
3618 6/9/1866

From: Davis Tillson

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3566

Source: Bowdoin

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

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

[115, 116, 117, 118]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,
Augusta, Ga.
June 9th 1866

Dear General

Your valued letter of the 5th inst has just been received. I did not of course know that Steadman and Fullerton started out with any such intentions as you mention. I joined them at Savannah, by their invitation, after they had had their interview with the citizens and went at once with them without an hours delay to the Sea Islands. I may be mistaken but from what I heard I got the idea that they had modified their views about the makings of the Bureau. S&F both told me that the leading citizens of the State, and I know the citizen of Fla spoke kindly of Osborne, as I heard their remarks. I never doubted for a moment that you would do what you thought to be right. You have proved that to the satisfaction of the world –nobody dare speak ill of you personally in this respect. I only feared you might think it right to resign.

For the same reason I cannot shrink from defending Genl Brannan in relation to the course pursued by him in the matter to which you refer. Genl B did right, did his duty in my opinion well and wisely –and in a manner to prevent bloodshed. It would be an act of mere cowardice for me to fail to <[Torn Edge]> Genl B. The statement of Bryant upon which public opinion and the action of Congress is based, is false. Bryant knew it was false. It is intensely mortifying after nearly five years of service to be compelled to defend myself from such venom from an individual who when a paid agent of the Bureau hired many of negroes and now neglects or refuses to pay the note –a cold blooded hypocrite who came here to take advantage of the influence he had gained, while an officer of the Bureau, to live off the ignorant freed people. I should not stoop to defend myself against this lying sneak but for the importance given him by Congress, and with which he is so delighted that it has turned his head.

In proof of this I enclose you a copy of his paper of this week and of a letter of his which he threatened to publish unless I would submit to his impudent demands. Knowing that his conduct was being opposed and that his power to get money from the negroes was passing away he has with desperate recklessness tried to force a collision with the military authorities and bolster up his failing cause by becoming a martyr. His paper of this week is full of lies. The colored speakers at the meeting held last Sunday called my name of their own accord and in the strongest manner endorsed and approved of my <action> and that of my subordinate. This Bryant supposes and says the colored people did not endorse my action with reference to decorating the graves of our soldiers. This is also false, for although I knew Bryant had packed the mutiny against me still I relied on the good sense of the colored people to endorse what they knew to be right, and they did as I anticipated. I can prove by Gens Steadman & Fullerton by officers and citizens present that so far as the responses and the voting went it was largely in my favor. W.J. White a leading Colored man, chairman of the Financial committee of the loyal Georgia and who voted against me under the influence of Bryant has since told me that upon learning all the facts he approves of my course and this is done all all the leading intelligent & wealthy colored men in the city. I enclose a copy of Jacob R Davis' affidavit in proof of this assertion. Bryant published statement that I represented the matter before the meeting differently form what I had previously stated to him is a deliberate gross falshood. As also is his statement that the Teachers and others intended were not informed of the proposition made by the Mayor. I can state under oath that I called upon Mr Eberland Sup of F schools and in a very emphatic manner told him of the offer made by the Mayor and directed him to go and inform the teachers and earnestly advise them to accept the kind offer of the Mayor, as the very best way to promote and

cultivate kindly relations between the races. I enclose his statement. This Bryant is a thoroughly bad man who will stoop to any means to accomplish his purposes. Some of the more ignorant and violent freed people have already been so wrought upon by his influence as to make threats of violence.

Every white citizen without exception –and the officers of the Army and of the Bureau on duty here and the leading colored men almost without exception condemn this man Bryant as dangerous to the safety of the community. I am told that the civil authorities are about to present him before the Grand Jury. I am ready to say that I personally know of good reason for this action.

I am Yours Truly
Davis Tillson
Bt Maj Genl Vols

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Comr Bureau R.F. & A L
Washington D.C.

P.S. Another fact has just come to light showing to what mean tricks and subterfuges this man Bryant will resort. The first part of the issue of his paper of the ninth (9th) inst contained remarks about me which were taken out of the paper in the latter portion of the same issue intended for Northern circulation –see Capt Dean's certificate enclosed. His statement that I was waited upon by christian colored men and asked not to bring this matter up in the meeting is also false. They came to me to regret that Genl Steadman had appointed the meeting for that time. They did not mention any objection to my bringing up the affair at the Cemetery. D.T.

