
3588 5/29/1866 *From:* Chloe Merrick

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3538

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[38]

Washington D.C.

May 29th 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,
Dear Sir,

Believing a written expression of your instructions would be much more effective with the Association, and others than my simple statement, I write to ask you to favor me with such as you deem best, forwarding them to me as soon as convenient, at the rooms of the Freedman's Aid Commission, 76 John St.

In behalf of those whose interests I serve, I thank you for the kind attention you have given. Hoping your efforts for the good of the Freedmen will be crowned with success, and the reward of the righteous be yours.

I remain
Truly & Respectfully Yours
Chloe Merrick

3589 5/29/1866

From: J.W. Sprague

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3539

Source: Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands,
For the States of
Missouri, Arkansas and
Indian Territory,
Office of Assistant
Commissioner
Little Rock, Ark.

Commissioner
Washington
D.C.

[87, 88]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
For the States of Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,
Office of Assistant Commissioner
Little Rock, Ark.,
May 29, 1866

Dear General

I infer from reading the report of Genls Steedman & Fullerton that a systematic effort is being made to make up a case against the "Bureau". If that Committee were to traverse the Country and notice only the defects of our Judiciary they might conclude that the whole system was an outrage on Community and ought to be abolished –this would be true even of our Churches. Many foolish and some bad things have been done doubtless by Officers of the Bureau. This perhaps has been the case in this District but no honest intelligent man can deny that a vast amount of good has been done.

Through this Agency thousands of white "refugees" have been saved from starvation and many more thousands of the same class have been prevented from becoming permanent Paupers by timely aid which has enabled them to again establish themselves in homes of their own –and more than this has been done by bringing into harmony and confidence the two races so that both can live in peace and follow the peaceful pursuits of civil live. To say nothing of what has been done to encourage the Freedmen to look forward to a higher and better life.

The only Officers of the Army on duty in this District who are interested in Cotton planting that I am aware of are Capt Williams and Capt S <Kinear [CHECK ORIGINAL –tape page 2]>. They invested some money in cotton planting with my full consent and approbation. Upon this subject I have a full and free conversation with Maj Genl Reynolds Com'g the Department and it met his hearty approval. I cannot see that it does or has in any way interfered with their official duties.

Genl Steedmen furnishes the Capital for a large cotton Plantation below Pine Bluff (the Johnson Place) & the Freedmen employed there were brot. on Government Transportation from Atlanta Ga as I am informed and believe. But no wrong was done the Government by the transactions that I am aware of.

I have just recd your Circular No. 4 by which I see it is contemplated to transfer the duties of Asst Commissioners to Dept. Commanders. I believe it will work well in this Dept. - and hoping it will in some small degree at least lessen the embarassments and difficulties that I apprehend are annoying you. I respectfully ask to be relieved from duty in this Bureau and ordered to Milan Ohio to be mustered out of service whenever it will best suit your convenience to grant this request.

Thirteen Officers of the V.R. Corps have just reported for assignment to duty. I shall wait until Genl Reynolds returns from Indiana before assigning them so as to consult with him about it. This I regard as proper in view of his soon taking charge of duties now entrusted to me.

I am General
Very Respectfully
and Truly Yours
J.W. Sprague
Bt Maj Genl
Asst Comr

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

3590 5/29/1866

From: D. Remick

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3540

Ottumwa Iowa

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[89, 90]

Ottumwa Iowa
May 29th 1866

Dear Genl

I heard the honour and take the liberty to drop a few lines to you in regard to Brvt promotions which I see they are bestowing on Several of the officers of my dept. I have send a letter recd from Genl Sherman to our Iowa Senator Honbl J. W. Grimes and he will I think try and procure the Brvt Brig for me and I would be under many and renewed obligations to you if you will drop him a few lines as to my worthyness &c. I know it will be no pecuniary advantage to me but I have a pride in such matters and a desire to let my friends know that my services were appreciated. A line from you to Mr. Grimes would fortify him for the occasion. I dislike to trouble you so much but I hope I may be able at some future time repay you for all of this.

I have crossed the plains twice this winter but we have now sold out our <fret> & express line and I shall probably settle down at my home in Burlington this state.

My Dear Genl I would like so much to see you. I see manny, manny of the old campaigning veterans & heroes that have served under you and all inquire so warmly and earnestly for you and take so much interest in your progress and welfare. Do write me Genl at Burlington Iowa.

May God bless you in all of your undertakings and believe me as ever.

