Statement of Edward J. Fowler in regard to the "Retained Bounty Fund:"

On the 25th day of August, 1866, I was appointed a Clerk in the War Department, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands and assigned to duty in the office of the Chief disbursing officer of said bureau.

At the time of my appointment and assignment aforesaid, there was in the office a fund known as the "Retained Bounty Fund." This fund was created, as I believe, by "General Order No. 90, current series of 1864, Department of Virginia and North Carolina," and came into the custody of the Commissioner of said bureau prior to the date of my appointment. I do not recollect the exact amount of the fund on hand at the time I became acquainted with it (which was in August, 1866) but believe it was about one hundred thousand dollars, more or less. The fund was regarded as belonging to colored soldiers, and belonged principally to four regiments of heavy artillery and a regiment of cavalry.
The President of the Board of Trustees:

On the occasion of the dedication of the new addition to the public library, the Board of Library Trustees and the superintendent of schools, in the capacity of the President of the Board of Trustees, of the Board of School Trustees, and in the capacity of the President of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, respectively, present this historic event to the citizens of the town.

The dedication of this addition to the public library is a significant milestone in the history of our community. It is a testament to the collective efforts of our citizens, who have contributed to the growth and development of our town.

We extend our gratitude to all who have played a part in this endeavor. We hope that this addition will serve as a source of knowledge and inspiration for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The President of the Board of Trustees.

The President of the Board of School Trustees.

The President of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce.
according to my best recollection. The Commission of the Bureau was in a true sense the Trustee of this fund and procured a Congressional enactment approved March 2d, 1867, giving a legal character to the fund. The enactment named and authorized its investment in United States securities, and for further and more certain information on this point, I beg to refer to the Act. The Commission ordered as I believe, the Chief Disbursing Officer to make the investments provided for by the Act in question, and to be prepared and ready always to meet and pay the claims made for the said bounty upon the proper identification of the claimant. In the course of my clerical duty it fell to my lot to examine certain applications made for this bounty by claimants thru the Bureau Agent at Norfolk and Petersburg Va. and I think at Newbern N.C. In those cases where the claimant's name appeared of record, they having been properly identified by the Bureau Agent, I filled out and prepared vouchers for payment of the claims. In some instances the check was sent in payment of the claim with
Dear Sir,

This is a letter to promote the interests of our club and to express our concerns about the current state of affairs. We have recently noticed a decline in the membership and activities of the club, which is concerning to us.

We believe that by organizing more events and activities, we can attract new members and revitalize the club. We have some ideas for organizing a series of workshops and seminars on various topics. We also propose to hold a membership drive to encourage more people to join.

We kindly request your support in facilitating these initiatives. We believe that with your support, we can turn things around and make our club a vibrant and active community.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
the vouchers, which were signed by the claimant and returned. In other instances, the vouchers were sent to the Agent with instructions to procure the claimant’s signature first (which he did) and return the vouchers when the check was transmitted. It also was my duty to fill-out certain of these checks with which the aforementioned payments were made. The checks were drawn on the National Bank of the Republic of Washington D.C., payable to the order of the claimant, and this is possible that some checks may have been drawn on the Assistant Treasurer of the U.S. at New York, payable to the order of the claimant. I never, individually, paid any of this bounty, to the claimants, neither did I individually, ever see any of it paid to them according to my present best recollection; for the reason that the payments were made through the Federal agents as stated. But in the instances (already named), I believed then, and do now, that the payments were made upon proper vouchers and that all evidence of identification as could be required, I
also remember entering of record the payment of certain cases, but I cannot participating the facts in which payment was charged without reference to the record. The entering and charging of payment is, however, in my hand-dating and upon reference to the record, I can identify the same. According to my present recollection there was also kept in the Disbursing Office a memorandum, on each book of the payments, in which, the name of the claimant was entered and the amount of the bounty paid to him. At the time I resigned my clerkship in the Bureau, April 20th, 1871, I believe the vouchers belonging to this fund were in the office of the Disbursing Office, I had oftentimes seen them in the office while I was a Bureau clerk. They were never forwarded to the Treasury, because, as I was informed by my superior officers, that Department refused to audit the accounts, the fund not being considered a Government fund within the Department's interpretation of the law.
State of New York

City and County of New York:

Edward J. Foster,

being duly sworn says that he has read the
foregoing statement and knows the contents
thereof, and that the same is true of his
own knowledge except as to the matters her-
in stated for information and belief
aged as to those matters he believes it to
be true.

Swear to before me—Edward Foster

this 24th day of February, 1874.

Valancourt & Allen,
Notary Public,
King County.