[Note: There were no enclosures.]

3619 6/9/1866

From: RK Scott

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-3567

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters,
Assistant
Commissioner,
Bureau Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands,
South Carolina.
Charleston, S.C.

[135, 136]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
South Carolina.
Charleston, S.C.
June 9th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard,
Commissioner
Dear General

I have the honor to write you this unofficial letter to let you know of some of the perplexing questions which are daily arising in my path.

In the first place reports of distillation and threatened starvation are coming in daily to an alarming extent and I have no power to relieve them and Genl Sickles is as much as ever opposed to the issue of rations to either whites or blacks, and I am merely a District Commander and have no more power than I had before, in fact my power is more limited and circumscribed than it was before I was made military Commander, as General Sickles assumes that under the order consolidates the two States, he has charge of the Bureau also, and directs me to forward all my reports through him, and to make him the medium of all official communications to Washington, in Bureau as well as Military affairs. Also Dr AK Smith his Medical Director orders Dr DeWitt Surg in Chief of the Bureau for this State to report to him.

I have therefore respectfully to ask for official instructions that cannot be misunderstood, as to the extent of Genl Sickles jurisdiction in regard to Bureau Matters, and whether he is to be made the channell of my communications to you.

While I do not wish to be understood to complain of difficulties that appear to present themselves. I must say that I fear the result of too many officers wishing to take part in the affairs of the Bureau. And feel confident that the Asst Comm'r of a State should not be controled in its immediate management, or in carrying out its details, and if found incompetent should be replaced by one who could discharge the duties to your satisfaction.

I am General
Very Respy Your Obt Servt
RK Scott [Robert Kingston Scott]

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]
Charleston S.C.
June 9th 1866
Scott R.K.
Bvt, Maj. Genl.
Writes unofficial letter concerning difficulties &c in S.C.

3650 6/19/1866 *From:* Jacob R. Shipherd

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-3568

Source: Bowdoin

American Missionary
Association
29 Lombard Block
Chicago

[6]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association
29 Lombard Block
Chicago
Secretaries:
George Whipple, New York
Michael E. Strieby, New York
Jacob R. Shipherd, Chicago
June 19 66

My dear Brother:

Dropping titles, and with them all official indirection, I answer your note as frankly as its openness invites.

I wish you had told me what is the "blight" on your "grain" at Boston, & whether you couple it with our talk at Willard's because you think I have been preparing some "blight" for your "grain" at Boston or elsewhere. For if you think so, you were never more mistaken in all your life. There is not, inside or outside the Congregational Church of the United States, a man, woman or child more thoroughly appreciative of the merit, or more profoundly in earnest for the process of the Washington enterprise than a certain outspoken man who talked with you at Willard's of his fears.

It is because I am so solemnly in earnest that my opinions are definite, positive, and active.

I told you what I feared. I have since compared notes with three men, all of them like yourself, profoundly anxious for your large and complete success. I had previously conferred with three others, perhaps with four or even five, every one of them grave, prudent, large minded Christian ministers who seek only the success of your enterprise. I have always spoken hopefully – as hopefully as I dared. I have insisted upon the opportunity and the possibility. I have not withheld expression of my abundant faith in a noble soldier whom it was my memorable privilege to introduce to the Christian people of this city. I have repeated all the good things I ever heard of Dr Boynton, without abatement or drawback – & you will agree with me that no man ever achieved a brilliant reputation upon a smaller capital. And while I was in Washington I did all in my power – within conscientious limitations of silence – to strengthen his hands with his people, to give the best results to his labors. I broached my objections only after I learned with surprise that it was proposed to install him as the permanent pastor of the church, I broached them first to Mr Thompson, & then to yourself, & beyond these two conversations I maintained absolute reserve.

Mr Thompson assured me with promptness & spirit, that if the truth had been known the call would never have been agreed to, & lamented only the lateness of my frankness. You thought the ecclesiastical structure of the church of no primary importance. And your reply at least double my fears. For if you are indifferent when your pastor is not merely zealous but imperative – can there be a doubt of the result?

