

African American

SUBJECTS:

Bank Records
Military
District of Columbia
Georgia
Louisiana
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee

African American

AFRICAN AMERICAN

Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872.

This Microfilm publication reproduces seven volumes of letters sent, six volumes of endorsements sent, one volume of circulars issued, and one volume of special orders issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-72. Also included are 14 volumes of indexes. The records relate to the general operations of the Bureau.

Letters Sent

The seven volumes of letters sent, 1865-72, contain copies of letters, telegrams, and circular letters sent by Commissioner Howard and his Assistant Adjutant General. Also included are copies of Howard's annual reports to the President.

Three of the volumes also contain other types of records, as follows: in volume 2, pages 500-507, a small series of letters of appointment, July-Dec. 1866; in volume 3, some letters of appointment that are interfiled with other letters sent; and in volume 7, some endorsements sent.

The documents in the letter books are generally arranged in chronological order.

There are name and subject index books to volumes 1-4 and name index books to volumes 5-7. Volume 5 also has a subject index that is bound at the front of the volume. The name and subject indexes are arranged alphabetically, with the names listed first. The index books are filmed preceding the related volume of letters sent.

A series of press copies of letters sent is not included in this microfilm publication. Most of the press copies relate mainly to requests for transportation or applications for positions in the Bureau.

From October 1867 to June 1872, letters of appointment and revocation were kept as a separate series and are not included in this microfilm publication.

Endorsements Sent

The six volumes of endorsements sent, May 22-Sept. 28, 1865 and Aug. 25, 1866-Jan. 4, 1871, are generally arranged in chronological order. Between Sept. 29, 1865, and Aug. 24, 1866, the endorsements were copied into a series of registers of letters received, which are reproduced in a separate microfilm publication, M752. After Jan. 1871, the endorsements were copied into the volumes of letters sent or letter books.

There are name index books to all the endorsement books except volume 2, which has a name index found at the front of the volume. The two subject indexes are a subject index book to volume 4 of the endorsement books and a subject index bound at the front of volume 5.

Circulars Issued

The single volume of circulars issued, 1865-69, contains instructions relating to the organization and operation of the Bureau. The circulars are arranged by year and thereunder numerically. At the beginning of the volume is a list of officers to

whom the circulars were issued. The subject index book, which refers only to the circulars issued in 1865, has been filmed before the volume of circulars. Also included in the volume are some unnumbered circular letters that are not duplicated in the letter books.

Special Orders Issued

The single volume of special orders, 1865-72, relates mainly to personnel, although there are a few orders that pertain to the general administration of the Bureau. The orders are arranged by year and thereunder numerically, with the exception of those for the period 1870-71, which are arranged in one numerical series. There is a name and subject index at the beginning of the volume.

The volume also contains the special field orders issued by Commissioner Howard from Oct. 19 to Nov. 6, 1865; they are placed between Special Orders 117 and 118.

- M742-1** Name and subject index (65) to vol. 1 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 1 (64), May 16, 1865 - Dec. 30, 1865; Name index (85) to vol. 1 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 1 (84), May 22, 1865 - Sep. 28, 1865
- M742-2** Name and subject index (n.n.) to Vol. 2 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 2 (66), Jan. 1, 1866 - Dec. 29, 1866; Endorsements sent, vol. 2 (86), Aug. 25, 1866 - Mar. 18, 1867
- M742-3** Name and subject index (68) to vol. 3 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 3 (67), Jan. 2, 1867 - Sep. 30, 1867; Name index (88) to vol. 3 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 3 (87), Mar. 18, 1867 - Sep. 27, 1867
- M742-4** Name and subject index (70) to vol. 4 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 4 (69), Oct. 1, 1867 - Aug. 31, 1868; Name index (90) to vol. 4 of endorsements sent; subject index (91) to vol. 4 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 4 (89), Sep. 27, 1867 - Aug. 18, 1868
- M742-5** Name and subject index (72) to vol. 5 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 5 (71), Sep. 1, 1868 - Oct. 30, 1869; Name index (130) to vol. 5 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 5 (129), Aug. 18, 1868 - Oct. 25, 1869
- M742-6** Name index (74) to vol. 6 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 6 (73), Oct. 20, 1869 - Dec. 28, 1870; Name index (132) to vol. 6 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 6 (131), Oct. 26, 1869 - Jan. 4, 1871; Name index (76) to vol. 7 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 7 (75), Jan. 3, 1871 - Jun 30, 1872
- M742-7** Subject index (140) to circulars issued; circulars issued (139), May 15, 1865 - Jun. 19, 1869; Special orders issued (137), May 22, 1865 - Jun. 27, 1872

AFRICAN AMERICAN

Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-1863.

This microfilm publication reproduces three bound volumes and a number of unbound records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-63.

An act of April 16, 1862, abolished slavery in the District of Columbia. Under section 3, the President was authorized to appoint a board of three Commissioners, who were residents of

African American

the District, to examine petitions for compensation from former owners of freed slaves in the District.

An act of July 12, 1862, provided that petitions could be received from slaves whose owners had not presented petitions for compensation. The petitions received under this act were filed separately from those received under the act of April 16 and are reproduced on roll 6 of this microfilm publication.

The records of the board include the following items:

- (1) A bound volume comprising the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Commissioners, dated April 28, 1862-January 14, 1863, arranged chronologically by date of session. A name and subject index is at the front of the volume.
- (2) A bound volume containing a record of petitions filed under the act of April 16, 1862, dated April 29-July 15, 1862, showing the date the petition was filed, the number of the petition, the name of the petitioner, the names of slaves, and the value of slaves as claimed in the petition, arranged chronologically and thereunder by petition number. An index by name of petitioner is at the front of the volume.
- (3) A bound docket book kept by the board, dated April-December 1862, relating to the petitions filed under the act of April 16, 1862, showing the number of the petition, the name of the claimant, and a summary of the action taken. Arranged by petition number. An index is at the front of the volume.
- (4) An unbound summary list of amounts awarded to claimants who filed petitions under the act of April 16, 1862, showing the number of the petition, the name of the claimant, the number of servants, the amount awarded by the board, and the signature of the claimant. Arranged by petition number.
- (5) An unbound final report by the Board of Commissioners to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 14, 1863. Accompanying this narrative report are three tabular statements: table A, a list of petitions presented to the board under the act of April 16, 1862, arranged chronologically, and an alphabetical list of claimants; table B, a list of petitions filed under the act of July 12, 1862, arranged chronologically; and table C, and alphabetical list of claimants who would have been eligible for awards if their petitions had been filed before the deadline.
- (6) Unbound petitions filed with the Board of Commissioners pursuant to the acts of April 16, 1862, and July 12, 1862. The petitions filed under the first act were numbered consecutively as they were received by the board and are arranged numerically. Those filed under the second act were not numbered and are arranged chronologically.

All records of the board that are listed above, except for the petitions, are reproduced on roll 1 of this microfilm publication. The petitions are reproduced on rolls 2-6.

