
3640 6/16/1866 *From:* J.E. Bryant

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3590

Office of the Loyal
Georgian
Augusta, GA.

Source: Bowdoin

[177]

[Letterhead]

Office of the Loyal Georgian
Augusta, GA.,
June 16 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Commissioner &c
Sir -

I have the honor to send you a Loyal Georgian of this week. I am sorry that it is my duty to expose Genl Tillson. We are from the same State but he has not done his duty. He is and has been trying to ruin my character but I shall not stoop to assail him in that way. I have been a soldier. I feel that Genl Tillson to cater to Southern prejudice and make himself popular & opposed the teachers who desired to honor the memory of the Union Dead in our city cemetery. I was incensed at his course and if I had yielded to my feelings should have denounced him but the account I gave was very mild as you will see by referring to the Loyal Georgian of May 5th. I shall be true to freedom but I am and have been conservative in my course since I came to this city as I can prove by reference to my printed speeches and letters.

The following communication [see below] was in the first issue of this weeks paper. It was put in without my knowledge and taken out after I discovered it as the paper I send you will show. I mention this thinking that perhaps it may be sent to you to injure me.

I am
With much Esteem
J E Bryant
Late Capt 8th Me Vol Infy

[Attachment of a Newspaper Clipping]

Communicated

LET US RALLY AROUND THE FLAG

Captain Bryant (our good and faithful friend,) is attacked by a lion, and the threat is made that he shall be driven from this city, because of his kindness to us. Boys! The Captain befriended us in our hour of great need. Now is the chance to return our gratitude. Let us do it. A general desire is manifested to make up a purse for him. To put the ball in motion, it is proposed that all who wish to make him a present in cash, will call at Wm Hale's store, and leave their one, five or ten dollars. Come up boys! The time for talk is over. Let us prove to the world that we are a grateful people. Go to William Hale's store.
William Tell.

3641 6/16/1866 *From:* Wm. A. Booker

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3591

New York

Source: Bowdoin

[8]

New York June 16, 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,
My dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive your esteemed fam of 9th inst.

Since the few days we spent so pleasantly together I have been to St Louis to attend the Meeting of the Genl Assembly of the N.S. Presbyterian Church and in returning, went to Boston to attend the anniversary of the Am Tract Society. My family are now preparing to return to our Summer home at Stratford during the next week. When I get there, I hope to take some rest, which I begin to feel that I need.

I should have been pleased if you put into execution your thoughts of coming up to see us in your last visit to the City. You would be interested to have spent a Sabbath here, & going among the Mission Schools & seeing what is being done for our destitute population in the way of religious instruction.

Have have no doubt you have done wisely in adding to your ground, so as to have enough for your wants. I wish I could raise for you the amt. you desire, to pay for it, but I cannot.

If Dr Boynton or Mr Alvord come here to make an effort for the sum, I will consul them as far as I can. The pressure on my time is too great for me to offer to do more. It is a good wish & should succeed. I enclose a check, in your favor, for \$200, which please appropriate to the object.

My family are well, & remember your brief visit with them with much satisfaction.

Yours very truly
Wm. A. Booker

3642 6/16/1866 *From:* S.D. Bowker

To: [OO Howard]

OOH-3592

Biddeford Me.

Superintendent of
Freedmen's Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[181, 182]

Biddeford Me.
June 16th 1866

Superintendent of Freedmen's Bureau
Dear Sir

I write not knowing whether this will find Gen Howard in Washington. I simply wish to learn if Gen Howard will be in Washington during the next ten or fifteen days. I have been <> to see him on matters of some importance. If he will not be in Washington at the time mentioned when will he or when can he be seen in any place in the North? An answer to this directed to me at 56 Court St. Boston, Mass will be a special favor.

Very Truly Yours
S.D. Bowker

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

Biddeford Me
June 16th 66
Bowker S.D.

Inquires whether Genl Howard will be in Washington during the next ten or 15 days.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JUN 18 1866

3643 6/16/1866 *From:* EWoodman

To: Dear Cousin [OO
Howard]

OOH-3593

Vernon Madison Co
Miss

Source: Bowdoin

[178, 179]

Vernon Madison Co Miss
June 16 1866

Dear Cousin

Please find papers enclosed relative to pay due me as CO 28 Me. And I have to request that you, will put them into suitable hands for collection.

I would not ask this of you if I was acquainted with any reliable Agent in W.

I have never done any more than to get Mr Morrell to present a letter of enquiry touching the matter. The reason that it was not attended was owing to delay in getting receipts of Ordnance turned over by my Quartermaster.

I have now notice of receipt of Returns &c. I think there will be no delay in procuring the pay.

If you can receive its collection I wish you to retain one hundred dollars for Lizzie. I have always felt indebted to her and had I not expected to return to Maine & had the pleasure of seeing her I would send her the money before.

Hope you & your family are well. Sarah joins me in sending much love to Cousin Lizzie & the children.

