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3539 5/7/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3487

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.

Com'r Bureau R.F A L  
Washington D.C.

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[20, 21, 22, 23]

Private

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.,  
May 7th 1866

Dear General

I enclose a copy of the Loyal Georgian (Capt Bryants paper) and ask your attention to the portions I have marked. You will readily perceive that it is in the highest degree sensational and that it directly conveys the idea that Genl Brannan and myself went out of our way to do honor to the Confederate dead and that we were opposed to having the graves of our own soldiers strewn with flowers by the colored people. He states twice that the Government offices were closed when the graves of confederate soldiers were decorated. This is simply false as can be established by the most overwhelming proof. Neither Genl Brannans nor my office or any other U.S. Government office was closed, and Capt Bryant knew it or might easily have found out by asking.

Again it is equally false that we (Genl B & myself) were opposed to decorating the graves of our soldiers, but simply to the time and manner of doing it. As we had been officially notified by the Mayor that it was considered by the citizens as an attempt to annoy and insult them, and that he feared a disturbances of the peace by the more violent and lower classes of the citizens. At the same time as I wrote you on 29th ult the Mayor offered if the contemplated movement could be postponed for a week or fortnight, to have the graves cleaned off – the gates of the cemetary, which by the way is mostly private property, thrown open and the police force placed at the disposal of those who wished to decorate the graves of our soldiers, and to give them every possible facility. This offer Genl Brannan and myself urged Mr Eberhart to accept in order to promote harmony and kindly feeling between the races and prevent possible difficulty.

This the movers in the undertaking declined to do and on being refused admission into the cemetary they came to me for assistance. I referred them to Genl Brannan. They said they came to me as chief of the Bureau and charged with securing the rights of the freed people. I asked them what they wanted me to do, and the Rev Mr Russell said, we want you to recommend that Genl Brannan give us a force to compete the admission of the colored people to the cemetary. "What said I to use force for such a purpose and bring about possible blood shed over the graves of our soldiers when it can all be avoided without injury to any one!" I answered that I would do no such thing but on the contrary would if necessary recommend Genl B not to send a force for such a purpose. Bryant was present and heard and took part in the conversation – and yet he states that my reply was that "I was opposed to having the company enter." I told him I was opposed to the whole movement as likely to produce a collision as ill timed and certain to create bitterness.

My anticipations were fully realized. Capt Bryant was attacked in the street in a most cowardly manner. As soon as I heard of the occurrences I went to the Mayor and had the assailant arrested and he has since been bound over for trial on the charge of an assault with attempt to kill. All the respectable citizens denounced the act, steps were at once taken to remove the assailant from his office as constable and a great deal of sympathy was expressed for Capt Bryant. All this he has since lost and thrown away by his sensational published account of the affair in which he makes no mention of the prompt and just action of the civil authorities.

You will at once see that the enclosed newspaper is entirely devoted to producing an impression in the North very likely for political purpose. I have no doubt it will succeed. I anticipate seeing Genl Brannan and myself very thoroughly denounced. But this I care very little about. I have seen the Bureau and myself represented in the newspapers as guilty of all sorts of mean and dishonest conduct and it has become so common as to no longer attract my attention.

All the stories so industriously published in the New York Herald recently about negroes being taken to Miss and Ark by force, agents of the Bureau using soldiers to collect them together and being paid for their service &c are simple unmitigated falsehoods. I challenge the authors of these statements to give one single fact in their support, or give the name of an agent of the Bureau who has been guilty of such conduct. If the Herald knew the facts in the cases referred to, it would be somewhat cautious in calling public attention to them. If the facts which can be substantiated beyond a doubt were spread before the country they would not benefit the cause that paper advocates.

I only notice the Enclosed Loyal Georgia as it claims to be friendly and can therefore do the greater mischief. Its statements are designed, and I believe intentionally to produce excited and unjust comment, in Northern papers, on the action of Genl B & myself and I therefore desire to inform you of the facts. In proof of the fact stated in my letter of the 29th ult. that Capt Bryant lives by the necessities of the freed people, I enclose a letter from Lt Col Devereux which will explain itself. Other instances of such conduct on the part of Capt Bryant has recently come to my knowledge.