Because the accounting records relating to the activities of the Board provide no additional information of value, they have not been reproduced in this microfilm publication.

- M520-1** Minutes of the meetings, Apr. 28, 1862-Jan. 14, 1863; Records of petitions filed, Apr. 29 - July 15, 1862; Docket book, Apr. - Dec., 1862; Summary list of awards; Final report of the Board of Commissioners, Jan.

14, 1863

- M520-2** Petitions filed under the act of Apr. 16, 1862: Numbers 1-200
- M520-3** Petitions filed under the act of Apr. 16, 1862: Numbers 201-400
- M520-4** Petitions filed under the act of Apr. 16, 1862: Numbers 401-600
- M520-5** Petitions filed under the act of Apr. 16, 1862: Numbers 601-800
- M520-6** Petitions filed under the act of Apr. 16, 1862: Numbers 801-966 and petitions filed under the act of Jul. 12, 1862

AFRICAN AMERICAN –BANK RECORDS

Indexes to Deposit Ledgers in Branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.

This microfilm publication reproduces 46 volumes of indexes to deposit ledgers that list the names of depositors in 26 branch offices of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.

The indexes include the depositors' names and account numbers, or in some cases what appear to be the page numbers of the deposit ledgers. In a few volumes the amount of the deposit is also given.

The indexes are arranged alphabetically by name of state and thereunder by name of city where the branch was located. The names are indexed alphabetically by the first letter of the last name and thereunder by sound. In several volumes parts of the alphabet are missing, and in some cases entire volumes are missing.

The volumes are general indexes to deposit ledgers, except one volume for the District of Columbia is entitled "Index to Business Ledger Volume B"; the volume for New Bern, N.C., is entitled "Index to General Ledger A"; and several volumes for different branches are entitled "Indexes to Schedule."

The indexes to the deposit ledgers are useful as a finding aid to two closely related series in the same record group, registers of depositors' signatures, (reproduced as M816), and dividend payment records, 1882-89, that are not indexed.

The deposit ledgers themselves are not among the records, and it is not known whether they are extant.

- M817-1** Huntsville, Alabama;
Little Rock, Arkansas;
District of Columbia
- M817-2** Jacksonville, Florida;
Tallahassee, Florida;
Augusta, Georgia;
Savannah, Georgia;
Lexington, Kentucky;
Louisville, Kentucky
- M817-3** New Orleans, Louisiana;
Shreveport, Louisiana;
Baltimore, Maryland;
Natchez, Mississippi;
Vicksburg, Mississippi;
St. Louis, Missouri;
New York, New York

African American

M817-4 New Bern, North Carolina;
Raleigh, North Carolina;
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
Wilmington, North Carolina;
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
Beaufort, South Carolina;
Charleston, South Carolina

M817-5 Memphis, Tennessee;
Nashville, Tennessee;
Norfolk, Virginia;
Richmond, Virginia;
Unidentified

AFRICAN AMERICAN –BANK RECORDS

Registers of Signatures of Depositions in Branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.

This microfilm publication reproduces 55 volumes containing signatures of and personal identification data about depositors in 29 branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.

The information contained in many of the registers is as follows: account number, name of depositor, date of entry, place of birth, place brought up, residence, age, complexion, name of employer or occupation, wife or husband, children, father, mother, brothers, and sisters, remarks, and signature. The early books also contain the name of the former owner and the name of the plantation. In many entries not all the requested data are given. Copies of death certificates have been pinned to some of the entries. In each case the certificate has been filmed immediately after the page that shows the registration of the person's signature.

The registers are arranged alphabetically by name of State, thereunder by name of city in which the branch was located, thereunder by date when account was established, and thereunder by account number. Many numbers are missing, a few are out of numerical order, and in some cases blocks of numbers were not used. Many registers appear to be missing. The volume for Philadelphia, PA, January 1870 - June 1874, contains signatures of officers of societies.

The registers of signatures are not indexed. The indexes to deposit ledgers, reproduced as M817, include the depositor's account numbers, and can serve as a finding aid to the registers of signatures.

M816-1 Huntsville, AL, accts. 1-1698, Nov. 28, 1865 - Aug. 21, 1874
M816-2 Mobile, AL, accts. 777-1567, 1572-2326, 4287-9173, Jun. 18, 1867 - Jun. 29, 1874
M816-3 Little Rock, AR, accts. 153-1358, Feb. 27, 1871 - Jul. 15, 1874
M816-4 Washington, D.C. (part), accts. 1-1553, 3500-7197, 7406-9315, Jul. 11, 1865 - Dec. 30, 1871
M816-5 Washington, D.C. (part), accts. 1B-456, 14631-16303, 20001-21401, May 24, 1872 - July 22, 1874; Tallahassee, FL, accts. 1-887, Aug. 25, 1866 - Jan. 15, 1872
M816-6 Atlanta, GA, accts. 1-4518, Jan. 15, 1870 - Jul. 2, 1874

M816-7 Augusta, GA, accts. 2167-6701, Nov. 23, 1870 - Jun. 29, 1874
M816-8 Savannah, GA (part), accts. 1-1137, 1298-4947, Jan. 10, 1866 - Dec. 17, 1870
M816-9 Savannah, GA (part), accts. 4948-9868, Dec. 17, 1870 - Oct. 22, 1872
M816-10 Savannah, GA (part), accts. 9869-14558, Oct. 22, 1872 - Sep. 1, 1874
M816-11 Lexington, KY, accts. 217-1975, Mar. 21, 1870 - Jul. 3, 1874;
Louisville, KY, accts. 1-1928, 5122-7336, Sep. 15, 1865 - Jul. 8, 1874
M816-12 New Orleans, LA, accts. 5-1017, Jun. 20, 1866 - Jun. 29, 1874;
Shreveport, LA, accts. 149-1320, Feb. 11, 1871 - Jun. 29, 1874
M816-13 Baltimore, MD, 1-4, accts. 220-6768, May 3, 1866 - Jun. 23, 1874
M816-14 Columbus, MS, accts. 9-927, Aug. 1, 1870 - Jun. 16, 1874;
Natchez, MS, accts. 1-707, Mar. 29, 1870 - Jun. 18, 1874
M816-15 Vicksburg, MS, accts. 1159-8662, Jul. 28, 1868 - Jun. 29, 1874
M816-16 St. Louis, MO, accts. 223-366, Apr. 6, 1869 - Oct. 8, 1869
M816-17 New York, NY, accts. 1422-6943, Feb. 20, 1871 - Jul. 6, 1874
M816-18 New Bern, NC, accts. 1335-4157, Nov. 2, 1869 - Jul. 25, 1874;
Raleigh, NC, accts. 9-15, Apr. 9, 1868 - Apr. 20, 1868;
Wilmington, NC, accts. 1208-1343, Sep. 3, 1869 - Oct. 30, 1869;
Wilmington, NC, accts. 5400-7266, Dec. 8, 1872 - Aug. 26, 1873
M816-19 Philadelphia, PA, accts. 1-3004, Jan. 7, 1870 - Jun. 26, 1874
M816-20 Beaufort, SC, accts. 2732-5989, Jun. 20, 1868 - Jul. 3, 1874
M816-21 Charleston, SC (part), accts. 1-319, 2151-3824, Dec. 19, 1865 - Dec. 2, 1869
M816-22 Charleston, SC (part), accts. 3833-6626, Dec. 4, 1869 - Feb. 25, 1871
M816-23 Charleston, SC (part), accts. 6627-11103, Feb. 25, 1871 - Jul. 2, 1872
M816-24 Memphis, TN, accts. 1-1995, 2000-6298, Dec. 28, 1865 - Jul. 1, 1874
M816-25 Nashville, TN, accts. 4174-6189, Dec. 24, 1871 - Jun. 23, 1874
M816-26 Lynchburg, VA, accts. 153-215, Jul. 8, 1871 - Aug. 22, 1871;
Norfolk, VA, accts. 3950-5424, Dec. 4, 1871 - Jun. 29, 1874;
Richmond, VA (part), accts. 232-1582, Jul. 18, 1867 - Jun. 20, 1870
M816-27 Richmond, VA (part), accts. 1591-3948, 4005-7691, Jun. 21, 1870 - Jun. 29, 1874

