjoy full Liberty, and own land and have a home in safety. What a chance is there for them in the South.

On what terms can they get land, and transportation to it in some of the Southern States.

Please answer,  
and oblige  
yours &c  
Thos A. Walton,  
Quaker Bottom,  
Lawrence County,  
O.

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

Quaker Bottom Ohio

18th Sept 1865

Walton Thos A

asks information concerning lands at South for col'd people.

8B1E53

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 28 1865

ans Sept 28 65

---

2956 9/18/1865

*From:* I Vogdes  
Brig G

*To:* Mg Gn [OO] Howard

OOH-2898

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[109, 110]

Washington DC  
Sept 18th 1865

Genl.

Subsequent to seeing you on Saturday I saw the Ast Sec of War –on the subject of the capture of Davises papers. I found that the complaint was about a letter published the day the paper reached Washington. My impression is that the letter aluded to not just one of those captured among Davis' things if however it is one. It must have been abstractions from them after the papers passed beyond my control - from what the Asst Sect says. I am certain I anticipated every one of the Sct wishes –strictly prohibiting any person from seeing them, not allowing any coppies to be made of them, any accounts to be published as to their nature. I think the Asst Sect is satisfied that I took unusual pains to bring them before the Sect in nearly the same state as they were when captured. I requested Gn Gillmore to let the young officer who captured them accompany them to Washington. This he declined to do, and send a staff officer of his own with them. My order <> the young officer as to guarding them were very strict, and under no circumstances was any person to have access to them. I deem it exceedingly hard that after when unusual pain and anticipating all of the wishes of the Sct that I should be criticized for not doing exactly what I did do, and held accountable for accident after the matter passed out of my hands.

I should like to return to Florida –Foster desires to have me as you will see by the circular letter. If I could go back I desire a command somewhere on my work as Gn of <Artls>.

Yours VT  
I Vogdes  
Brig G

To  
Mg Gn Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Washington D.C.  
Sept. 18, 1865  
Vogdes, I.  
Brig. Genl.  
Relating to the capture of the Darias papers, &c and would like to return to Fla.

---

2957 9/18/1865      *From:* Caleb Tompkins      *To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-2899                      Champaign City Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[111]

Champaign City Illinois  
18th Sept 1865

General O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I wrote you some time since, to procure your signature to a claim account against the Government for Supplies, furnished the Army, during their stay in that part of Georgia, in which I resided, which account is now & has been for some time past, in the War Department & Offices, for payment, which claim, was properly authenticated in due form, but owing to the movements of the Troops, & my ill health, there was no Vouchers, asked for, or given.

Now as I am reduced, almost to want as a good Union citizen of the United States, am I to sustain all the <tass> that I have without a friend to render me that assistance to see me again righted?

It seems to me to be right, that I should sustain no less, more especially under these painful circumstances. That I left the South, & compelled to come North Homeless, which our troops evacuated the Place where I lived - & by Genl Sherman's orders -destroyed by fire, my Home & Property there. In a christian spirit I ask your assistance to call on the War Dept. If the whole, or part of my account, there represented, can not be paid at once, for its the duty of the Government, according to the constitution, in Article 5th last clause of the Amendments, to the Constitution, that no private Property shall be taken for Public use, without just compensation. And further, I call upon you to furnish me Transportation, as at the head of the Refugee & Freedman's Bureau to return South, from this Place (Champaign) to Cairo -to Columbus Ky -thence by Railroad, to Corinth, & the Ohio & Mobile RR, to Macon Mississippi -the place selected for my future Home. I wish transportation for myself & Niece, and all our Baggage, the Entire distance as I received a letter from General Sherman himself in his own hand writing, to go south soon as possible after receiving my transportation from you, as he had no authority to give transportation himself, having made the generals acquaintance in Cincinnati the past summer, while he was there.

I am a mason, & a christian, & as such I wish to be treated & respected.

Hoping that you will give proper attention to my desires of my affairs, at the War Dpt & especially of our Transportation South immediately, as tis getting late in the season, & that I shall hear from yourself personally regarding the contents of this letter.

Most respectfully &c  
Caleb Tompkins

PS Please send the transportation in reply for I cannot go South except you give us this Transportation as I cannot pay my way there but I can do well after there CT

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

Champaign City  
Sept 18, 1865

Tompkins, Caleb

Asks transportation & assistance in obtaining compensation for property destroyed

ans Sept 21, 1865



---

2958 9/18/1865 *From:* H L K Wiggin

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2900

Auburn

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[90]

Auburn Sept. 18th, 65

Dear General

The enclosed letter of Mrs McKay's speaks her wish, I have only to add, that Mrs McKay, sister of the Rev Mr Adams wife [Note], has proved her large heartedness. Her deep regard for suffering humanity by her increasing and unwearied efforts for the last for yours, in the field & camp in behalf of our sick and wounded soldiers, no woman has done more, none is more highly appreciated by those who have known of her efforts. You may recollect her. She was with the 9th Corps, until it was merged in the 2d. Afterwards with the latter.

Mrs McKay is an intelligent Christian woman, possessed of a warm heart, great energy & character, an indomitable perseverance, whatever she undertakes she will mos likely accomplish.

Respectfully  
Your Ob't Servant  
H L K Wiggin

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

[Note. The Rev Mr Aaron Chester Adams was married to Harriet Sargent Johnson. Her sister, Mrs McKay was Mrs Charlotte Elizabeth (Johnson) McKay. A widow, she volunteered as a nurse during the War, writing of her experiences in 1876, in a book entitled "Stores of Hospital and Camp".]