Now, the whole thing is in a nutshell. You want a Congregational Church at Washington. You cannot possibly want one more than I do. And if I were but at liberty I would offer today to join you in a covenant to make a tour which should not end until the last penny of the \$50,000 was raised. I should challenge you afresh upon every platform to make the strongest appeal your heart would sanction, & I would outdo it! For I do want a Congregational Church at Washington. And by Congregational I do not mean such a church as the Vine Street Church of Cincinnati, with a despot for a pastor & a regular Presbyterian session for church business.

Now I am but one of three thousand ministers, & but one of 200,000 Congregationalists, not one of whom would

give one penny toward a church at Washington which proposed to install Dr Boynton as its pastor, after they should know what I know of the man & his record.

And do you think, my dear brother, that we hold back because we do but trifle when we say that our heart is as your heart toward the success of the enterprise? Nay, you must find charity enough to believe the unqualified assertion that it is the depth of our zeal which works in us this wholesome jealousy and reasonable caution.

You say: "He will stand firm, if he doesn't."

Why, my dear brother, when you have the choice of the best Congregationalist pastors in the country, is it necessary to take a Presbyterian pervert, whom you confess may attempt your perversion? Is there not enough at stake to justify entire insurance and then, dear brother, who are you that promise to stand firm? Are you not men every one of whom may, & a large proportion of whom certainly will be citizens of some other place within a few years? Do you not see that a zealous, active, persistent settled pastor at Washington has the entire enterprise in his own hands? Your membership, more than that of any other church of equal rank in the country, is constantly changing: the minister only remains.

Finally, you must observe that we who upon just occasion frankly express our views in the premises, are no meddlers in other men's matters. To begin with the regnant idea of the church as first recognized by the church itself, and afterward by the denomination at large, is the idea of an essentially impersonal representative church, precisely analogous to the elective government in its various branches. Expressly on this ground, & almost on no other the church appeals to the denomination to build for the denomination a house of worship in which members of the denomination tarrying at the capital for longer or shorter periods may worship God after the manner of their fathers. We listen to your request, & reply: "We are ready to plant a Congregational Church as you ask; to build it with our own hands." Those of us who know Dr Boynton are bound before God to add, "provided always, & upon this condition only; that you do not install your present preacher, but secure an able representative Congregationalist whose record is above question."

I have not lifted my arm, be it stronger or weaker, against your enterprise; nor shall I ever do it, so long as I remain sane: but against the installation of Dr Boynton, I shall protest to the end: and so long as he continues the approved pastor of the church, I cannot so far violate the clearest conviction of christian duty as to give or advise others to give any considerable aid toward your building.

This has been no pleasant letter to write. Until recently I should have preferred not to write it, even to you, whose friendship I esteem more highly than you probably know: - and I say even to you because, as you know, it is easiest to be frank with those in whom we most freely confide. I could not have written this to any one else without severe pain. As all other duties none is so distasteful to me as opposition to a pastor. Pastors are already like hunted partridges, & all my instincts are on their side. But his case is altogether exceptional: the minister has no shadow of a claim to this place, & has already been suffered long. It is only necessary that his record should get abroad to make you infinite trouble, at any time. You walk over a mine, which any chance spark may spring. Why not build upon a solid foundation - upon a rock - from the first?

Answer me this, my dear brother; give me your "strong reasons" for running so great a risk, & if I am wrong I will not stay wrong a single day.

Do not let us be parted, in this or in any other good work. Either, set me right or let me set you right: let us come shoulder to shoulder & work with both hands & with one heart until the walls are all builded.

Fraternally & affectionately,
Jacob R Shipherd

3620 6/10/1866

From: James L. Hoole

To: Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3569

Mobile Ala

Source: Bowdoin

[140. 141]

Mobile Ala
June 10 1866

Genl. O.O. Howard,
Dr Sir,

Immediately preceding the war I was engaged in investigating the Laws in reference to Revolutionary Pensioners, to ascertain if my Mother was entitled to a pension. I had not concluded the same, but remember that some doubt arose in my mind as to whether she was entitled to one. I lost every thing during the war, and since, owing to the indigent condition of the South, it is quite difficult to recuperate, and if my Mother has any claims of this nature, I should be grateful to prosecute them to success. She is growing old, as you will know, & the advantage of sufficient means to make comfortable her declining years would be a source of great pleasure.

Can you assist me? There is no difficulty in establishing the claim provided that the law covers the case.

First, is there any law which makes provision for the children of revolutionary Soldiers?

