
3510 4/23/1866 *From:* Wm P. Craighill

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-3458

Baltimore, Md.

Source: Bowdoin

[49, 50]

Balto. Apl. 23d 1866

My dear General,

This letter you will find upon another subject from the last. I was on duty at West Pt a long time, as were you, and was there struck painfully at the want of proper religious influence among the Cadets & families of the Pnt. I know well what you did to fill this gap. I dont wish to disparage Mr French. His labors as a Professor are very arduous & cannot be neglected. This fact & his delicate health leave him no time for <partial> duties, except of the most formal & routine character. Even had he the health, it is inexpedient that a Professor should be the pastor of such a flock. We understand something of the barriers which present at a mil'y school especially, free intercourses between Professor & pupils such as should exist between Pastor & flock. The field at West Point is a most enticing one for an active, energetic, godly young man, who could visit the Cadets socially & "et at them" in a way impossible for an older man especially if he is a dignitary of the school. Good seed some at West P are in the way to produce a thousand fold. I mean who in the army stands up boldly for God & right, is a shining light. I need not elaborate this subject to you. What I think desirable is to have the offices of Chaplain & Professor separated. Let Mr French retain the latter. The appointee to the former place should be a truly Catholic spirit. Let me suggest that his influence would be greater if he were an Episcopalian. I suggest this matter to you, because I know you will appreciate it & your influence in the proper quarter might accomplish the desired result. I tried to get Bishop [Charles Pettit] McIlvaine to do something in the matter two years ago, but, although approving my idea, he did nothing. I think it a most important thing. I have no influence but Providence has assigned you a different role.

I know how busy you are & have written a brief letter, but I should like to know whether you receive this note & what you think about its subject.

Truly yours

Wm P. Craighill [Brig. General William Price Craighill, USMA Class of 1853]
Box 341

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

Baltimore, Md. April 23 66

Craighill, W.P.

Friendly letter

Recd April 24th 1866

3511 4/23/1866 *From:* A. Merrell

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3459

Geneva, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[51, 52]

Geneva, April 23rd 1866

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

I have never acknowledged your kind letter, in reply to mine, wishing information about the character of the position of Surgeon in a colored regiment, offered me by Adj. Gen. Thomas.

Owing to your absence from Washington, so much time elapsed before I received the reply, that I had perfected other plans for the future, which would enable me, if successful, to remain at home with my dear family. Still, had your statement been received before the expiration of my service at Elmira, I should have asked Adj. Gen. Thomas for the position, for you removed from my mind some very strong objections.

Although I knew & felt that there was an overruling Providence shaping my plan to remain at home, I did not realize the kind hand of my Heavenly Father, till taught it by the prolonged sickness & final death of my precious wife. To have been separated from her during the last months & not to have been with her when her sweet spirit so gently & trustfully went to sleep on the bosom of her blessed Saviour, would have been deprivations which nothing on Earth could compensate.

I wish you could have known my now sainted Anna. No one ever knew her but to love her. Of uncommon natural talents, highly educate, of mild & gentle manners & attractive person, she seemed never to think of herself, but rather of what she might do for others. Though, for a long time, suffering from a disease, - chronic gastritis - which tends to depress the spirits & render its possessor a burden to himself and friends, she was cheerful to the hour of her death, the constant light & joy of our home. And she died as she had lived, full of peace & joy & trust in Christ. "How could I doubt" she said "when Jesus has gone before & made it all so smooth? He has 'prepared the way'". After blessing the two little ones, she said, "It was hard at first, to leave you, but now I can trust my children & you all with Christ. He can care for you better than I." When our little Lizzie (8 yrs old) replied to her mother's words of sweet counsel, - to "Love Jesus" - "I do mama," she said, "That is joy to dear mama, but don't be mistaken." When a cousin - a recent convert - asked, "Anna are you happy? Is God present with you?" she replied earnestly "Yes - Yes, - not a doubt of it - not a doubt" & kissed him "Good bye". She would rest a little & then break forth "Happy - happy - Jesus is with me - not a pain - nor fear - all gone." And again "Going home - almost home."

For her, death had no sting & she gave over her no victory, for they seemed to her but the "Pearly gates" of heaven. And so, by God's grace, I am enabled to view her departure almost as a literal translation from Earth to heaven.