I am Yours Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl  
A Com

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F A L  
Washington D.C.

[Note. The Loyal Georgian that was referred to was not enclosed with the letter. The letter from Lt Col Devereux is OOH-3488.]

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3540 5/7/1866

*From:* John Devereux

*To:* Brig. Genl. D. Tilson

OOH-3488

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office A.A.  
Commissioner Bur R&F  
for Edgefield, Abbeville  
& Anderson <Cnts>  
Hamburg S.C.

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[18, 19]

Office A.A. Commissioner Bur R&F  
for Edgefield, Abbeville & Anderson <Cnts>  
Hamburg S.C. May 7, 1866

Brig. Genl. D. Tilson  
A. Com. For Georgia  
General:

I deem it my duty to invite your attention to the conduct and proceedings of one Capt. Bryant, who resides in Augusta and operates on both sides of the river. I firmly believe this man is exercising a most pernicious influence on the colored people of Carolina & Georgia.

I know he is obtaining large sums of money for imaginary services, and for which no fair equivalent is rendered. A few days since my attention was called to a case, where he charged a poor woman (named Fanny Smart) ten dollars for merely showing her where my office was. He is encouraging a spirit of litigation among the colored people, which causes loss and disadvantage to all parties except perhaps himself. But more important from all the rest is the fact that this man is doing all in his power to create and foster a bad and unchristian feeling between the negroes and their white neighbors which will be the cause of serious trouble in the future. It seems to me too bad that our efforts to promote harmony between the races should be set at nought by one whom I firmly believe to be actuated solely by the basest and most sordid motives.

I am, General very respectfully  
Your obt Servt  
John Devereux  
Lt. Col. & A.A.Com.

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

Hamburg S.C.

May 7th 1866

Devereux, John

Lt Col & A A Comr.

States that a man named Capt Bryant is exercising a most pernicious influence among the freed people & which will be productive of trouble in the future.

Recd <audc> May 7th 1866

[Note. This letter was enclosed in OOH-3487 from Davis Tillson to OO Howard, dated May 7, 1866.]

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3541 5/7/1866

*From:* Sidney Perham

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3489

House of Reps  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

House of Reps  
Washington, D.C.  
May 7, 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Sir,

I have today forwarded a letter, signed by myself & other Members of Congress, to Rev. L. Abbott Secy. of the American Union Commission, in regard to aid for the Loyal Georgian.

I hope you will not fail to see Mr. Abbott on the subject.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Sidney Perham [U.S. Representative from Maine, 1863-1868.]

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3691 5/7/1886

*From:* John Sherman

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3490

United States Senate  
Chamber  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

[Letterhead]

United States Senate Chamber  
Washington  
May 7 1886

Dear General

The appropriations for your Bureau have been referred to me with your letter to Mr Stevens & memoranda. Will you have the kindness to refer me to such printed information as will show the comparative cost of Freedmen & White refugees.

We propose to attach those appropriations to the Army bill. Is there objection to this? Will it not avoid all danger of its defeat? If you wish to express your views to the Com. of Finance on the subject you can do so tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11 a.m.

Very truly yours

John Sherman [U.S. Senator from Ohio; brother of General William T. Sherman]

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

Senate Chamber U.S.

May 7th 1866

Sherman, John

U.S.S.

Concerning appropriation bill for F. Bureau.

May 8th 1866

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3542 5/7/1866

*From:* W.H. Greenwood

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3491

Dummerston Vermont

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[17]

Dummerston Vermont

May 7th 1866

General

I have this day mailed a map of Texas for you as I promised you I would when I was in Washington. I also inclose in this one of your photographs, which I would like your autograph on. If the Northern Pacific Railroad bill passes I think I shall try to get a position on that road as an engineer, and if you willing I would like to get a recommend from you as to my qualifications for such a position. I think of going west soon but my address for the present will be Dummerston. Vt.