African American

AFRICAN AMERICAN –MILITARY– 1639-1886

The Negro in the Military Service of the United States, 1639-1886.

This microfilm publication reproduces the seven volumes (eight bound parts) of records compiled for publication by the Colored Troops Division of the Adjutant General's Office (AGO). This compilation, "The Negro in the Military Service of the United States: A Compilation of Official Records, State Papers, Historical Extracts, etc., Relating to his Military Status and Service, from the date of his introduction into the British North American Colonies"—prepared by Elon A. Woodward, Chief of the Colored Troops Division, and several clerks between 1885 and 1888—consists primarily of documents copied from published and unpublished primary sources. In addition there are a few original documents and extracts of material from secondary sources that are used to cover periods of history for which primary sources were not readily available.

Between 1888, when the Colored Troops Division was abolished, and 1894, the copied documents and a few original documents were bound into seven volumes, and in 1894 these volumes were transferred from the War Department library to the Records and Pension Office. Woodward's name continued to be associated with the history. It was referred to as "Woodward's History of the Negro" when it was transferred to the Records and Pension Office in 1894 and the Publication Branch of the AGO in 1913. The volumes were never published.

No formal order or authorization for either the Colored Troops Division or Woodward to make this compilation has been found; therefore the intended scope of the compilation is not known. There are, however, many gaps in the work: minimal inclusion of records for the Revolutionary War, no records for the Mexican War, and the inclusion of only a few records for the post-Civil War period. "The Negro in the Military Service of the United States," therefore, is not the exhaustive work that its title might imply.

The documents copied from government records now in the National Archives came primarily from Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94; Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, Record Group 107; Records of the Headquarters of the Army, Record Group 108; and Records of United States Army Continental commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393. A few came from Records of the Provost Marshall General's Bureau (Civil War), Record Group 110, and Records of the Office of the Inspector General, Record Group 159.

This seven-volume compilation is divided into nine chapters corresponding roughly to nine periods. The chapters are further subdivided into three or four sections. Those sections concerned with military employment and civil status are further divided between Confederate States and United States. Under each section the documents are arranged chronologically.

M858-1 Vol. 1, chapter I: Colonial Period;
Vol. 1, Chapter I: War of the Revolution, 1774-83;
Vol. 1, Chapter III: War of 1812-15
Vol. 2, Chapter IV: War of the Rebellion, 1861-62;
Census Report; Fugitive Slaves, Contraband of War,
Laborers, etc.; Military Employment Events, Battle Reports

M858-2 Vol. 3, Chapter V: War of the Rebellion, 1863;
Military Employment, Correspondence Relative to Civil
Status, Labor, etc.; Events, Battle Reports, etc.

M858-3 Vol. 4, Chapter VI: War of the Rebellion, 1864;
Military Employment

Vol. 5: Correspondence Relative to Civil Status,
Labor, etc.; Events, Battle Reports, etc.

M858-4 Vol. 6, Chapter VII: War of the Rebellion and the
Reconstruction Period, 1865-67, with some documents of
later dates; Military Employment; Correspondence Relative
to Civil Status, Labor, etc.; Events, Battle Reports, etc.

M858-5 Vol. 7, Chapter VIII: Treatment and Exchange of
Prisoners of War

Vol. 7, chapter IX: Regular Army 1866-86

AFRICAN AMERICAN –MILITARY– CIVIL WAR

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union
Soldiers Who Served with United States Colored
Troops.

This microfilm publication reproduces an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers who served with U.S. Colored Troops. Each index card gives the name of a soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling and for service in more than one unit or organization.

The supposedly correct name of a volunteer Union soldier may not appear in the index for several reasons. First, he may have served in a unit from a State. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, a proper record of his service may not have been made; or, if made, it may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, and disbandment of troops. Fourth, the references to the soldier in the original records may have been so vague that it was not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which the index applies consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and containing (1) card abstracts of entries relation to the soldier in the original muster rolls, returns, hospital rolls, descriptive books, lists of deserters, and lists of recruits; and (2) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed at the beginning of the index.

M589-1 A - Alk
M589-2 All - Ande
M589-3 Andl - Az
M589-4 B - Baq
M589-5 Bar - Bat
M589-6 Bau - Ben
M589-7 Beo - Blai
M589-8 Blak - Bor
M589-9 Bos - Brag
M589-10 Brah - Broo
M589-11 Bros - Brown, J.
M589-12 Brown, K. - Buf
M589-13 Bug - Bus
M589-14 But - Cam

African American

M589-15 Can - Car
M589-16 Cas - Che
M589-17 Chi - Cl
M589-18 Co - Com
M589-19 Con - Cot
M589-20 Cou - Cr
M589-21 Cs - Dau
M589-22 Dav - Daz
M589-23 De - Dic
M589-24 Did - Dov
M589-25 Dow - Dy
M589-26 E - El
M589-27 Em - Fa
M589-28 Fe - Fl
M589-29 Fo - Fran
M589-30 Frap - Gak
M589-31 Gal - Gh
M589-32 Gi - Gn
M589-33 Go - Graw
M589-34 Gray - Gref
M589-35 Greg - Gry
M589-36 H - Ham
M589-37 Han - Harris, K.
M589-38 Harris, L. - Haw
M589-39 Hax - Heno
M589-40 Henr - Hik
M589-41 Hil - Holl
M589-42 Holm - Hoz
M589-43 Hu - Hy
M589-44 I - Jackson, I.
M589-45 Jackson, J. - Jay
M589-46 Je - Johnson, C.
M589-47 Johnson, D - Johnson, M.
M589-48 Johnson, N. - Jom
M589-49 Jon - Jont
M589-50 Joo - Ke
M589-51 Kh - Lah
M589-52 Lai - Laz
M589-53 Le - Lev
M589-54 Lew - Loc
M589-55 Lod - Ly
M589-56 M - Marr
M589-57 Mars - Mat
M589-58 Mau - McD
M589-59 McE - Mel
M589-60 Mem - Mil
M589-61 Mim - Moon
M589-62 Moor - Morr
M589-63 Mors - My
M589-64 N - Ni
M589-65 No - O
M589-66 P - Pas
M589-67 Pat - Pes
M589-68 Pet - Pi
M589-69 Pl - Pre
M589-70 Pri - Ram
M589-71 Ran - Ree
M589-72 Ref - Ric
M589-73 Rid - Robe
M589-74 Robi - Rok