Very Respectfully Yours
A. Merrell

Little Howard is well. He is now four years old. You sent Howard your photograph. How I would like one of your lady. They ought to be together. I enclose photographs of Anna & self, taken while I was in Elmira, & some lines, expressive of our view of the dear ones departure.

[Clipping 1]

N. York Evangelist

Merrell - At Geneva, N.Y., Feb. 24th, 1866. in the 36th year of her age, Mrs. Anna E. Merrell, wife of Dr. Andrew Merrell, and eldest daughter of Rev. F.E. Cannon, D.D.

She was a darling child, a devoted wife, and a model Christian mother, always self-sacrificing in her spirit to promote the comfort and happiness of others. For years she had been a patient and uncomplaining sufferer, but her end was perfect peace - more than that, it was a signal Christian triumph. She assured us that all doubt

and fear were gone, and that her Savior was with her. And even after he feet had entered the cold river, she broke the silence and sang with her sweet full voice,

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.

Without a struggle or a groan she passed away from us to be "Over with the Lord."

[Clipping 2]

" Just Entered Heaven"

The dark valley is passed and the river of death
With its cold turbid waters now rolls far behind,
My dear Saviour was with me, He bore me across,
And the floods had no terrors, His love was so kind.

I have safely arrived in my beautiful "home,"
My Saviour conducting me all the way through;
The Father has robed me, all dazzling and bright,
And the crown of the victor now rests on my brow.

The saints are around me with welcoming song,
Singing praises to God that another has come,
As the purchase of blood, through the faith of the cross
To be numbered with them in the heavenly home.

With them I am shouting and praising the Lamb
Who redeemed me and brought me in triumph to God
And the harps of the angels are swelling the son,
Which fills all the arches of this bless'd abode!

And this is my "home," far more blissful and bright
Than the mind can conceive in the home whence I came,
I've no shadows nor clouds, nor the stain of old sin,
For I'm washed and made pure in the blood of the Lamb.

Oh weep not for me, but give thanks and rejoice
That the kind hand of Jesus has thus led me home,
And when the brief struggle of life shall be past.
Oh! dear ones, through Jesus, you also shall come.

Geneva Feb. 27th, 1866. F.E.C.

Written by her father the day after her death.

3512 4/24/1866

From: W P Richardson

To: Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3460

Washington City D C

Source: Bowdoin

[53]

Washington City D C

Apl 24, 1866

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

General

Since our conversation to day I have concluded to put in writing what I said in regard to remaining in the service.

I will not make such an application myself, but if you desire that I should be retained I am willing to remain as long as my services may be needed.

I, perhaps, would have as strong claims upon the government as the majority of the officers of the V.R.C. But do not desire to put my retention upon such grounds.

I am General

very respectfully

Your obt Servt

W P Richardson [William Pitt Richardson]

Bvt Brig Genl

3513 4/25/1866

From: J J Dana

To: Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-3461

Quartermaster
General's Office,
Washington, D.C.

Commiss. Freedmans Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[54]

[Letterhead]

Quartermaster General's Office,
Washington, D.C.,
April 25 1865 [1866, written in pencil]

Maj Genl O O Howard
Commiss. Freedmans Bureau
General

Allow me to present to you my friend Genl [Edmund] Schriver of Frederick Md.

The Genl desires to learn the fate of an application made by him in behalf of the Fredk Co. Agricultural Society for sundry buildings which had been ordered turned over to the Society but action was suspended under the general suspension of all sales &c of Hospital buildings.

On the 6th inst you were advised of the state of the case.

Genl I will be glad to learn whether or not it is proposed to apply any of these buildings to the purposes of your Bureau.

Very resp & truly yours
J J Dana [Brig. Gen. James Jackson Dana]

3514 4/25/1866 *From:* Lemuel Moss

To: Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3462

University at Lewisburg
Lewisburg, Pa.