Second, if so, does it have any reference to the date of the decease of the party? My Grandfatehr died in 1802 I think.

I do not expect you to give your personal attention to this matter, but merely afford me direction how to proceed. Perhaps you could send me a copy of the Laws in reference to pensions. Is there any of our old friends about Washington?

I did not wish to employ a Lawyer as my experience in past years in these matters assured me that it is unnecessary. If the Law exists and the facts can be produced, a fair representation to the proper Department always insures a just decision. I think that there must be some ground upon which to base her claim, as Lawyers here proferred to undertake the case for one half provided they recovered.

Formerly I had some correspondence with a gentleman by the name of Whiting who was in one of the Departments. Is he there now? And is he any relation to Jasper [Strong] Whiting [Bowdoin College Class of 1847], who was in the class above us.

Will you be kind enough to snatch a few brief moments from your arduous labors to afford mme such information in this matter as you may think will be of advantage?

Wishing you success always and a long and pleasant life.

I remain
Yours truly
James L. Hoole [Bowdoin College Class of 1849]

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

Mobile, Ala. June 10th 1866

Hoole, James L.

Requests information and assistance to enable him to obtain a pension for his mother.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.& A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JUL 14 1866

[Written in pencil] Answer

[Written in the next column on the back page, in another hand. The signature is O.O. Howard's,]

Washington July 20, 66

Resp. referred to L. Dean Esq. [Possibly Llewellyn Dean, Bowdoin Class of 1849] Dept of the Interior. Can you not do something in this case

O.O. Howard [Signature]
Maj. Gen.

3621 6/10/1866 *From:* Thomas Boardman *To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-3570

128 Summer St
East Boston Mass

Source: Bowdoin

[7]

East Boston Jun 10th 1866

General Howard

Dear Sir

While reading my weekly paper the Independent, I learn from the Speeches made by several ministers and yourself, that there is an effort being made, to try to raise by Contributions a sum of money for the purpose of Building a Church in the City of Washington. Would you please accept 5 dollars from a Soldier who lost one of his legs at the battle of Gaines Mills, only a few miles from where you lost your Arm. I thought I would like to give this as a thank offering to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has been a friend to me all my lifetime, particularly when I was a prisoner in Richmond. I cheerfully contribute this small amount.

In kindest regards and Christian
fellowship I am very respectfully
yours, Thomas Boardman
128 Summer St East Boston Mass

3622 6/11/1866 *From:* H. W. Smith

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-3571

Source: Bowdoin

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

[144, 145]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, State of South Carolina,
Charleston, S.C.,
June 11th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard
Commissioner &c
General

Your telegram in regard to Dr DeWitt was received this A.M. and rather surprised us, as Genl Scott never had an idea of removing him, but on the contrary thinks most highly of his abilities, and efficiency. Dr DeWitt was not announced as Chief Medical Officer of the Military Command of S.C. because Dr Smith the Medical Director of the Department claimed the right to appoint an officer of his own choosing, and was upheld in his claim by Genl Sickles. So Dr Dewitt remains still as Surg in Chief for the Bureau in this State.

Gen Scott was obliged to relieve Major Saxton on account of an order from Genl Sickles to report the names of all general Staff officers who were performing such duty as could be performed by Officers of the Vet Res Corps, and to set a date for dispensing with their Services. Before making his report Gen Scott relieved Major Saxton and ordered him to report to you in order to save his name from being sent in by Gen Sickles for muster-out. The new change is slowly taking place and my fear is that the Bureau will become too much incorporated with the Military. The Bureau should never be made subservient to the Military, as tis a much greater and more important command. The duties of the two commands make my labors very arduous, but I am never so happy as when busily employed, and the interest I feel in the Bureau makes me more anxious to see things done as you would desire them, and all that I can do shall be done to make things go on smoothly. To a certain extent Genl Scotts being the Military Commander helps us some but then General Sickles assuming that he is responsible for the carrying on of Bureau Affairs and ordering us to report through him, neutralizes the benefits that would otherwise accrue to us by the change, as we are not nearly as independent as we were before. As yet Gen Sickles has given nothing but verbal orders in regard to Bureau affairs, so we are first ballancing on the fence. I do not think that there is much kind feeling down here as yet.

