
3383 3/9/1866

From: Thos. W. Stringer

To: Genl O O Howard

OOH-3328

Vicksburg

Source: Bowdoin

[130]

Vicksburg, March 9th 1866

Genl O O Howard

Sir

As the paster of the African Methodist Episcople Church of this City you will please permit me to ask a favor of you, after stating a few facts. We have perchesed a house of worship for the sum of \$6000. and paid four \$4000. dollars and have only three month more to pay the balance which we could very esely do if the Trustees of Methodist church south would give us the Lot that we bough and paid for out of our own money we paid them one thousand dollars for the Lot before the war & then deposited between four & five hunnderd dollars in their hands for safe keeping but they will not give us nether the money nore the Lot without we will come under their church south which we will not as if we have to go in the old fields and worship god as we have had to do a many time now the favor that we wish to ask is the Lone of two thousand dollars for one year we will give the propety for security and if there is any way that you can assist us in giting our Lot out of the hands of the Trustees of the Methodist church south you will confer a great Blessing on a poor people by doing so.

Yours in Christ

Thos. W. Stringer

3384 3/9/1866

From: Samuel McKee

To: Major General O O
Howard

OOH-3329

House Representatives
Washington D.C.

Commissioner Freedmen &c
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[114]

House Representatives
Washington D.C. March 9th 1866

Major General O O Howard
Commissioner Freedmen &c
Washington D.C.
Dr Sir

I take great pleasure in recommending to your favorable consideration Colonel E Szbad who served with distinction in our Army during the Rebellion although not a Native of our Land. He desires a place in your Bureau in this City, if such can be given him. Having served with the Colonel & known him personally during & since the war I recommend him as well worthy your attention

Vy Respectfully
Samuel McKee

3385 3/10/1866

From: Wright Rives

To: General [OO Howard]

OOH-3330

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[118]

[Letterhead]

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C.
March 10th 1866

General

I read your letter to Gen Fiske to the President and told him what you said. After having read it he said hold on to it for a little while. You had better speak to him about it when you see him next.

Truly your friend
Wright Rives [USMA, Class of 1861]

3386 3/10/1866 *From:* H. L. Shields

To: Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard
U.S. Army

OOH-3331

Troy, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[116, 117]

Private

Troy, N.Y. March 10 1866

Maj. Genl. Howard
U.S. Army
General

On Jan'y 20, '66 I did myself the pleasure to call on you at your office. I was sent by the Govt. to make a report on the Agricultural Condition of So. Carolina - (thro the Agr. Depart).

At your suggestion I saw Genls. Scott & Tillson - the former in So Ca the latter at Savannah. I talked frankly with both - & stated what I had seen of mismanagement & suffering. I had no authority to make an official report on these matters - & consequently have not done so.

I have however just received from the Comr of Agriculture a letter from which I make the following extracts.

"I have received these reports made by you on the agricultural Condition of South Carolina - while in the main were satisfactory I regret, however, to say that your action while there was not as satisfactory to some as I could have desired."

To this I replied today "I understood the object of the department to be to get at the truth and therefore sought information from every source regardless of recent political positions - from those highest in rank in our military service to those who had lately been in arms against us. In so doing I may have offended some who desired to control my action & if so I have no regrets to offer. My reports will show if I have been fair & honest in my views. If the President and Genl. Grant are severely criticized, surely I can scarcely expect to escape."

Having full faith, General, in your honesty of purpose & knowing my own heart I beg that if you have time you will peruse my report on the subject of "labor & freed men" & see if I merit any condemnation from secret service men.

I am most Resp'y
Yr. Mos. Ob. St.
H. L. Shields

As I am comparatively unknown to you, I refer you to Genls. Schriver & Nichols - Adjts. Genls. Dept.

3387 3/10/1866 *From:* Giles A Smith

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-3332

Washington DC

Source: Bowdoin

[119, 120]

Washington DC Mar 10th 1866

Dear General

On arriving at my Hotel last evening I found your note referring to my call at your Head Quarters. I was very sorry such an impression had reached you that I was offended.

I asked General Hoge who accompanied me if I did or said anything that the orderly could construe into displeasure and he fully exculpated me from any such rudeness. When I enquired for you he asked me if I wished to see you on business and I replied in the negative. He then told me you were engaged with General Swain and could not probably be seen for some little time. I then asked him to give you my card by that I could not wait to see you and left without waiting for any reply from you feeling particular about disturbing you while engaged on business. I assure you I had no other feeling and deeply regret that such a misconstruction should have been placed upon my actions.

Very Truly Yours
Giles A Smith [Maj. Gen. Vols.]

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]
Washington Mar. 10th 1866
Smith, Giles A.

3388 3/10/1866 *From:* B.H. Cadbury

To: Esteemed Friend [OO
Howard]

OOH-3333

Source: Bowdoin

Birmingham and
Midland
Freedmen's-Aid
Association
29, George Street,
Edgbaston.