M589-75 Rol - Ry
M589-76 S - Scl
M589-77 Sco - Se
M589-78 Sh
M589-79 Si - Sme
M589-80 Smi - Smith, J.
M589-81 Smith, K. - So
M589-82 Sp - Steu
M589-83 Stev - Sty
M589-84 Su - Tax
M589-85 Tay - Thol
M589-86 Thom - Thomp
M589-87 Thoms - To
M589-88 Tr - Ty
M589-89 U - V
M589-90 W - Ward
M589-91 Ware - Wash
M589-92 Wass - Wem
M589-93 Wen - White
M589-94 Whitf - Williams, E.
M589-95 Williams F. - Williams, T.
M589-96 Williams, V. - Wils
M589-97 Wilt - Wo
M589-98 Wr - Z

AFRICAN AMERICAN –DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1869

On the 21 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. The records consist of 42 bound volumes and 18 feet of unbound documents. The bound volumes include letters and endorsements sent, registers of letters received, and special orders issued. The unbound documents consist primarily of letters and reports received. The records are part of Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105.

History and Organization

The Freedmen's Bureau, as the Bureau was commonly known, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507), and extended twice by acts of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard, appointed Commissioner by the President in May 1865, served in that position throughout the life of the Bureau. In January 1869, in accordance with an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), Bureau operations in the States were terminated except for educational functions and the collection of claims. Remaining activities were terminated June 30, 1872, as required by an act of June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366).

Although the Bureau was part of the War Department, its work was primarily social and economic in nature. The Bureau cooperated with benevolent societies in issuing supplies to destitute persons and in maintaining freedmen's schools; supervised labor contracts between black employees and white employers; helped black soldiers and sailors collect bounty

African American

claims, pensions, and back pay; and attended to the disposition of confiscated or abandoned lands and other property. Much of the Bureau's time and effort in the District of Columbia were consumed in procuring transportation for freedmen who wished to travel north to seek employment and in supervising freedmen's farms in Maryland and Virginia.

The act of March 3, 1865, authorized the appointment of assistant commissioners to aid the Commissioner in supervising the work of the Bureau. In the District, operations began in June 1865, when Col. John Eaton was appointed Assistant Commissioner with headquarters in the city of Washington. Brig. Gen. J. C. Fullerton succeeded Eaton in December 1865 and served until February 1866. Brig. Gen. C. H. Howard, the brother of Commissioner O. O. Howard, then served as the Assistant Commissioner until the position was discontinued in December 1868. Bvt. Maj. David G. Swain, as aide-de-camp, then supervised operations until October 1869, when virtually all Bureau functions, except education, were terminated.

The Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia was responsible for Bureau activities not only within the District but also in certain counties in Virginia and all or parts of Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia during certain periods of time. In September 1865, the Assistant Commissioner was made responsible for implementing Bureau policies in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; also in Alexandria [then a county], Fairfax, and Loudoun Counties in Virginia. In August 1866, Loudoun County was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Assistant Commissioner of Virginia, as were Alexandria and Fairfax Counties in March 1867. In March 1867, West Virginia was placed under the control of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia. In January 1868, this official also assumed jurisdiction over Allegany and Washington Counties, MD., and in August 1868, over the remaining counties of Maryland and the entire State of Delaware.

The staff of the Assistant Commissioner's Office for the District of Columbia, like those in the various States, included at one time or another such officials as the Superintendent of Education, Assistant Inspector General, Assistant Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, and Surgeon in Chief or Chief Medical Officer. Subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner's staff were the local superintendents and county agents. For administrative purposes, agents were assigned to the various counties of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Within the District, a Sub-assistant Commissioner was appointed to supervise Bureau activities for the cities of Georgetown and Washington. In 1868, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties were added to his jurisdiction. A Sub-assistant Commissioner was also assigned to Alexandria County in January 1866 and reported to the Assistant Commissioner until responsibility for the supervision of the county was transferred to Virginia authorities. In addition to county agents and sub-assistant commissioners, local superintendents were appointed to supervise such Government projects as Barry Farm, located south of the Anacostia River, and the Sothron Farm in St. Mary's County, MD. These farms were purchased with Bureau funds to aid freedmen in buying farmland. Other local superintendents were assigned to administer Freedmen's Village and schools and hospitals. Freedmen's Village, organized on the site of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Arlington

estate, was used primarily as a center for old, infirm, and destitute freedmen. Here, small plots of land were rented to freedmen to enable them to provide food for themselves.

The volumes reproduced in this microfilm publication were arranged originally by type of record and thereunder by volume number. Originally no numbers were assigned to series consisting of single volumes; later, all volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) of the War Department after the records passed into its custody. In the table of contents, which follows these introductory remarks, and on the title pages and target sheets filmed with the records, the AGO numbers are shown in parentheses as an aid in identifying the volumes. Numbered blank pages have not been filmed.

Series Listings and Remarks

Letters sent

The letters sent by the Assistant Commissioner's Office include five volumes of fair copies and one volume of press copies. The fair copies of letters sent, June 16, 1865-December 31, 1868, are generally arranged and numbered in chronological order; however, the letters copied into volume 1, and to some extent volume 2, are in rough chronological order. There is a name index to each volume of fair copies, except volume 5. The National Archives and Records Service (NARS) staff has prepared a name index to volume 5; it is filmed immediately before the volume. A subject index to volume 4 is included with the name index.

In addition to outgoing letters, these volumes contain copies of telegrams and reports sent and circular letters issued by the Assistant Commissioner, the Acting Adjutant General, and the Assistant Inspector General. The letters, reports, and telegrams include instructions from the Assistant Commissioner to subordinate staff members concerning the status and condition of freedmen and reports to various northern benevolent societies about conditions in the District. Other correspondence relates to personnel appointments, decisions involving orphan children, and arrangements for transporting freedmen to the North. Some letters and reports include statistical data on rations and subsistence stores requested, received, and issued; on rents paid; and on the freedmen population in the District and surrounding areas.