Respectfully Your Obt Servant

W.H. Greenwood

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3543 5/8/1866

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-3492

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[632]

New York – Mr <Bother>

5.10 P.M.

8th May 1866

Dearest,

I met Gen Augur & Col Wm Henry Owen at the cars – procured an upper “Berth” - the latter helped me to get up my coat. I was so tired that I slept till next dailight before waking. I hope you did the same. I took a short <nap> after reaching Mr Bother and then breakfasted. He has 7 children two boys married & one girl, tho not at home – the youngest sixteen. We had a home-like welcome and a good breakfast. Mr O & I read over the poor lecture together, and at ten a.m. we were taken in the carriage by the married daughter, Mrs Peters to the Cooper Institute. After reading, a prayer & an introductory report, I delivered my lecture. It was very well received. Mr Beecher followed me by one of his best extempore addresses. There were present some seven or eight hundred people, said to be a pretty good audience for a morning week day.

I hope you are all nicely at home with much love,

Yr husband

Otis

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3544 5/8/1866

*From:* Campbell Graham

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3493

Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

Baltimore,  
May 8th 1866

Major General Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 5th Inst. and much obliged to you for the kind interest you have taken in my sister Mrs Philips's claims. She was rendered quite destitute during the war, by destruction of her property, and although I gave her all the aid in my power, she cannot well put her farm into a profitable state without further relief.

I hope Congress will pass the proposed resolution for relief for damages.

Very respectfully  
Yrs &c.  
Campbell Graham  
Major U.S. Army



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3545 5/8/1866

*From:* C.M. Mather

*To:* Wm. E. Whitingly

OOH-3494

*Source:* Bowdoin

Metropolitan National  
Bank  
(No. 108 Broadway)  
New York

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[26]

[Letterhead]

Metropolitan National Bank  
(No. 108 Broadway)  
New York  
J.E. Williams, Pres't  
G.I. Seney, Cash'r  
May 8 1866

Wm. E. Whitingly  
Dear Sir,

I believe that the Rev. Horace James, referred to in the inclosed article from the Herald is connected with the Am. Missy Association. If so, please inform me what foundation there is for the story of this correspondent.

Yours truly  
C.M. Mather

wrote May 9/66

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3546 5/10/1866     *From:* Daniel Hall

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3495

Dover N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27, 28]

Dover N.H.  
May 10 1866

Dear General,

I fear that you have lost memory as you have lost sight of me. I, however, do not forget that I enjoyed the honor & pleasure of a brief membership of your military family. It has been my hope to meet you again on some of your visits to the North, but circumstances have not as yet favored me. let me take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your safe escape from the perils of the great war, as well as upon the ample harvest of honors you have gathered before & since its close. It has been a great satisfaction to me to see your name brightening and your fame broadening year by year, for no one knew better than I how well you deserved it all.

But, my dear General, I fear you would scarcely find time or inclination for a letter of mere friendship or reminiscence from me – were I to presume to write you one. My present purpose is quite different.

We are making arrangements for a Course of Lyceum Lectures in this city. Our people would like very much to see and hear you – and I am commissioned to convey to you an invitation to address them at some time during the ensuing Fall or Winter.

As you will probably lecture in other places in New England, I apprehend you would find it convenient enough to visit us. You know that we are about midway between Boston & Portland on the B. & M R.R. - and I will tell you further that we have some 8 or 10 thousand inhabitants – that we have suffered deeply in all ways from the war – and consequently have had no regular course of Lectures for several years. Our present enterprise is an experiment whose success will depend upon our presenting to the public the best lecturers for moderate prices.

While, therefore, we propose to engage only first-class lecturers, and expect to pay with reasonable liberality, still we are not able & presume we should not be expected to pay as much as larger places. Will you be good enough to inform me whether you can favor us – if so, at what time in the season probably – and please name the sum we shall be expected to pay for the service.

I need not add that I should desire great personal gratification from seeing you here & presenting you to the loyal people to whom your name is already so familiar. I earnestly hope therefore you may find it consistent with your duty to gratify our wish.

I would like much to know when you propose to come to Maine, with a view to looking you in the face once more. I am doing a quiet business in this little city, and although I have not done so well as Griffith & Stinson & died bravely for the cause, nor so well as others who are still at your side, yet on a less stormy and conspicuous scene I am still devoted to the great principles for which we have fought the great fight through.

