
3149 12/13/1865 *From:* John M. Oliver

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-3092

Monroe Michigan

Comr Freedmans Bureau
Washington
D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[143]

Monroe Michigan
December 13 1865

Dear General

A few days since I recd an appointment as Bvt Maj General of Vols through your kind endorsement. I am truly grateful although I do not wish you anything but good fortune, I do hope, that I maybe able, to show my gratitude to you, more than by mere words.

When I was in Washington I had some conversation about the army & my getting a position if possible. I have a fair position in Arkansas offered me & one where I could make some money, but in the next three years my boy & girl will have to be educated if at all. I hardly think much of the Educational facilities of Arkansas. So I still prefer the army especially if there is to be active service. I understand that best. Major Gen Logan, who is no friend of yours, will assist me & I shall ask Bowers to get recommendations from yourself & Gen L. Would it be asking too much of you to interest yourself personally in my behalf. You know I want a Lt Col of infantry if I can get it if not a Majority in some arm of the service, cavalry first infantry second. Should I go to Ark I will be glad to do any freedmans business that you may desire me to attend to.

Give my best respects to Mrs & family.

With much Respect Truly
Your Friend & Servant
John M. Oliver

To
Major General O.O. Howard
Comr Freedmans Bureau
Washington
D.C.

3150 12/13/1865 *From:* J. W. Sprague

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3093

Source: Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands,
For the States of
Missouri and Arkansas.
Little Rock, Ark.

Commissioner &c
Washington
D.C.

[127]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
For the States of Missouri and Arkansas.
Little Rock, Ark. Dec 13th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Commissioner &c
Washington
D.C.
General

I enclose herewith my application to the Adj. Genl for a position in the "Regular Army" if consistent with your views and feelings. I shall feel grateful for your favorable endorsement – if for any cause you should feel unwilling to thus commit yourself, or if you regard my success as very doubtful I would prefer not to make the application – some commendations in my behalf will perhaps be sent to you from Ohio – I will thank you to do with them and treat the whole matter as you think will be for my best interest.

I am General
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Srvt
J. W. Sprague
Brig Genl Apr.[Asst.?] Com.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Little Rock, Ark.
Dec. 11th 1865.
Sprague, J.W. Brig. Genl.
Encloses application for position in Regular Army.
Recd Dec. 25 1865.

3151 12/14/1865 *From:* P.A. McMoore

To: Hon. O.O. Howard

OOH-3094

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Ann
Washington Co. New
York

Comr. Freedmans Bureau
Washington City
D.C.

[144]

Fort Ann New York
Dec. 14th 1865

Sir - Will you please send me by return mail a copy of the Annual Report of the Comr. Of the Freedman for 1865

Also please send me if convenient copies of the Reports of the Supts. of Freedman Affairs in the States of N.C. Alabama, Miss., & Louisiana.

Also please send me a copy of Oration delivered by you at the dedication of the Gettysburgh Monument July 4th 1865 & much oblige.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

I am yours Truly,
P.A. McMoore
Fort Ann
Washington Co. New York

To Hon. O.O. Howard
Comr. Freedmans Bureau
Washington City
D.C.

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

Fort Ann, NY.

Dec 14th 1865

McMoore, P.A.

Desires copies of the Commissioner's report.

Recd Dec. 16th 1865

Ansd Dec, 16 1865

3152 12/14/1865 *From:* E.J. Chandler

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3095

20 Winthrop St.
Charlestown Mass

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[145]

Charlestown Mass Dec 14th 1865

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

I am requested by the members of the Army & Navy Union of Charlestown to write to you and request you to give us a statement in regard to the character and ability of Capt Wm E. Jarvis as an Officer while under your command in the 3rd Maine Inf. Reg't.

Capt Jarvis being now a resident of this city, any information you can give us so that we can form a correct opinion of Capt Jarvis will be thankfully received by the members of this Union.

Respectfully Yours
E.J. Chandler Sec A & N Union
20 Winthrop St. Charlestown Ma

3153 12/14/1865 *From:* John F. Pitman

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
U.S.A.

OOH-3096

Boston

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[146, 147]

Boston Dec 14 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard U.S.A.
Washington D.C.
Sir

On behalf of the Freedmen's Society of Old Cambridge, I write to enquire if your engagements are such as will permit you to speak before the Society in the Shephard Congregational Church Old Cambridge on the Sabbath evening following your address before the Young Men's Christian Association of this city.

Genl Banks addressed the Society a short time ago, and I assure you, it would be a great pleasure to the Society to hear you.

Your Obedt Serv't
John F. Pitman

Please address
John F. Pitman
Care "Traveller" Office
Boston

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

Boston, Dec. 14th 1865
Pitman, John F.