More specifically, the volumes contain several lengthy reports written by Capt. S. N. Clark, Acting Adjutant General, concerning the status of freedmen in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, MD., and District annual reports, October 22, 1866, October 10, 1867, and October 10, 1868. The annual reports contain information about freedmen's marriages, apprenticeships, and legal liabilities and about Bureau-run or supported relief establishments, tenements, farms, schools, and employment offices; they also contain statistical data on Bureau receipts and expenditures and congressional appropriations.

The volumes of letters sent contain many cross-references to related entries in this and other series of records of the Assistant Commissioner's Office that are reproduced in this microfilm publication. For example, "LS" and "LB" refer to the volumes of letters sent, "LR" to the registers of letters received, and "EB" to the endorsements sent or to endorsement and memorandum books. Numbers following the letter symbols refer either to the page or entry number of the related item. Citations to volume G

African American

refer to a press copy book that has not been reproduced in this microfilm publication because the letters copied into that volume are duplicated among the fair copies.

Press copies were made by moistening a piece of thin paper and pressing it against the original letter through the use of a press copying machine that transferred some of the ink to the moistened paper. Some copies made by this process are difficult to read; others are virtually illegible. The one volume of press copies of letters sent by Bvt. Maj. David G. Swaim, January 7-October 9, 1869, is arranged chronologically and has a name index. Six other volumes of press copies, including volume G, are also among the records of the Assistant Commissioner's Office, but they have not been included in this microfilm publication because their contents are duplicated in the five volumes of fair copies.

Endorsements Sent and Received

According to record keeping practices of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement and memorandum books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner or the Acting Assistant Adjutant General wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the letter to the sender or forwarded it to another office. These replies or statements were copied into the endorsement books along with summaries of the contents of the communications and, frequently, any previous endorsements.

The contents of the five volumes of endorsements sent and received, June 15, 1865-August 26, 1869, are arranged and numbered in chronological order. There are name indexes to volumes 4 and 5. In the left margin of the pages in the endorsement book is the date of receipt of the incoming letter or endorsement, the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the endorsement was sent, the name of the person who wrote the endorsement, and the number assigned at the time of receipt. Some endorsements are continued on subsequent pages. For example, endorsement 655 in the first volume of the series contains the notation "To E.B. Volume 1, No. 735," which indicates that subsequent endorsements to the same correspondence in the same volume are numbered 735. The endorsement books contain the same cross-reference symbols to related records as those used in the volumes of letters sent.

Registers of Letters Received

Another 19th-century record keeping practice was the entering of incoming communications into registers of letters received. The entries in the registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the date of the letter, the place of origin, the date of receipt, an abstract of the contents, and the entry number assigned at time of receipt.

The five volumes of registers of letters received, September 1865-August 1869, are arranged chronologically. The entries in registers 1-3, September 1865-January 1868, are arranged and numbered in chronological order by date of receipt, with a separate numerical sequence for each volume. The entries in registers 4 and 5, January 1868-August 1869, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspon-

dent and thereunder numbered in chronological order by date of receipt, with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division. In volume 5, beginning with January 1869 there is a new numerical sequence for each alphabetical division. There is a name index to each volume as well as a subject index to volume 4. Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division often proved insufficient, it became necessary to continue the entries in other parts of the volume. The NARS staff has filmed the registers in correct entry order; as a result, some of the pages are not in the original numbered sequence.

The registers contain many cross-references, mostly to related entries in this or in other series of records of the Assistant Commissioner's Office. The symbol "LR" refers to the series of registers of letters received and "EB" to the endorsement books. In each case, the number following the symbol refers to the page number in the register of letters received or in the endorsement book where a related entry is found. The notation "folio CPB" (or "CP") followed by an alphabetical designation, such as "D," refers to the series of copy press books of letters sent, volume 4. The symbol "DB" refers to a disbursement book among the records of the Assistant Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer for the District. The disbursement book has not been reproduced in this microfilm publication.

A number of documents entered in the registers are no longer among the registered letters received, because communications often were forwarded to Bureau headquarters, referred to staff or subordinate officers, or returned to the sender with endorsements. The NARS staff placed an asterisk near the writer's name in the registers to indicate that the corresponding letter is still among the registered letters received. Two asterisks beside an entry indicate that the document is in one of several series of unbound reports reproduced in this publication. Some entries are marked "file with" or "filed as," indicating that such letters are no longer filed under their original designation. Many of these letters, however, have not been placed with the related correspondence as indicated in the register. Letters received by endorsement were not entered in the registers of letters received as routine incoming communications. These letters are filed among the unregistered letters received.

Letters Received

The letters received by the Assistant Commissioner are in two series: registered and unregistered letters received. The registered letters received, September 1865-August 1869, are arranged and numbered in the order in which they were entered in the registers. The file citation on each letter indicates the number of the volume in which the letter was registered, the page on which it was entered, and the entry number assigned at the time of receipt. The unregistered letters received, May 1865-March 1869, are arranged chronologically. The NARS staff has prepared a name index to these letters, and it is filmed immediately before the letters. A number of the unregistered letters contain file citations, most of which were assigned by previous offices of receipt. A few appear to have been assigned by the Assistant Commissioner's Office, but the corresponding entries have not been located in the register of letters received.

Most of the items in both the registered and unregistered series of letters received were sent by local superintendents and agents and

African American

concern the restitution of property confiscated from local inhabitants, rental of buildings for Bureau activities, assaults and outrages upon freedmen, placement of orphan children and destitute freedmen, and procurement of homes and employment of freedmen in the North. The registered series also includes reports received from staff and field officers, mostly special reports on specific incidents.

Issuances

The records of the Assistant Commissioner include a volume of special orders issued and some unbound special orders and circular letters received and issued. The special orders issued, June 22, 1865-December 31, 1868, are arranged by year and thereunder numerically. They deal primarily with instructions to Bureau personnel, duty assignments, leave grants, restoration of confiscated property, and appointments of employment agents. Accompanying the volume is a separate name index.

The unbound special orders and circular letters received and issued, June 23, 1865-December 11, 1868, are arranged by type of issuance and thereunder chronologically. The special orders consist of either printed or manuscript copies of extracts of special orders of Bureau headquarters, the AGO, and the Assistant Commissioner's Office relating to the assignment and transfer of Bureau officers. The circular letters issued by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner clarify or describe in more detail Bureau policies and procedures.

Reports of Operations

The Assistant Commissioner, in order, to determine the current status of freedmen and general conditions within his jurisdiction, required the regular submission of various types of reports by subassistant commissioners, local superintendents, and employment agents. As a result, he received five kinds of narrative reports: annual, quarterly, and monthly reports from staff and subordinate officers; monthly reports from visiting agents; and monthly reports of operations from industrial schools. In addition, he received trimonthly and monthly statistical reports from employment offices.

The annual, quarterly, and monthly reports from staff and subordinate officers, August 1865-December 1868, are interfiled as one series and arranged chronologically. Most of the reports, submitted by subassistant commissioners and local superintendents, treat a wide variety of subjects, including the status of freedmen's housing, hospitals, and schools; employment and contracts with employers; farming operations; and claims against the Government. The narrative reports frequently contain statistical data on the freed population in various areas and the number of freedmen furnished employment, transportation, and rations. Some reports contain information concerning the general attitudes of blacks and whites and relations between the two races.

