
3197 1/1/1866

From: H.F. Gray

To: Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3140

New York City

Source: Bowdoin

[1]

New York City
Jany 1st 1866

Genl Howard,
Dear Sir

I only write you to call your attention to the letter of the Rev. Wm McGee I enclosed to you, requesting its return, & I have to ask you to return it to me or hand it over to President Johnson as you like.

Who should fill the Govmt positions. Could not Miss Marry Gray of Lynchburg fill some position in your Dpmt.

Yours Respectfully
H.F. Gray

3198 1/1/1866

From: T.W. Tomlinson

To: Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3141

Oxford Miss

Washington City

Source: Bowdoin

[1]

Oxford Miss January 1st 1866

Gen O.O. Howard
Washington City
Dear Sir

I have been waiting for some time to here from you on the Subject of our conversations between Grand Junction and Memphis in relation to some Land I had in Arkansas. The Land lies west from Memphis about Seventy miles and Twenty five miles East of White river. I can let you have from One to Ten Thousand acres hope to rise from now on reception of this. Please give your attention to the inclosed communication as it is important to have it attended to.

Yours Verry Respectfully
T.W. Tomlinson

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

[unreadable text behind tape]

Oxford, Miss.

Jan'y 1st 1866

Tomlinson, T.W.

States that he has been waiting to hear from Genl. Howard relative to some land he has in Arkansas, & that he has from one to 10000 acres available:- Encloses communication signed by himself and Mr. Y. Wileys recommending J.J. Cook for position as agent of the Bureau.

(1 enclosure) [Not found]

[STAMP] BUREAU RF&AL WASHINGTON RECD JAN 11 1866

3199 1/1/1866

From: Evans Blake

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3142

Office of Post
Commissary
Sioux City Iowa

Washington
D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[12]

Office of Post Commissary
Sioux City Iowa Jany 1st 1866

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose my request to be transferred to the Regular Army for your approval if you think it to be for my best interest. You have known me for some time and would know whether I could fill the position I ask for.

I have been on duty at this Post, since my appointment having passed an examination as to my qualifications for Commissary of Subsistence of Vols at St. Louis Mo.

I have another application which has been approved by the Adjt General of Ills. and Genl Sully and you would confer a very great favor if you would approve the enclosed request. This letter will be handed to you by a friend of mine and the request will be given to Hon E.B. Washburn who has kindly said that he will assist me.

Please accept my kindest wishes for your health and prosperity.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Evans Blake
Capt. & C.S. Vols

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

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

Sioux City Iowa

Jan 1st 1866

Blake, Evans

Capt. & C.S.

Asks Gen. Howard for recommendation for transfer to regular Army

Jan 24th 1866 Recd

3200 1/1/1866

From: Wm Wirt Piper

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3143

426 "N" St., Washington

Sup't Freedmen's Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[4, 5]

426 "N" St., Washington, Jan 1, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,
Sup't Freedmen's Bureau,
General;

I have the honor to state that, some time since, I sent you a communication asking for an appointment in the Freedmen's Bureau. I did not ask for one as an Assistant Surgeon which position I formerly held, but one which would afford me some compensation; a clerkship, or any employment.

I present as recommendations an honorable discharge from service, the loss of my left leg, a letter from Maj. Gen F. Fessenden, which you have seen, and the fact that by loss of over half my pay for the time I served, (through fault of a mustering officer) I am several hundred dollars poorer, than when I entered the service, and now in pressing need of employment.

An appointment of some kind for a few months which will give me funds to successfully complete my medical studies would be to me a favor for which I should ever feel thankful to you and the faithful performance of duty should be my constant aim.

My apology for thus addressing you is my inability to secure an interview with you.

I am, General,
Most Respectfully
Your Ob't Serv't,
Wm Wirt Piper

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

Washington Jan 1st 1866

Piper, Wm Wirt

Desires employment in the Bureau R.F & AL

Recd Jan 3rd 1866.