[121, 122] [CHECK ORIGINAL –taped/glued edges are difficult to read]

[Letterhead]

Birmingham and Midland
Freedmen's-Aid Association
Lord Calthorpe, President
Chairman and Treasurer, Edward Gem, Esq., J.P., Charlotte Street.
Honorary Secretaries
B.H. Cadbury, 29, George Street, Edgbaston.
Arthur Albright, 30, George Street, Edgbaston.
William Morgan, Waterloo Street

3rd Mo. 10th 1866

Esteemed Friend

Thou may have seen my name mixed up with others in this Assn's work of mercy for whom there hast so manfully evinced so much determination & benevolence, & it has afforded me great pleasure to be a humble worker in the same direction. At different times since we commenced the work we have put forth papers stimulating the public mind in a direction to do good. The establishing of sewing circles has produced thousands of garments which your government have admitted duty free. Tools & working implements were the object of orther appeals.

<What> for Blankes last winter enabled us to forward many thousand pairs.

Within the last two weeks we see a tempting offer of <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> on easy terms & have put forth the enclosed paper No 19 which seems likely to produce some money though it may not be to the extent we could wish.

The object of my writing is to ask of thee what security we shall have, that after the people have taken possession, cleared the land, built huts & settled their families on it, that they will not be disturbed.

A letter from thee on these points I have no doubt would induce many of our Assns to contribute, & those who have expended their funds we should endeavour to induce to make a fresh effort for this especial object.

I read in the Star of today thy assuring letter to the Comrs to do their duty & report neglect. I do not quite <understand [CHECK ORIGINAL]> Johnsons speech, but I hope for the best & that he does understand the constitution of the People he has to govern but there is one part of your constitution that I do understand, that the People do govern whatever the veto of a President may be.

Wishing thee success in thy work I am thine truly
B.H. Cadbury

May we ask for an immediate reply.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 23 1866

3364 3/1/1866

From: Wm M Rapley

To: Maj. Wm Fowler

OOH-3334

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[130 ½]

Washington Mar 1st 1866

Maj. Wm Fowler

Sir

The deed of release for the "Dove" House has not yet reached me. The parties to the deed of release live out of the City, and I presume have neglected to sign and forward the same.

I have instructed my councillor to visit them. He will return on Monday, when I will execute the deed in fee, and call or send to you.

Very Respectfully

Wm M Rapley

Br M H James

3390 3/12/1866 *From:* Smith Pratt

To: O.O. Howard

OOH-3335

Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[123]

Washington, D.C.
March 12, 1866

O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl Comdg.
Bureau F. & A. L'ds
Genl

The Baptist Society <reading> in the vicinity of 9th St. East and C. St. North are desirous of obtaining your influence with the Hon. Sec'y of War, for the purpose of buying some gov't Buildings on good terms, that we may erect it as a house of worship.

I have the honor Genl of
Remaining respectfully
Your obdt. Serv't
Smith Pratt,
for the Society,

3391 3/12/1866 *From:* Sam. M. Sprole

To: Maj. Gen O.O. Howard
USA

OOH-3336

Newburgh, N.Y.

Washington DC

Source: Bowdoin

[124, 125]

Newburgh, N.Y.
Mch. 12, 1866

General,

I take the liberty of addressing you in relation to the possibility of my obtaining a position in the Freedmen's Bureau, either in an Executive or Educational capacity.

As, probably you are aware, shortly after the Gettysburgh Campaign I resigned my Army commission, believing there was little probability if not being of any further use in the Service (or out of it). However the fears of my friends were happily disappointed, and the quiet and nursing of home in a comparatively short time recuscitated & restored me mentally & physically. On my entire recovery I accepted the position of Mathematical & Mil. Instructor in the Mt. Pleasant Mil. Academy, Sing Sing N.Y. where my engagement expired the first of the year, when I had anticipated going to the Pacific coast in a mercantile capacity, but subsequent advices compelled me to relinquish my design, and I now find myself without employment, and at a season of the year when mutations either in educational or business establishments are of rare occurrence.

Knowing that in the wide field occupied by your Bureau there are many positions of labor and responsibility to be filled, and prompted by the recollection of a great kindness done me in my misfortune, I am induced to ask your <interest [CHECK ORIGINAL –glue/tape on edge of page 2]> in submitting my name as a candidate for employment in the South.

I can, if <advisable>, furnish endorsements of such a character respecting my ability as an Instructor, or capacity & energy as an Executive officer as must tend to a favorable consideration of my application.

Begging pardon for my freedom and feeling deeply grateful for service rendered me in the past,

I am
Your ob't. Serv't.
Sam. M. Sprole

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard USA
Washington DC

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]
Newburg, N.Y. Mar. 12th 1866
Sprole, Saml. M.
Would like a position in the Bureau
Recd March 14th 1866

3392 3/12/1866 *From:* J H Hodges

To: Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3337

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[126]

Washington 12 March 1866

Dear Sir:

A reply came from Mr. Barnes this morning. He says he can say nothing officially. But, after consulting two other members of the Finance Committee, he has "no doubt the Trustees will assure the purchase and see the money paid"; i.e. \$13,550. for the four lots; and that we had better secure them. Still he thinks it would be "proper" meaning "better" perhaps, if we could obtain the refusal of them till after the meeting of their Committee on the 14th.