Most monthly reports from visiting agents in the District, August 1865-February 1866, which are arranged chronologically, were written by agents of benevolent societies authorized by the Assistant Commissioner to determine the number of destitute freedmen and to recommend the issuance of rations to needy families. Monthly reports on operations of industrial schools sponsored by the Bureau, December 1865-January 1868, are also

arranged chronologically. These schools, organized under Bureau auspices to employ indigent freedmen in making clothing and household items for sale, submitted reports that frequently included the number of freedmen in attendance, the amount of materials needed and manufactured, and the expenses of operating the schools. Most of the reports are for schools outside the District, including Freedmen's Village in Virginia, the Home for Freed Children in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Howard Industrial School in Cambridge, MA. The last two schools were established under an agreement with benevolent societies whereby the Bureau would pay for transporting freedmen to those schools to eliminate overcrowding in the District.

The trimonthly and monthly reports from employment offices are in two series. One series, entered in the registers of letters received by the Assistant Commissioner's Office, is arranged chronologically, August 1865-November 1867, and consists of reports from officials in Alexandria and Washington and from northern employment offices. These reports generally indicate the number of freedmen that applied for jobs, the number that were actually employed, and the number of applications that were received for positions as servants. The other series is unregistered and also is arranged chronologically, December 1866-September 1868. It is similar in content except that it indicates the number of freedmen transported at Government expense and the States to which they were sent.

Records Relating to the Issuing of Ration to Freedmen

Among the records relating to the distribution of rations to freedmen is a volume of monthly reports of rations, clothing, and medicine issued, July 1865-December 1868. The volume is arranged chronologically, and each report gives the number of men, women, and children receiving rations; the number of births or deaths among recipients; the number and cost of rations issued; and the cost of clothing issued. This volume appears to have been prepared from information contained in the unbound consolidated monthly reports of rations, clothing, and medicine issued, compiled by the Assistant Commissioner's Office, August 1865-February 1868. The consolidated reports, which also are arranged chronologically, were, in turn, based on information found in the monthly reports of rations, clothing, and medicine issued, submitted by local superintendents, July 1865-October 1868. The superintendents' reports are arranged by name of State or office and thereunder chronologically. The forms used in preparing the monthly reports in the three series are identical. Other series of records relating to the issuance of rations include a register of ration requests, March 1866-August 1869, arranged chronologically, with each entry giving the name of the officer requesting the rations, the total cash value of the rations, the reason for the request, and the date the request was approved by the Assistant Commissioner; a list of teachers given certificates for the purchase of fuel and rations, June 1865-October 1866, showing the name of the teacher and the date and type of certificate; and tri-monthly reports of rations issued at the Soup House on New Jersey Avenue, Washington, D.C., September-December 1865, arranged chronologically, giving the number of men, women, and children issued soup rations on a day-by-day basis.

African American

Records Relating to the Relief of Destitute Freedmen

Records relating to relief activities include those of the Special Relief Commission, which was established by the Bureau, headed by Surgeon in Chief Robert Reyburn, and funded by a special congressional appropriation for destitute people in the District. A register of destitute persons recommended for relief to be paid for out of the congressional appropriation, May 1866-January 1868, is arranged chronologically. It includes the name, race, and residence of the destitute person, the number of persons in his or her family, the name of the agent, cause of destitution, type and cost of aid required, and date the recommendation was received and, in some instances, the date it was acted upon. This volume apparently was compiled in part from weekly reports of operations of the Special Relief Commission, May 1866-October 1868, which also are arranged chronologically and contain similar information.

Other records relating to the relief of destitute freedmen include agents' reports of investigations, May-August 1868. The printed forms on which the reports were prepared are arranged chronologically and give such information about the freedmen as length of residency in the District, food and supplies needed, and willingness to go to Freedmen's Village. Trimonthly returns from employees and dependents at Freedmen's Hospital, February-May 1868, which are arranged chronologically, show the number of destitute freedmen employed at the hospital.

Records Relating to Abandoned or Confiscated Lands

There are one bound volume and two unbound series of records relating to abandoned lands. A volume of summaries of monthly reports received of abandoned or confiscated lands, August 1865-March 1867, is arranged chronologically and includes a general description of the land, the former owner's name, the county or political jurisdiction in which the land was located, its boundaries, the method by which it was obtained, and its total acreage. This volume appears to have been compiled largely from similar information found in the unbound monthly reports of abandoned or confiscated lands, April 1865-March 1867. The unbound reports, also arranged chronologically, were compiled in the Assistant Commissioner's Office from the monthly reports of abandoned or confiscated lands, August 1865-February 1867, which were submitted by local superintendents. The local superintendents' reports are arranged by name of State and thereunder chronologically.

Records Relating to Transportation of Freedmen and Bureau Personnel

Two bound volumes and four unbound series, each volume and series arranged chronologically, comprise the records relating to the transportation of freedmen and Bureau personnel. Two volumes of freedmen's transportation applications, July 1865-January 1866 and April 1866-November 1868, list the names of males and the number of females who applied for transportation, their destinations, the names of the officials who recommended the applications, and the dates that the applications were submitted and approved. The volumes use the same cross-reference symbols described in other records of the Assistant Commissioner's Office. Unbound records consisting of descriptive lists of freedmen for whom agents requested transportation,

April 1867-July 1868, give the name of the freedman who desired transportation and his age, height, physical description, former owner, former and present residences, and destination. Agents' receipts for transportation authorized by the local superintendents in the District, March-June 1867, are acknowledgments of permission granted to transport freedmen and include the agent's name, number of freedmen, partial lists of freedmen's names, and destinations. Agents' monthly reports of transportation furnished to freedmen, April-July 1867, show the number of freedmen who were transported at Bureau expense. Information also includes the agent's name, the age and sex of freedmen transported, and the number who refused transportation. Finally, the records include monthly reports concerning transportation furnished to Bureau officers for official travel, January 1867-December 1868; these reports list the date and number of the transportation order, the name of the person to whom the order was issued, and destination, and whether the person was a civilian or in the military service.