3201 1/1/1866

From: A.S. Woodworth

To: Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-3144

Source: Bowdoin

Boston Young Mens
Christian Association
40 Central St
Boston

[7, 8]

Boston Young Mens Christian Association
Boston January 1st 1866

Maj Genl OO Howard
Dr Sir,

We learn from Rev Dr Webb who kindly corresponded with you in behalf of our association that you have appointed Satdy Feby 10th to lecture for us in Boston. Without wishing to interfere too much with your arrangements we could wish that the date might be altered. Yet if you cannot make it convenient to do so we will gladly accommodate ourselves to your wishes.

Saturday night we have always found a bad night for a lecture. The evenings best adapted for such purposes are Wednesday & Thursday Evenings. On Wednesday Feby 14th Rev Henry Ward Beecher had previously engaged to lecture for us and he finds it impossible to give us any other time. This would bring the two lectures so near together as to involve a great amount of labor on the part of the committee.

For these reasons we would respectfully ask whether you could favor us on your way east instead of your return say Wednesday Jany 31st or Thursday Feby 1st. Friday is generally meeting night in Boston and would not be as good choice as Saturday eve. I understand from Dr Webb that you will probably be here about that time. If you cannot conveniently favor us with either of above dates we would prefer Monday Feby 12th. As it will be necessary to know at once there being, only one hall that can be had for the purpose and of which we have taken the refusal till Wednesday-night. Will you confer a favor on us by telegraphing yr reply to me as early as possible.

Wishing you the compliments of the season I am very truly Yours &c
A.S. Woodworth
40 Central St
Ch. Lec. Com.

Our choice of nights
1st Wednesday Jany 31
2nd Thursday Feby 1st
3rd Monday Feby 12th
4th Satdy Feby 10th

3202 1/1/1866

From: Edward M. McCook

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3145

Philadelphia

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[9, 10]

Philadelphia Jany 1st 1866

My Dear General:

Since leaving Washington I have been too much afflicted with sickness to write, but I have thought a great deal about the Freedman's matter we talked of, and am still very anxious to be assigned to the duty you then indicated.

I am satisfied the removal of superfluous freedmen to points where their labor may be required, can be accomplished in such manner as will assure their future prosperity and comfort, and also reflect credit upon the officers who originate and execute the plan; but would it not be best to make a preliminary reconnoissance now? After Congress once takes action they may be impatient for results, and it will certainly require both time and industry to select these lands properly.

You spoke of Florida during our conversation; I would suggest the rich alluvial lands of Texas and Arkansas as probably preferable to the thin ones of Florida or North Carolina. In either of the two first states, there is plenty of virgin land, unoccupied now, and that probably will remain unoccupied for years to come, unless settled in the manner you suggest; and the soil is generally from 75 to 100 per cent more productive than the lands of States further East and when a change is made of course it will be your object to send the Emigrants to the locality which will most quickly and profitably absorb their labor.

During the coming year I think that your Bureau can reasonably look forward to an extensive increase both of labor and responsibility; a great many of the freedmen feel reluctant to enter into contracts with their old masters, because they desire a change of location and employment and will not really feel satisfied with their condition, or assured of the fact that they are really free until they exercise the privilege of going where they please. If this spirit prevails to the extent which I suppose, it will require a great deal of labor and caution to prevent it from disorganizing the labor of the whole Country. Negroes are gregarious, and the North is their El Dorado.

I suppose you will desire this exodus to take place as early in the Spring as possible, so that you may have your wards located in time to raise at least part of a crop of provisions for their own support during the coming year. If such are you designs, would it not be well to ask the Secy of War to assign me to this duty at once, and I feel confident that I can render you efficient and intelligent assistance in carrying out your views.

Wishing you a very happy New Year, and hoping you may have the same success in the present year that you have even in the past. I remain General

Very truly
Your friend
Edward M. McCook
Bt Maj Gen Vols

Maj Gen O.O. Howard
Washington

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

Phila. Jan 1st 1866

McCook, E.M.

Brevet Maj. Gen. of Vols.

Writes regarding the settlement of public lands by freedmen. Desires to be placed in charge of such duty.

Recd. Jan 3rd 1866.

3203 1/2/1866

From: Geo. Roos

To: Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3146

Lyons Ohio

Source: Bowdoin

[13]

Lyons Jan. 2, '66

Maj Gen. Howard
Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find Eleven dollars and thirty cts to be applied to the benefit of the Freedmen as you may think best. This is a donation raised at the Thanksgiving meeting here on the 7th Dec.