We are on a Plantation & in an orderly neighborhood. Our little boy is now 2 yrs old & in good health except teeth trouble. I cannot say we like this Plantation life, but time may reconcile us to it. I work 14 hands. Crops not looking very well owing to too much rain.

Hope you will put these papers in prompt hands & very much oblige me.

Very truly your Cos
EWoodman

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

Madison Co. Vernon Miss

June 16th 1866

Woodman E.W.

Late Col. Maine Vols.

Friendly letter

Recd. June 27 1866

3644 6/16/1866 *From:* William Bowen

To: Maj Genl. O O Howard

OOH-3594

Wash city D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[175, 176]

Wash city D.C.
Jun 16 1866

Maj Genl. O O Howard
Dear Sir

I address these few lines to you to inform you that I have had an interview with the Secretary Mr Albert, and he has with much patience and <compliments> given me information yet I am still not satisfyde. He referred to 5 & 6th section of the constitution of the <Bandrijg> company saying to me that in those sections a Prohibition was entered against all battery or exchange of the funds, other than what the provision of this <Act> or sections called for. I wish to no and would like to have decided on a question of interest to thousands of the Representative men of my race who have just such proposition to decide, is there section so sympathetic expressed as to not be interpreted in any other sense. Now I hope Genl, you will give me an opportunity to have a talk with you and when I do I think each will be Benefited by it. I am under Great obligations to you Genl, for your kind consideration so far.

My address is
William Bowen
618 G St. < > 5th & 6th Sts. Washington city D.C.

P.S.

I'll be pleased to receive an answer and I would like to no when I can see you. I wish to no if this matter cant be done with the company or some one of the officer take the industrial Responsibility. I hope this can in some way be effected.

Genl Please answer, to address
& truly
Wm Bowen

3645 6/17/1866 *From:* A Walker

To: Messrs. Howard,
Pomeroy & Brewster

OOH-3595

Wallingford, VT.

Source: Bowdoin

Wallingford, VT. June 17/66

Messrs. Howard, Pomeroy & Brewster,
Dear Sirs,

Your circular requesting aid for the erection of a congregational meeting house in Washington is received. The object commends itself to us as eminently worthy.

Hon. Silas H. Hodges - well known & honored in this region –has expressed a willingness to visit some of our congregations in the vicinity of Rutland during his summer vacation to make collections for this object, & probably more will be secured by him than in any other way. In this town those who love Christ & Congregationalism are not numerous, nor rich, but we will do something for you.

Yours truly
A Walker

[Summary written upside down at the bottom of the back page, in a different hand.]
Wallingford, Vt.
June 17, 1866
Walker, A.
Concerning Cong. Church

3646 6/17/1866

From: Allan Rutherford

To: Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3596

Bu R F and A.L
Hd Qr's Southern Dis't
NC

Com'r Bu R F & A.L
Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[183, 184, 185, 186, 187]

Unofficial

Bu R F and A.L
Hd Qr's Southern Dis't NC
June 17th 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard
Com'r Bu R F & A.L
Washington, D.C.
General

In reply to your letter of the 11th calling my attention to a letter written by the Rev James Thurston to a Member of Congress, complaining of irregular action on the part of the Bureau in this District: I have to say, that I have seen Mr Thurston in accordance with the suggestion contained in your letter, and he informs me that in his letter, he made no reference to my acts as Superintendent of this District, except as such acts had been changed, or overruled, by the Assistant Com'r of the State (Gen'l Ruger). He stated that he believed from the course they had already pursued that the officers at Raleigh, now at the head of the Bureau in this State, were seeking to render it powerless for good.

I avail myself of the opportunity of replying to your unofficial letter to call your attention to some facts in regard to Bureau Affairs in this State, which I could not have brought to your attention in any other way or under other circumstances, without exposing myself to charges of disrespect towards my superior officers; and I would say, unofficially, that the opinion also expressed by Mr Thurston is also my opinion.

On the relief of Genl. Whittlesey as Asst Comr, Bvt Col Clinton A Cilley A.A.G. US Vols was placed on duty as A.A.G. of the Bureau and Col McGarber AQM was placed on duty as Bureau Quartermaster. The Report of Genl. Sewell of your Staff in regard to Colonel Cilleys method of conduction the Bureau while he was on duty as Superintendent of the Western District of this State, may explain why the action of the Bureau should be a subject of complaint from those friends who do not wish to see it made "n instrument for the oppression of the Freedmen."

In the District of which I am Superintendent Majors Mann and Wiskersham have until lately been on duty, one as Quartermaster and Financial Agent, and the other as Ass't Sup't of this Sub. Dist, and they were each authorized to employ one Clerk. I also had two Clerks employed in my office. Since the two officers named have been relieved from duty, I am only allowed one officer to fill both positions, and have been compelled to discharge all except one clerk in my own office. The result of this is, that my time is now so completely taken up in performing a clerks duty, that I cannot devote that attention to other business which it requires.