I must now close. Please make my kind regards to and you staff and with feelings of the kindest regards

I remain General
Very Sincerely Yours
H. W. Smith
Bvt Lieut Col & A. A. G.

3623 6/11/1866

From: Eben. E. Waite

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3572

Navy-yard Brooklyn
N.Y.

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

(Caulker's Department)

[146]

Brooklyn N.Y. - June 11th 1866

Office my Dear Sir:

Will you be so very kind as to call yourself personally: or if it is inconsistent for you to do so: will you do me the very great favor to get some one that will be likely to have a good influence to call on the Secretary of the Navy. (He it is, I believe, that has the appointing of the "Bosses" in the Navy-yards.) and ascertain whether there is to be a "Boss" caulker appointed for the N.Y. Navy-yard? I have heard it rumored that there is to be one appointed, and if there is I wish to have my just claims considered, and taken into the account, which I consider to be sufficient for the appointment of myself to that position. I am now acting as Quartermaster in the Caulker's Department, under the Naval Constructor, Mr Delano and am content to remain so unless there is to be a change, and a "boss" appointed and if there is, I calculate the position belongs to me: - for the following reasons viz: Mr Delano 1st I hazarded my life by coming here to work for Government on the instant of my finding out that a combination of caulkers in N.Y. and Boston, was making a desperate effort by a strike on the Navy-yard to bring our National Government to their notions, whims, and blind schemes, and driving every body away that attempted to come to work on the Navy-yard by their desperate threats, and minises, and succeeded in doing so in every such attempt for more than two months before I found it out and came here myself. And being myself so very much unaccustomed to know when I am in danger, have succeeded in staying. And have received no particular personal injury, as I am aware, except from foul mouthed tongues. I have been threatened with assassination, but somehow, I can't seem to make it worry me much; I can't tell why! But I have somewhat drifted from what I was saying were the reasons why I think I ought to have the position as "Boss" caulker, if one is appointed for the N.Y. Navy-yard. My next reason is that after I came here, and learned the whole facts in relation to the affair from the Commander and Capt. of the yard, I told them I would engage to go out and get any number of caulkers which they would authorize me to get, on the condition that I should have the full charge of them when I got them here, subject to their orders. (The Capt & commandants) I was authorized, and employed by them, and went out and hired a crew of most excellent workmen from the State of Maine, being very particular not to get any but 1st class workmen. And I feel proud to say that I have, I think, the best crew of men, take them in any sense of the word, that can be got up in the United States, according to numbers. And the Assistant Naval Constructor says himself that the work has been done since I have been here with my gang of men fifty per cent less than the same amount used to be done when the old strikers were here. I say old strikers, because it seems by what I have learned since I have been here that they, (the caulkers that used to be here, I will not say worked) were in the habit of knocking off on very slight pretences, if every thing did not go just to rule their whims, and notions. Now I do not wish to be understood as suggesting a change here in relations to a "Boss" caulker being appointed, but merely say if there is to be one, I most respectfully ask for the position myself. If it is required that I give any references as to qualifications, or any thing else, I would be highly pleased to know what, and will be happy to supply any requirements in relations to the matter.

If any petition should be required from my men, or any body else, I will obtain that also. Since a rumor has been afloat that a "Boss" caulker is to be appointed, it has been suggested to me that I apply for the position. Hence this humble request. I can give other reasons if necessary, but I will say no more at present. Now Office, you will pardon my simple manner of addressing you, will you not? And, believe me your most sincere and humble

Friend if no more
Eben. E. Waite

Will you be so kind as return me an answer? My address is Navy-yard N.Y.
(Caulker's Department)

To Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, Washington D.C.

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

June 11, 1866

Waite E.E.

Wants assistance in procuring a position at N.Y. Navy yard.

Recd, June 12 1866

[Note: Ebenezer E. Waite was the uncle of OO Howard's wife, Elizabeth Ann (Waite) Howard.]

3624 6/11/1866

From: Augustine Rout

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3573

Whitesboro, Oneida
County, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[147]

Whitesboro, Oneida County, N.Y. 11th June 66

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,
My Deere Sir,

Could you lecture twelve times to Ladies Freedmen's Aid Societies, in Central New York during the month of February next? This question is of course, with the understanding, that you are able to make the proposed tour. The ladies of Central New York will delight to hear you.

Your obedient servant
Augustine Rout