Please let me know if you receive this.

Direct to Lyons Fulton County Ohio

Yours &c
Geo. Roos

[written in a different hand.]
answered Jan 6th
lmb

3204 1/2/1866

From: W.B. Hazen

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3147

Murfreesboro Tenn.

Commissioner &c
Washington
D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[14, 15]

Murfreesboro Tenn.

Jan 2, 1866

My dear Genl.

I desire to accompany some letters asking of the President my promotion to the Grade of General Officer in the regular army, from a few of the distinguished men of the country in Civil life, letters from yourself and General Sherman as my military commanders.

These letters will have no reference to recommendations made through Gen. Grant and are desired to give character and weight to the pretensions of my civilian friends.

By furnishing me this letter, and also at your convenience, laying the Subject verbally before Gen. Grant, you will confer a great favor on one who served with you honestly, and I trust at times usefully.

I have to congratulate you on the great success and usefulness of your Bureau, created entirely by yourself.

You have in Gen. Fisk, an able sincere and industrious helper, and in Tillson a man of really sterling worth, more than many people have ever given credit for although all speak well of him.

I am at present considering the district of Middle Tenn.

Very Truly
W.B. Hazen

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Commissioner &c
Washington
D.C.

P.S. I do not desire to forestall any action upon the part of proper military authority in the way of promotion, only wishing that the President may not be ignorant of me or my service when he is called upon to confirm the list that may be place before him for appointment.

W.B.H.

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

Murfreesboro, Tenn. Jan 2nd 1866

Hazen, W.B.

Maj. Gen. U.S. Vols

Desires a letter of recommendation from Gen. Howard

Recd. Jan 7th 1866

3205 1/2/1866

From: D.E. Sickles

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-3148

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters,
Department of South
Carolina,
Charleston, S.C.

[11, 12]

Headquarters, Department of South Carolina,
Charleston, S.C., Jan. 2nd 1866

Dear General,

Yours of the 6th ult was duly received. It will afford me pleasure to comply with your wishes so far as my suggestions may aid Capt. Ketchum, of your staff, in his duties. The number of freed people on the Islands is not as large as has been generally supposed –there are not as many as can be profitably employed in the Cultivation of the plantations. The planters will employ all they can, because it is their interest to do so. The negroes will cling to the hope of <> lands, until they are restored, and meanwhile they are not willing to contract. Their means of subsistence are fast disappearing and they commit many depredations & thefts on the mainland, where they go in their boats –had the impression prevailing that the Island and Coast will be given to the freedmen <indispose> those in the interior to Contract. And now is the time when it is usual and indeed necessary to make arrangements for the fear. It is therefore, in my judgment, desirable that so far as the policy of restoration is determined upon, it be promptly carried out. Capt. Ketchum has gone to <Georgia> & will be absent. I understand for about ten days. Would it not be well, considering the extent of territory his duties entail, to give him some assistance? I believe the effect would be salutary if one or two of the Islands and the rice delta on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, were restored at once –then we could see whether the experiment works well. What terms would be finer & whether the freedmen will contract, - I believe it will be successful. I recommend for <not> to restore parts of Islands or isolated plantations on the Coast, surrounded by lands where numbers of freed people are settled in unrestored lands. The difficulties would be increased. I ought to say to you in frankness that the impression prevailing here –whether just or not I cannot say –that your wishes in regard to restoration, are <tardily> and reluctantly followed. Col Tremaine A.D.C. of my staff was sent by me with Capt. K. & some planters to Edisto. Tremaine's report is commendatory of Capt K. I presume the complaints arise from the impression that restoration depends, in the judgment of the representatives of the Bureau here as a condition on the willingness of the negroes to contract. It should depend rather on the terms offered in good faith by the planters if these are fair & sufficient they will be accepted –but not while restoration is pending. I find pleasure in affording all the Cooperation in thy power to the beneficent objects of your Bureau & am always at your service.

V Tr Yrs
D.E. Sickles

[CHECK ORIGINAL –check especially all the words/phrases in brackets.]