We have made an appointment with Towles, the Agent of the owners, to meet him at 7 o'clock this evening at his office, on the north side of H St. east of Ninth, the building west the corner house. It is a low office, with Towles' name thereon.

It seems to us better to close the contract at once, if you can lend your personal guaranty.

Mr. Barnes suggests that the promise of the money down on the I St. may induce Towles to take \$1300. for the lot.

We are to have the refusal also of the two next lots north until 1 July.

May we hope you can meet us?

Very Truly &c
J H Hodges

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

3393 3/12/1866

From: Clinton B. Fisk
Bt Maj Gen Asst
Com.

To: Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3338

Source: Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands,
States of Kentucky and
Tennessee.
Assistant
Commissioner's Office
Nashville, Tenn.

Comr &c
Washington D.C.

[129]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
States of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Assistant Commissioner's Office

Nashville, Tenn.,

Mar 12th 1866

General

I have the honor to introduce herewith Peter Bonesteel Esq of New York; the gentleman who at the instance of <Gen.> "W.C" Ketchum came to this District for duty for a short time. I commend him to your confidence, and esteem.

I have directed that he make his Report on Kentucky direct to you – as this special work is all he has done – and I would like it to appear to the public, if it does, appear as a vindication of my own reports.

Very Respectfully
Clinton B. Fisk
Bt Maj Gen Asst Com.

Maj Genl. Howard
Comr &c
Washington D.C.

[Note: The letter summary had been cut off.]

3394 3/12/1866 *From:* J.A. Hawley

To: Dear Bro - [J. W. Alvord]

OOH-3339

Vicksburg

Source: Bowdoin

[131]

Vicksburg Mar 12 1866

Dear Bro - [possibly J. W. Alvord]

The Afr. Meth. Ch. here are in serious trouble. They have bot a house (ch) for \$6000. worth about 8000. & have paid about 4000. They are in danger of losing it for the want of the 2000. until they can raise it which they can certainly do in a reasonable time –if they can only get time. They raised the 4000. in little over a year & it has been the col'd peoples only place for some time – it is of vast consequence to the whole col'd people here - & must be saved some how. The cit'ns are determined to drive them out if possible - & divisions are springing up among them in consequence of their difficulties –if they can save the house as a rallying point it makes a permanent institution, but many fear to give, lest they lose it after all. Nothing is so important to the people of this whole region just now as this.

Now I suggest a remedy. Col. T. has \$85,000. of Bureau money locked in his safe, & it will not be used for a year at least. Let 2000. of this idle money be loaned to the church, with or without interest – taking a mortgage on the whole property (unencumbered worth 4 times the amount) for one year. It costs nothing, & saves the people from persecution, & division, & defeat, & great loss.

Do try & get the Gen. to order it. Mr Stringer the Pastor is Chairman of our Con. Bank Com. a strong & good man. With the house he can do more for the col'd people here than any other agency. If he loses that, he is a failure, & so are the people religiously.

I have some good reason to think that Col T. is in fault about these Division among the Col'd people. Allow me to say that I think it is just like him to carry his point about the Bank by breaking down the Chm of the Con. Com. whose leading men are HP Scott, C.P. Head, Davis Fort, J. Fields, CH Fishback & I dont know how many more.

Dont delay the consideration of this matter - as time is all important, & strain a point with the Gen. to save the Ch.

Yours very truly
J.A. Hawley

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Bureau of R.F. and A.L.

Mch. 21st 1866

Respectfully referred to Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard by request of J.W. Alvord
S.A. Terry, Clerk

3395 3/12/1866 *From:* Darius H. Ingraham *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3340

Portland, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[133]

Portland, Maine,
March 12 1866

General:

By reference to the enclosed programme, you will see that the citizens of Portland are to hold a Fair in April, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased soldiers.

The Committee are very desirous of receiving an autograph letter from you, in a full-sized letter sheet.

I am, general,

Very respectfully yours
Darius H. Ingraham
Chairman Executive Com.

To
Maj Gen O.O. Howard

[Clipping announcing the fair to aid the Widows and Orphans of the Deceased Soldiers.]

3396 3/12/1866 *From:* Wm E Spalding

To: Majr Wm Fowler

OOH-3341

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[133 ½]

Washington March 12th 1866

Majr Wm Fowler

Dear Sir

The papers necessary to transfer the Dove house would have been executed three days since if your counsel had been instructed to draw the Deed. I have just seen him and directed him to have them done by twelve o'clock this M. The parties are now in the city and will execute them to day and you can have them to morrow.

Yours &c

Wm E Spalding