Your sincere frien
& Humble Servt
D. Remick [David Russell Remick]

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

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

May 19, 1866

Ottumwa Iowa

Remick D.

Brevet Col. & C.S.

Desires a brevet of Brig. Genl.

Recd. June 4th 1866

3591 5/29/1866

From: Davis Tillson

To: Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3541

Source: Bowdoin

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

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

[91]

Private & Confidential

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Office Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,
Augusta, Ga.,
May 29th 1866

Dear General

On Saturday, the 19th inst, I received a telegram from Genl Steedman at Savannah inviting me to join his party and accompany them on their tour through the Sea Islands of this State. I accepted the invitation and with them visited the Sea Islands thence proceeding to Jacksonville Fla by Boat where we took the cars to Tallahassee coming back via Thomasville & Savannah to this city. I feel quite safe in assuring you that the Commission will make a favorable report of the operations of the Bureau in Florida and this State. They will also speak well of Genl Scott but will censure some few of his subordinates. The Commission seemed much pleased with the condition of things on the Sea Island of this State. Genl Steedman said to me that they were at least 100 per center better off than any of the Sea Islands north of this State.

The statements in the Savannah papers about the interview between Gnl S & F and the citizens are mostly false. I secured their correction to some extent – see the enclosed clip from the Savannah News & Herald. Genl Steedman told me that he knew things were in better shape in this state than in any other and that if he simply stated the truth, he expected to be accused of whitewashing his own Dept. I am impressed with the belief that Genls S, F mean to tell the truth without fear or malice and as a whole I don't think it will do any harm to the Bureau or to you personally.

I take it for granted the reports in the newspapers about you asking to be relieved or meditating a resignation of your position as Comr are false. Don't think of such a step – stand by the cause, I know you will come out all right. It has been intimated of me that Fisk wants your place. He don't know enough to fill the position and besides, entre nous, I fear he is insincere and hypocritical. Pray do not subject your ass'ts to the mortification of serving under such a man by resigning your place. The misconduct of the Agents of the Bureau here and there cannot, and will not, be charged to you.

I am gratified with having the military command of the State. It will enable me more fully and completely to carry your orders into effect. Please excuse my penmanship, I have a lame hand. The papers say Congress will call upon the President for information as to whether or not any officers have been engaged in showing honor to the Confederate dead, &c intending to hit Genl Brannan & myself. I hope it may be done. I would like an opportunity to reply.

Please excuse me for calling attention to my request for authority to purchase a Newport Sail Boat for the use of an office of the Bureau to be started at Brunswick. I have not received your answer. Genls S & F agree with me as to the necessity for such a boat and the services it could render.

I am Yours Truly
Davis Tillson
Brvt Maj Gen Vol

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

3593 5/30/1866 *From:* Geo. W. Julian

To: Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3542

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[93]

Washington,
May 30, 1866

Gen O.O. Howard
Dear Sir

I called to see you the other day about a matter which demanded prompt attention. You were reported "not in" when my name was sent up, but I learned from another you were in at the time. I then left my papers, with a special request to have you look at them & return them with your answer as soon as possible. I have heard nothing from you since. I have never yet been able to find you, & though I have written you on other occasions I have never had the favor of an answer save in one instance. I have had no difficulty in transacting business in other Bureaus of the War Department & have always been treated respectfully, & am sorry that owing to some cause or other my experience is not peculiar with you. I wonder whose fault it is?

Very respectfully
Geo. W. Julian

3594 5/30/1866 *From:* E. Whittlesey

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-3543

Raleigh

Source: Bowdoin

[94]

Raleigh May 30, 1866

Dear General

We are at a great loss to know what is going on in relation to our case. Having been relieved by order of the Sec'y of War, & assigned to no duty, & it have been published throughout the land that we are under arrest by order of the President, our situation is by now means a pleasant one. I do not doubt that you are doing all in your power to set the matter right, & I suppose we must wait in patience. Meantime I am doing a little good, I hope, by visiting the schools and helping the teachers.

I see the N.Y. Herald is very anxious that you should resign. I trust you will not do it. The Bureau will live & be useful. Though my official connection with it is probably closed I shall cease to feel an interest in its prosperity. I trust you will hold on, and weather this storm, whatever may be done with some of your subordinates for their "misconduct"

Yours Very Truly
E. Whittlesey

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

Raleigh N.C.

May 30, 1866

Whittlesey, E.

Brig. Genl.

Concerning the "situation"

Recd. June 2nd 1866.