Source: Bowdoin

[55]

[Letterhead]

University at Lewisburg
Lewisburg, Pa.,
Apr. 25 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard
Commissioner, &c
My Dear Sir,

Your very courteous note of the 19th inst. is at hand. If it were practicable I should be glad to avail myself of your kind invitation, & examine the Records of your Bureau. But I cannot now. Perhaps it will not be impertinent for me to ask, nor too much trouble for you to answer, - How long, to what extent, & for what purposes will the Freedmen continue to need the special assistance of voluntary benevolence from the North? Of course I know that to a certain extent this depends upon the policy of the Government towards them, & the disposition of the South.

Hence an exact answer is perhaps impossible. But I shall feel greatly obliged & helped for your judgment upon the question as formed by your intimate experience & large information.

If the question is not improper & I am not too much intruding upon crowded time, I should esteem an early answer to this a peculiar favor.

Yours Very Truly
Lemuel Moss

3515 4/26/1866

From: Th. J. Wood

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3463

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department of
Mississippi,
Vicksburg, Miss.

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

[56, 57]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters
Department of Mississippi,
Vicksburg, Miss.,
April 26, 1866

To Major Genl O.O. Howard,
Comr Bureau R.F & A.L.
Washington, D. C.
General:

Though well and favorably known to you officially, I understand from Col Saml Thomas he has never met you personally. I write this letter to make you know to each other in propria persona. Not that Col Thomas requires any endorsement from me, though he deserves every good word I could say in his favor; but I think the occasion most propitious to express to you directly and personally the approbation, which I have hitherto done officially, of Col Thomas' administration of the affairs of the Bureau in this state. It has been most will, just, humane, and enlightened, and has been eminently successful.

I have found Col Thomas a most valuable assistant. Much of whatever success I have achieved in this Department is due to the cordial and intelligent assistance I have received from him.

It is therefore with much regret that I contemplate bring deprived of his cooperation.

As it seems to be in contemplation to concentrate generally in the the Southern states the officer of Dept Commanders and Asst Comr in the hands of one person, I ought not and do not complain of Col Thomas' removal. Furthermore, as I have already written you, I will do all in my power to make the new arrangement successful; and I cant see why it should not be.

But should, and any future time, a separate Asst Comr be appointed for this state, and I am in command of the Dept, I now put in my claim to have Col Thomas reappointed and sent back to me.

He has strong claims to be reappointed for the great good he has already accomplished.

I will inclose with this letter a copy of my order announcing Col Thomas' being relieved.

With pleasant memories of our service together in the field and kind wishes for you personally and officially,

I am, General, very truly, your friend,
Th. J. Wood,
Maj Genl Vols.

3516 4/27/1866 *From:* Peter Carter

To: Maj. General OO Howard

OOH-3464

530 Broadway
New York

Source: Bowdoin

[58]

[STAMP] CARTER & BROS. NEW YORK APR 27 1866

530 Broadway
New York April 27, 1866

Maj. General OO Howard
Dear Sir

I thank you for you letter –indicating your intention to be with us - Should circumstances permit - at the meeting of the National Temperance Society on Wednesday Evg May 9th at the Cooper Institute.

We have the prospect of a large & interesting meeting.

Thanking you for your kind acceptance of our invitation I am Dear Sir
Yours Very Truly
Peter Carter

3505 4/17/1866

From: Davis Tillson

To: Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3465

Source: Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees.
Freedmen &
Abandoned Lands,
Office Act. Assist.
Commissioner, State of
Georgia
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bureau R.F. & AL
Washington D.C.

[59, 60]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,
Office Act. Assist. Commissioner, State of Georgia
Augusta, Ga.,
April 17th 1866

Dear General,

The law of Congress creating the Bureau requires a quarterly report from the Asst Commissioners but evidently refers to and contemplates returns from Citizen Asst Commrs from whom such returns would be a necessity otherwise the Comr would have no data for his financial report.

The reports from this office have already been made monthly and a quarterly report would be but a consolidation of those already made, for which there would seem to be no necessity. I have kept you very fully posted as to the affairs of the Bureau in this State. In fact I have doubted sometimes whether or not, you would find time to read my numerous letters, but have written them in compliance with your request, when we parted, to write you fully and frequently. A quarterly report would therefore give you no new information.

Still however if it is desired I will make one with pleasure. Be kind enough to let your Adjt Genl inform me of your wishes on this subject.