Desires Genl. Howard to address Freedman's Society of Old Cambridge, on Sunday evening following his address to the Young Mens Christian Association

Recd. Dec. 16th 1865

3154 12/15/1865 *From:* C.C. Townsend

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3098

“The Orphans Home of
Industry”
Iowa City, Io

Source: Bowdoin

[162]

“The Orphans Home of Industry”
Iowa City, Io Dec 15th 1865

Dear Friend,

Your esteemed favor of 12th inst enclosing a contribution of five dollars, was received today while I was writing earnest appeals to some friends for aid. In three orphan houses, we have more than 100 needy little ones of all ages. I am very anxious to put my Arkansas Mission House to some benevolent practical use, and, next spring, God willing, I shall go and see it, and decide upon some plans of its dedication to the Lord, in a practical work of charity. May the Lord reward your deed of kindness to our needy ones, and long spare your life and usefulness.

Truly Yours &c,
C.C. Townsend

Maj Gen Howard

3155 12/15/1865 *From:* Davis Tillson

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3099

Source: Bowdoin

On Board Steamer
Emily
Near St Simons Island
Geo.

Comr Bureau R F & A L
Washington D.C.

[157]

Confidential

On Board Steamer Emily
Near St Simons Island Geo.
Dec 15, 1865

Dear General

I have been to Brunswick to make an appointment of an agent of the Bureau for Glynn County and to confer with the people about making contracts with the freed people for next year, and am now on my way to Darien for a similar purpose.

So far I have been quite successful. At Brunswick I appointed Col Thomas Bourke a class mate of Harry Wayne – well acquainted with Dr Cuyler & Judge Wayne – this I learned from him after I made the appointment which seemed quite satisfactory to the people black and white. Through Col Bourke I made arrangements to appoint one or more agents for Camden County, and intend while at Darien to complete my arrangements for appointing the agents for all the counties along the coast of the State. I like to see the agents and personally instruct them as to the <distinpence> of wages &c and talk to the people in their presence. I called this morning to see Mr Eaton, Genl Saxtons agent for St Simons and other Island extending as Mr E informed me for some ninety miles along the coast. I had previously learned that negroes on the main land were still being encouraged to go to the Island and that land was being surveyed and set apart for them. I enclose the statement of Messrs King, Bourke Dubarin & als. Of course while this is going on it will be impossible to make contracts with the freed people for next year either along the coast or on the Island.

Mr Eaton who seems to be a very fair minded honest man states that he has until within a very few days been surveying and setting off land for the negroes on the Islands, who from time to time were coming from the main land. He says that he has done this in compliance with the orders he first received from Genl Saxton which have never been countermanded or changed. The latest instructions given him were dated in August last and directing him to carry out the orders previously given. He says he has twice written Genl Saxton to know if there had been any change in the orders or policy of the Bureau and whether or not he should continue to parcel out land among the negroes, but has received no answer.

I informed him that Gen Shermans order had been countermanded and requested him to discontinue his policy as it was evidently against the interest of the negroes themselves and was preventing the freed people on the main land of Georgia from making contracts, and inducing a belief on their part that land is to be given to them. To this Mr Eaton very kindly consented. Mr. E. informed me that the negroes made nothing worth mentioning last year and that he was feeding on St Simons Island some 200 and on Sapelo Island some 721. It is certainly bad policy and worse economy to feed able bodied men who are doing little or nothing, when they can easily get fifteen dollars per month and board. I regret that I omitted to ask Mr Eaton how many people he was feeding in the remainder of his district but on the two Island mentioned alone, nearly as many rations are being issued as I am issuing in the city of Savannah.

I see no reason to suspect any thing dishonest but the policy pursued is evidently increasing lavish and unnecessary expenditure and exercising an unfortunate influence over the negroes. I think this matter demands your attention. It is plain to the most careless observer that things are in very bad shape along the coast and rapidly growing worse. Mr Tiffing Gnl Saxtons agent in the Ogechee Dist is about resigning, disgusted I suspect with the unsatisfactory working and results of the system pursued last year. The government should decide at once upon some definite policy or it will soon be too late for the whites or blacks to do anything for next year.

Pray do not understand that I want the control of the Coast of Georgia taken from Genl Saxton and turned over to me. On the contrary it has been mismanaged to such an extent that I should hesitate to undertake the works of putting thins in working shape for the future. I only feel it my duty to tell you that with the present plan of masterly inactivity every thing is drifting to ruin

I am Yours Very Truly
Davis Tillson
Brig Gnl Vols
A.A. Com.

Major Genl O.O. Howard
Comr Bureau R F & A L
Washington D.C.

[Enclosure]

Brunswick Glynn Co [Georgia] 14 Dec 1865

I certify that I am at present residing at <Hansboro Marlo> at the distance of 65 miles from the coast. That during the past summer Mr Eaton, Spt. of Freedmen on St Simons Island had his agents throughout the country, extending even beyond the point at which I live, offering every inducement for negros to leave the crops – promissing them lands and rations – and telling them that if they did not come at once they would lose their chances in the lands. By these means preventing labor from being obtained – some at high wages – and materially losing the last years crop.

Mathey P. King

This state of affairs still exists – and the negros are in consequence flocking to the coast and Islands under the above mentioned promises.

M.P. King

This is to certify that I am a resident of Brunswick and am perfectly aware that the above statement is correct.

Thos Bomke

Mr John Dubignon
Mr James Posten
Dr L.P. Anderson