3595 5/30/1866 *From:* Deane

To: My dear Gen [OO
Howard]

OOH-3544

Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[95, 96]

Boston May 30, '66

My dear Gen -

I have a few moments to say briefly something of our journey <thither> and of our doings on this first day of our work.

As we left W. without any plan of operation Thompson and I spent a good part of Tuesday in constructing a scheme of labor, so that we might be ready at once on reaching B. to unfold our large designs. After a very delightful journey we arrived here this morning in excellent time.

Commencing with the 8 o'clk prayer meeting at Dr. Kirk's Church we kept steadily at work til 5 ½ o'clk, or dinner time this eve, and had then the result of fair progress to encourage us, as you will see by what I say hereafter.

We met one old friend Dea. Palmer at this prayer meeting who greeting us cordially & kindly introduced us to several good brethren. Then we found Alvord at the Tract Rooms who entered with animation into our work, introduced us to several persons, and gave us valuable & timely counsel.

Then our friend Langworthy gave us a cheerful welcome, and, though very busy in preparing for his meeting in behalf of the Cong. Library Building, gave us a half hour of his valuable time for consultations. We found Messrs Tobey and Hardy, after vain searches elsewhere, at the Cong. Lib. Meeting in the P.M. After the AM Miss'y at noon we found Webb, your Brother Roland, James &al.

At the Cong Lib. meeting in the P.M. the chairman Mr Tobey after speaking in most pleasant terms of the regret entertained by reason of your absence, said that two brethren were present from the Church Gen H. had so deep an interest in, and then announced that Thompson would address the meeting!! Notwithstanding this sudden & unexpected move T. took the stand, made a good speech and did our cause justice and himself credit.

To-morrow we have a meeting of some of the friends & well wishes of our cause to discuss plans and arrange plans for the summer campaign. The demand for you, the unceasing remark, "send Gen H if you want to raise money", has led me to give some encouragement that you might come on for one day before the middle of June.

We shall accomplish practically all our work so soon as we have this meeting well ended, but instead visiting Andover Theo. Seminary, Portland, Hartford &c before our return.

It may be best to make no further talk with Mr Coan at present as we have another man in view, of which more on our return.

Truly your friend
Deane

3596 5/30/1866 *From:* E.W. Jackson

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3545

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[97]

Washington May 30 / 66

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

You will I have no doubt read carefully the record in my case & if you are satisfied of the injustice done me you will place me in a position so I can meet any where any report which may go out on this subject. If you cannot do this I shall be compelled to have the matter thoroughly investigated before an ecclesiastical tribunal as a last resort. Both myself and family here suffered greatly for the last year, and I have no doubt after the examination of the case you will come to the conclusion unjustly if not wickedly. I go to Maine tomorrow. My P.O. will be Gorham Me.

Respectfully
E.W. Jackson

3597 5/31/1866 *From:* L. Deane

To: My dear Gen [OO
Howard]

OOH-3546

Boston, Mass

Source: Bowdoin

[98, 99]

Boston, Mass
May 31, 1866

My dear Gen.

I add this line to yesterday's to advise you of the success that seems to attend us in our good mission.

At the prayer meeting this morning I had an opportunity to say a word, and Dr Chickering catching up the strain told who I was. At the close of the meeting Dr. Kirk made further remarks in like spirit with Dr C. and concluded by inviting those interested in our cause to remain after the meeting to hear from the Washington brethren. This opportunity was more than we had expected. We had hoped to meet as few business men for consultation, but no larger assemblage.

Of what was done at this meeting your will learn by the account in the paper & sent you by this day's mail. Thompson and Alvord made good speeches.

Our audience was not large, and yet we learned we have struck a note that wont cease sounding.

The day has been spent in going about hither and thither upon general consultations.

Our efforts to find a good and capable agent have been wholly unsuccessful thus far. I very much doubt if we shall find Mr Coan the man for our work, and would suggest that no further negotiations with him be had until our return. Our friends here say our cause demands a man of known position & capacity who can go before the public with a recognized resolution. We have had no promise of such a man, but the suggestion has weight in my mind.

We have about arranged a possible meeting for you on Sunday night June 10th.

Our friends her all say "send Gen Howard, send him, he is the man if you want money" - and I am about convinced that they think so, for I have heard the remark every where and so often that I have about come to think you and you alone are to do this work or start it, so that others can keep it in motion. I repeat again after what I said in my last, that we find warm & generous greeting on every hand.

Truly your friend
L. Deane

[Written sideways in the margin on the first page.] We expect to be in W. by Tuesday next.