I am, General,  
Most faithfully yours  
Daniel Hall

Gen O.O. Howard

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3554 5/15/1866 *From:* R.D. Burrell

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-3496

Oberlin College Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42, 43]

Oberlin College Ohio -  
May 15th 1866 [12th had been written in pencil]

General Howard,  
Dear Sir:-

The College Societies desire me to address you in the hope of obtaining you to lecture before us at our coming commencement. Your connection for the past few years with the Freedmen has made you particularly well know at this College, which has always been noted for its strong "abolition principles". And the young men have expressed an earnest desire to have you address them at so favorable a time as College Anniversary.

The evening given to the Societies for a lecture is August 21st –the evening previous to the Collect exercises.

Hoping to hear favorably from you as soon as convenient.

I remain  
Respectfully yours  
R.D. Burrell  
Oberlin, Ohio

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Oberlin College Ohio  
May 15, 1866  
Burrill, R.D.  
Desires Gen Howard to lecture  
Recd May 30th 1866  
[Written in another hand.] Could not. EV

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3547 5/12/1866 *From:* T. W. Osborn

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

OOH-3497

Tallahassee Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30, 31]

Tallahassee Fla.  
May 12th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My Dear General,

I write you this letter as a private communication though it may be in part of an official nature.

The course which the Genl. has adopted in regard to the Bureau & military Dept. so far as withdrawing the military force makes its in my opinion of little benefit to train two nearly distinct organizations here of a military character under two heads. Either Genl. Foster or myself could easily control or conduct each of them. At present the civil & military condition of the State is good & the freed people are universally quiet & working well.

I am not anxious to be withdrawn from the State unless the best interests of the Government & the whole people could be advanced by it, & I do not think it would be retarded. I had however thought seriously of requesting you to place me on other Duty which would be eminently gratifying to me. So is this. To place in my hands for the remainder of the year the labor of gathering together & placing in form the material for a complete report onr history of the Bureau from its organization & also the causes which led to its organization. I would love to undertake this labor & it is one too which would be of great benefit to me. I said the close of the year as you would know before or at that time whether it should be continued.

It is not necessary for me to say more as you will determine at a glance whether you wish me to undertake so onerous a work, & whether you feel at liberty to place officers upon such duty.

Should you consider this matter favorably & conclude to place me on such duty, I should be greatly gratified to retain the services of Bvt Maj. S.L. McHenry my Ast. Adj. General who possesses all the requisites to make him a most valuable assistant. General Foster has a full staff.

Please act upon the matter as would be most gratifying to yourself & without official correspondence in the case.

I assure you General, that I do not ask this for the purpose of avoiding any duty here but I am convinced that by uniting the duties of the Ast. Comr. With those of Dept Comdr the end of the Govt. would be quite as well accomplished.

I am General  
Very truly Yours  
T. W. Osborn

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

Tallahassee, Fla.

May 12th 1866

Osborne, T.W.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the Mil. Dept. Comdr. & Assts Comr. Should be one and the same person. And that he would like to engage in writing a history of the Bureau.

Recd May 23rd 1866

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3549 5/13/1866 *From:* Learor M. Peer

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3498

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

New York May 13th 1866

Dear Brother

I have seen the Editor of the Tribune as you requested. He says – the manuscript of Gen Howard has not been found yet. The reporter Bryan – was not of the regular corps – but an extra hand – and furnished only an abstract of Generals speech – probably retains the original manuscript. When said Bryan comes for his pay – he will be required to deliver it – and it will be forwarded in a roll to your office Washington.

I think likely – Bryan may have forwarded the paper himself – and that you will find it in the Wash. B.

Respt.

<Learor M. Peer (over)>

P.S. I could not hear of Mr Natines address at the Astor. Undoubtedly he is at Rochester.  
L. M. P.

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3400 3/13/1866 *From:* W H Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3499

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[32]

Mar 13 / 66

My dear Otis

Can you spare Charles about the 25th of next month. I want him to look after me & take care of my sister Laura during the wedding festivities which approach.

The time is fixed for the 26 April in New York but if you can spare him a day or two before that it will be better. I shall also want him here for a day sometime in June when other intends to introduce her new daughter in law.

How about your financial arrangements. I have not heard from you.

Very Truly  
W H Merrick