With many thanks for your very kind letter I remain

Yours Very Truly
Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vols
A A C

Major Genl Howard
Comr Bureau R.F. & AL
Washington D.C.

[Summary written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]

April 27, 1866 Augusta, Ga.

Tillson, Davis

Concerning affairs in Ga.

Recd. April 30th 1866

[Response written in OO Howard's hand] So long as monthly reports are made, they will answer instead of quarterly

3517 4/27/1866 *From:* Thos. D. Robertson *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3466

Winnebago National
Bank
Rockford, Ill.

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[61]

[Letterhead]

Winnebago National Bank
Rockford, Ill.,
T.D. Robertson, President,
M. Starr, Vice-President,
S. Rising, Cashier.
April 27, 1866

Gen O.O. Howard
Washington
Dr Sir,

Sometime last winter I was introduced to you, by my cousin Rev AAE Taylor in the street cars at Washington and promised that our church would help the enterprise you were then interested in, & founding a Congregational Ch building at the Seat of Government. I forwarded to day to Rev'd J.P. Langworthy of Congregational Union, a contribution from the Second Congregational Church Rockford, and designated fifty dollars of the same in aid of the Congr Ch at Washington.

Trusting you may be able to succeed in the enterprise.

I am
Yur ot Svt
Thos. D. Robertson

[Summary written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Rockford Ill.

April 27, 1866

Robertson, T.D.

States that he has forwarded 50 dollars to the Cong. Union for the benefit of the 1st Church in Wash'n.
Recd. May 2, 1866.

3518 4/27/1866 *From:* W. Kienzle

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3467

Richmond Va.

Source: Bowdoin

[62, 63]

Richmond Va. April the 27 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

Thanking you for all you have done in former times, for my good and my prosperity, I wish to be excused for the liberty I am taking in asking you to do for me another favor, wick I think is in your power to do so. I hear that all Soldiers wick drew no Bounty when enlisting in to the U.S. Army are going to be allowed a certain sum, wick will be paid to theme, when showing there proper Discharges. I have had the misfortune to loose this document with other papers and Artickles on the movement of yours resp. Head Quarters (if wick I was the Cooke) from Virginia to Bridgeport Tenn. I used to belong to the 8th New York Vol. Regt Comp. D. Col. Salm Salm and my last Capt's name was Schneider. I was mustered out of service by Capt Pearson of your Head Quarter at Brookes Station, April 23d 1863. I am here in Richmond a broken man without a Cents in my pocket and no work at my trade as Confectioner, nor any possibility to get some an early day. After I had left the Situation as Cook at your resp. Head Quarters I setteld in Business in Savannah in Co. with a Capt Kirlin the Capital I had earned through the Priveliges you was so kind to allowe me, during my stay in your Employment accumulated for a while in prosperity, then as often happens Bussinus commeced to slide we lost money, and my Partner concluded to carry it on by himself. I with <[CHECK ORIGINAL TAPE RIGHT EDGE]> was left of my small fortune started a Confectionery but misfortune still haunted me and I was at last obliged to sell all I possessed to satisfy some of my Creditors and left with my wife wick I married in Savannah for this City. I could with a little amount of money easely beginn a small bussinuss on my own account and get on the right track again. Therefore I once more beg you Sire to do your Best to procure an other Discharge for my last one. If there is any truth in the Rumor about this Bounty it would be my lucky star and give me the means a power to stand up once more. Thank you Sir before hand for every thing you will do for me and beg again to be excused for the troubel I am causing you. I am verry respectfully

Yours

W. Kienzle

If you should honor me with a few lines please direct
P.O. Box Nro 466 Richmond Va.

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

Richmond, Va April 27 /66

Kienzle, W.

Friendly letter

Recd April 28th 1866

3519 4/27/1866 *From:* Samuel Osment

To: Maj. Gen'l. O.O. Howard

OOH-3468

Athens Tennessee

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[64]

Athens Tennessee,
April 27th 1866

Maj. Gen'l. O.O. Howard,
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir,

I arrived here safely about ten days ago, since then have been sick with small pox (varioid), am now getting much better, and expect to be entirely recovered in a short time.

I am Sir, with the highest respect
Your obedient servant,
Samuel Osment