Colonel Gabers hostility to the Bureau is well known, and he apparently avails himself of his official position to place every obstacle in the way of its officers, both in regard to the transaction of public business and in regard to any personal business that may necessarily pass through his office.

Lieut Means, 8th U.S. Infantry –Post Quartermaster here –stated to one of my employees that Colonel Garber had said to him "ot to take any trouble to accommodate the Officers of the Bureau" Col Garber refused to pay my accounts for mileage, on your order assigning me to duty in this State, until ordered to do so by the Quartermaster General.

On the 9th Inst, I was ordered to turn over all Government Transportation used by the Bureau in this District, to the Post Quartermaster here altho it had been issued for the use of the Bureau by order of the Secretary of War, and is very necessary for the proper transaction of its business. Immediately on Col Garbers assuming the duties of Bureau Quartermaster –relieving Bvt Maj Johnston –he refused to issue Forage to supply the Public Animals used by me –declaring that there was no authority for its issue –and from the 1st to the 10th of

this month (when the Transportation was turned over) the Public Animals were only kept from starving by my borrowing the Forage necessary for their use. In regard to Col Garber's previous efforts to embarrass the operations of the Bureau while he was Chief Quartermaster of the Department of North Carolina. I can only refer you to Genl Whittlesey and other officers who were on duty in the Bureau at the time.

Since the visit of Generals Steadman and Fullerton the Rebel element has become perfectly rampant and instances of injustice to the Freedmen more frequent than before. I have had considerable difficulty with the Mayor of this City A H Vanbokelson –who boasted in my office, in the presence of Genl Sewell of your Staff, that he was “n original secessionist”- in consequence of him many gross acts of tyranny and injustice towards the colored people. On reporting of these cases to the Ass't Com'r at Raleigh, I was directed not to interfere.

A number of cases have been reported to me where union men had been indicted for acts committed during the war, on trumped up charges of “ssault & Battery” Larceny”&c with the expressed intention of convicting and whipping them, so as to drive them out of the County. Among such cases I will mention the following case of Stephen Elkins (white) indicted by the County Court of Columbus County for assault and Battery, committed during the war. This case was reported to me by Lieut EH McQuigg, Ass't Sup't of Columbus County, and showed that Elkins had been a Union man, and had lived in the swamp during several years of the war to save himself from serving in the Rebel Army, that he acted in concert with other Union men and with escaped Union prisoners & colored men and had a sort of a Rendezvous for escaped Union prisoners. I made a statement of the case, and endorsed the opinion of Lieut McQuigg that if the man Elkins was tried by a Civil Court he would certainly be convicted, and recommended that he be tried by a Military Commission, if tried at all. The papers were returned to me with an endorsement, that there was no cause to interfere with the action of the Civil Courts. Another case is that of a man named John Thompson also of Columbus County, who was tried here last week on a charge of Larceny committed during the war, and was convicted and publicly whipped.

I have endeavored to act consistently and to carry out the orders I have from time to time received, and have followed, as far as they were applicable, the precedents of cases previously decided. I trust General that you will excuse my troubling you with so long a letter, and that you will regard it as an unofficial communication, as I am well aware that if it were brought to the attention of the officers of the Head of the Bureau in this State, it is in their power to make my position very unpleasant. I availed myself of your unofficial letter to reply and state the forgoing facts, believing that you would desire to be informed of them.

I am General
With Great Respect
Your Obedt. Servant,
Allan Rutherford
Lieut Colonel VRC
(Bvt Colonel U.S.V.)
Sup't So. Dist N.C.

3648 6/18/1866 *From:* P. Jackson

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3597

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[188]

Washington June 18th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

By your permission, we would be happy to Serenade you at your residence on Wednesday evening between the Hour of 10 to 11 O Clk P.M.

You will please excuse the abrupt manner of asking so much of your time which we know is precious. We earnestly hope that you will accept this as one of our expressions of appreciation of yourself as our Good Friend.

We are your Obt Servants

P. Jackson

Leader of the 1st District Col Brass Band

Washington D.C.

3649 6/18/1866

From: Clinton B. Fisk

To: Maj Genl Howard

OOH-3598

Source: Bowdoin

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

Washington D.C.

[189]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
State of Tennessee
Assistant Commissioner's Office
Nashville, Tenn.,
June 18th 1866

Dear General -

I have the honor to introduce herewith Rev. A.L. P. Green D.D. Of Nashville who desires to confer with you touching the refunding the rents received from his property formerly held as abandoned.

I have not hesitancy in commending Dr. Green to your confidence –or in saying that he is entitled to the most liberal consideration in adjusting the claim he presents –which is for rents rec'd subsequent to the libel of his property. My correspondence on this subject heretofore gives a full history of the case, and shows the action of the Federal Court in the <process>.

I am Genl
With Great Respect
Your Obt. Servt
Clinton B. Fisk
Bt. Maj Genl
Asst Comr

Maj Genl Howard
Commissioner &c
Washington D.C.