Personnel Records

There are four bound volumes and four unbound series of records relating to military and civilian personnel employed by the Bureau. A station book listing officers who were employed by the Bureau, 1865-68, is arranged chronologically by date of appointment and thereunder by name of officer. For each officer assigned to the Bureau, the entry gives his name, duty, rank, regiment, date of assignment, and title. Two station books listing civilians who were employed by the Bureau, 1865-68, are arranged chronologically by date of appointment and thereunder by name of appointee. Each entry includes the civilian's name, station, date of contract, and pay. The military and civilian station books contain name indexes. The monthly rosters of officers and civilians, July 1865-August 1869, are lists of commissioned officers and civilian assistants employed by the Bureau in the District. Arranged chronologically, they include the name, rank or title, regiment, and nature of duty of each officer or civilian assistant. These reports were compiled largely from monthly rosters of officers and civilians, August 1865-October 1868, received from local superintendents and staff officers. The August 1865-October 1868 rosters are arranged by name of State and thereunder in chronological order. A register of laborers, March-May 1868, arranged numerically, indicates the residence of each laborer, the number of persons in his family, the dates of employment, rate of pay per day, amount received per pay period, and the name of the official who recommended the laborer for employment. The monthly reports of persons and articles hired, submitted by local superintendents, July 1866-December 1867, are arranged chronologically. The reports include the names of persons hired, their job assignments, dates of service, rates of pay, and dates of contracts. Letters of appointment and revocation received from Bureau headquarters, March 1867-December 1868, are form letters, arranged chronologically, appointing and discharging Bureau employees. In addition to these records, there is a series of oaths of office, 1866-68, arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of individual. Such oaths were required by an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), for all officeholders, whether elected or appointed.

African American

Other Records

Monthly reports of tenants who occupied tenements under the charge of the Bureau, July 1866-November 1868, were submitted by the superintendent of each barracks and are arranged chronologically. They include the name and occupation of the head of the family, number of persons in the family, number of rooms occupied, monthly rent, and amount of rent in arrears. A volume of proceedings of a board of officers that fixed rental rates on Bureau-leased grounds, June-July 1867, also includes copies of letters and endorsements sent by the board and abstracts of letters received. The board was primarily concerned with the amount of rent that was to be paid on grounds where Wisewell Barracks and Campbell Hospital were situated. Miscellaneous reports and lists, 1865-68, relate to properties that were rented or owned by the Bureau; Bureau-administered projects at Freedmen's Village, Mason's Island, and other farms in Maryland and Virginia; civil and criminal cases and discriminatory legislation that involved blacks; censuses of blacks in the District and Virginia; and other subjects.

Related Records

Also in Record Group 105 are records of the Bureau headquarters in Washington. Some of these records have been reproduced as NARS microfilm publications M742, *Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872*; M752, *Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872*; and M803, *Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871*.

In the same record group and pertaining to the District are records of the Superintendent of Education (reproduced as M1056), the Assistant Inspector General, the Assistant Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, Superintendent of Marriages, Surgeon in Chief, and subassistant commissioners and local superintendents. There are also additional records pertaining to the Bureau-run operations at Barry Farm and Freedmen's Village and records for other State offices and their subordinate field offices. The records of assistant commissioners in other States have been reproduced in the following NARS microfilm publications: M809, Alabama; M979, Arkansas; M798, Georgia; M1027, Louisiana; M826, Mississippi; M843, North Carolina; M869, South Carolina; M999, Tennessee; M821, Texas; and M1048, Virginia.

There are also records in other record groups that supplement those of the Assistant Commissioner of the District of Columbia. In Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393, are records of commands that at various times had jurisdiction over the District and surrounding areas from 1865 to 1869. These commands included the Military District and Department of Washington, Army and Department of the Potomac, and the Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

These introductory remarks were written by Stuart Lee Butler, who also arranged the records and prepared the indexes. The editor was Annis K. Olsen.

Note: Set incomplete will order upon request.

Letters Sent:

- M1055-1** Name Index (6 1/2) to Volume 1, June 16, 1865-26, 1866;
Nov. Volume 1 (6), June 16, 1865-Nov. 26, 1866;
Name Index (7 1/2) to Volume 2, Mar. 14, 1866-Mar. 11, 1867;
Volume 2 (7), Mar. 14, 1866-Mar. 11, 1867;
Name Index (8 1/2) to Volume 3, Mar. 12-Nov. 20, 1867;
Volume 3 (8), Mar. 12-Nov. 20, 1867
- M1055-2** Name and Subject Index (9 1/2) to Volume 4, Nov. 18, 1867-Nov. 4, 1868;
Volume 4 (9), Nov. 18, 1867-Nov. 4, 1868;
NARS Name Index to Volume 5, Nov. 4-Dec. 31, 1868;
Volume 5 (10), Nov. 4-Dec. 31, 1868;
Press Copies of Letters Sent by Bvt. Maj. David G. Swaim (54), Jan. 7-Oct. 9, 1869

Endorsements Sent and Received

- M1055-2** Volume 1 (21), June 15, 1865-May 22, 1866;
Volume 2 (22), Apr. 23, 1866-Jan. 4, 1867
- M1055-3** Volume 3 (23), Jan. 5-Sept. 3, 1867;
Name Index (24 1/2) to Volume 4, Sept. 3, 1867-Apr. 28, 1868;
Volume 4 (24), Sept. 3, 1867-Apr. 28, 1868;
Name Index (25 1/2) to Volume 5, Apr. 28, 1868-Aug. 26, 1869;
Volume 5 (25) Apr. 28, 1868-Aug. 26, 1869

Registers of Letters Received

- M1055-3** Name Index (1 1/2) to Volume 1, Sept. 1865-Oct. 1866;
Volume 1 (1), Sept. 1865-Oct. 1866;
- M1055-4** Name Index (2 1/2) to Volume 2, Oct. 1866-Aug. 1867;
Volume 2 (2) Oct. 1866-Aug. 1867;
Name Index (3 1/2) to Volume 3, Aug. 1867-Jan. 1868;
Volume 3 (3), Aug. 1867-Jan. 1868;
Name Index (4 1/2) to Volume 4, Jan.-Sept. 1868;
Subject Index (4 3/4) to Volume 4, Jan.-Sept. 1868;
Volume 4 (4), Jan.-Sept. 1868;
Name Index (5 1/2) to Volume 5, Sept. 1868-Aug. 1869;
Volume 5 (5), Sept. 1868-Aug. 1869

Letters Received

- M1055-4** (Entered in Register 1) 10-299, Sept.-Nov. 1865
- M1055-5** (Entered in Register 1) 300-1399, Nov. 1865-May 1866
- M1055-6** 1400-2419, May-Oct. 1866
- M1055-7** (Entered in Register 2) 5-1098, Oct. 1866-Mar. 1867
- M1055-8** 1100-2596, Mar.-July 1867
- M1055-9** (Entered in Register 3) 3-1094, Aug.-Dec. 1867
- M1055-10** (Entered in Register 4) A-Y, Jan.-Sept. 1868
- M1055-11** (Entered in Register 5) A-W, Sept. 1868-Aug. 1869
- M1055-12** NARS Name Index, May 1865-Mar. 1869;
Unregistered Letters Received, May 1865-Mar. 1869;

African American

Issuances:

- M1055-13** Name Index (27 1/2) to Special Orders, June 22, 1865-Dec. 31, 1868;
Special Orders Issued (26), June 22, 1865-Dec. 31, 1868;
Unbound Special Orders and Circular Letters Received and Issued, June 23, 1865-Dec. 11, 1868

Reports of Operations:

- M1055-13** Annual, Quarterly, and Monthly Reports from Staff and Subordinate Officers, Aug. 1865-Dec. 1868
M1055-14 Monthly Reports from Visiting Agents, Aug. 1865-Feb. 1866;
Monthly Reports on Operations of Industrial Schools, Dec. 1865-Jan. 1868;
Tri-monthly and Monthly Reports from Employment Offices, Aug. 1865-Nov. 1867;
Tri-monthly and Monthly Reports from Employment Offices, Dec. 1866-Sept. 1868

Records Relating to the Issuing of Rations to Freedmen:

- M1055-15** Monthly Reports of Rations, Clothing, and Medicine Issued (29), July 1865-Dec. 1868;
Unbound Consolidated Monthly Reports of Rations, Clothing, and Medicine Issued, Aug. 1865-Feb. 1868;
Local Superintendents' Monthly Reports of Rations, Clothing, and Medicine Issued, July 1865-Oct. 1868
M1055-16 Register of Ration Requests (34), Mar. 1866-Aug. 1869;
List of Teachers Given Certificates for Purchase of Fuel and Rations, June 1865-Oct. 1866;
Tri-monthly Reports of 31-Aug-1999 Rations Issued at the Soup House, Sept.-Dec. 1865

Records Relating to the Relief of Destitute Freedmen:

- M1055-16** Register of Destitute Persons Recommended for Relief (35), May 1866-Jan. 1868;
Weekly Reports of Operations of the Special Relief Commission, May 1866-Oct. 1868
M1055-17 Agents' Reports of Investigations of Destitute Freedmen, May-Aug. 1868;
Tri-monthly Returns From Employees and Dependents at Freedmen's Hospital, Feb.-May 1868

Records Relating to Abandoned or Confiscated Lands:

- M1055-17** Summaries of Monthly Reports Received of Abandoned or Confiscated Lands (28), Aug. 1865-Mar. 1867;
Monthly Reports of Abandoned or Confiscated Lands, Apr. 1865-Mar. 1867;
Local Superintendents' Monthly Reports of Abandoned or Confiscated Lands, Aug. 1865-Feb. 1867

Records Relating to Transportation of Freedmen and Bureau Personnel:

- M1055-17** Freedmen's Applications for Transportation Volume 1 (27), July 1865-Jan. 1866;

Volume 2 (31), Apr. 1866-Nov. 1868;

- Descriptive Lists of Freedmen for Whom Agents Requested Transportation, Apr.-July 1867
M1055-18 Descriptive Lists of Freedmen for Whom Agents Requested Transportation, Aug. 1867-July 1868
M1055-19 Agents' Receipts for Transportation Authorized by Local Superintendents, Mar.-June 1867;
Agents' Monthly Reports of Transportation Furnished to Freedmen, Apr.-July 1867;
Monthly Reports of Transportation Furnished Bureau Officers for Official Travel, Jan. 1867-Dec. 1868

Personnel Records:

- M1055-19** Station Book of Officers Employed by the Bureau (101), 1865-68;
Station Books of Civilians Employed by the Bureau Volume 1 (102), 1865-66;
Volume 2 (103), 1867-68;
Monthly Rosters of Officers and Civilians, July 1865-Aug. 1869;
Monthly Rosters of Officers and Civilians From Local Superintendents and Staff Officers, Aug. 1865-Oct. 1868
M1055-20 Register of Laborers (89), Mar.-May 1868;
Monthly Reports of Persons and Articles Hired (72), July 1866-Dec. 1867;
Letters of Appointment and Revocation, Mar. 1867-Dec. 1868;
Oaths of Office, 1866-68

Other Records:

- M1055-20** Monthly Reports of Bureau Tenants, July 1866-June 1867
M1055-21 Monthly Reports of Bureau Tenants, July 1867-Nov 1868;
Proceedings of Officers Board Fixing Rental Rates on Bureau-Leased Grounds (36), June-July 1867;
Miscellaneous Reports and Lists

AFRICAN AMERICAN –GEORGIA –ABANDONED LANDS

Records of The Assistant Commissioner For The State of Georgia Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, And Abandoned Lands. 1865-1869

On the 36 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. A few papers are dated as early as 1862. The records consist of 34 volumes of communications sent, registers, and orders issued; and of unbound letters and reports received and miscellaneous papers. The documents were created or received by the Assistant Commissioner and two staff officers, the Assistant Adjutant General and the Assistant Inspector General. The records are part of Record Group 105, Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, often referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of Congress approved March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507); Congress assigned to the Bureau responsi-

African American

bilities that had been previously shared by the military commanders and by the agents of the Treasury Department. The duties included supervision of all affairs relating to refugees, to freedmen, and to the custody of abandoned lands and property.

The operations of the Freedmen's Bureau resembled, in many ways, the work of later Federal social agencies. In addition to supervising the disposition of abandoned or confiscated lands and property, Bureau officers issued rations, clothing, and medicine to destitute refugees and freedmen; established hospitals and dispensaries; cooperated with benevolent societies in establishing schools; listened to complaints of the freedmen; witnessed the writing of labor contracts; and helped colored soldiers and sailors to file and collect claims for bounties, pensions, and pay arrearages.

In May 1865 Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard was appointed as Commissioner of the Bureau and established his headquarters in Washington, D.C. Assistant Commissioners were appointed to supervise the work of the Bureau in the States, but because the number of Assistant Commissioners was limited to 10 by the act of Congress, some officers were assigned to duty in more than one State.

The Assistant Commissioner assigned to both Georgia and South Carolina was Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who established his headquarters in Beaufort, S.C., in June 1865. He assigned to Brig. Gen. Edward A. Wild the responsibility for the Bureau affairs in part of Georgia. In September 1865, after General Wild was relieved from duty, the Office of Assistant Commissioner for Georgia was established, and Brig. Gen. Davis Tillson was appointed as Acting Assistant Commissioner, with exclusive control of all matters concerning the Bureau in Georgia. General Tillson reported to General Saxton in South Carolina until December 1865, when he was ordered to report thereafter directly to Commissioner Howard in Washington.

The organization of the Bureau in Georgia was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters in Washington. The staff of the Assistant Commissioner included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, a Superintendent of Education, and a Surgeon in Chief. Officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner carried out the policies of the Bureau in the subdistricts into which the State was divided.

During the relatively brief period of its existence the Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Georgia was located in four different cities and headed by three different officers. General Tillson first established his headquarters at Augusta in September 1865 but moved it to Savannah in October 1866. Col. Caleb C. Sibley succeeded General Tillson as Assistant Commissioner in January 1867, and 2 months later he moved the headquarters from Savannah to Macon. It remained there until July 1867, when the office was transferred to Atlanta. In October 1868 Colonel Sibley relinquished charge of Bureau affairs to Maj. John R. Lewis, who served as Assistant Commissioner until the office was discontinued in May 1869.

From January to May 1869 Major Lewis combined the duties of Assistant Commissioner with those of Superintendent of Education, and he continued to serve until May 1870 as Superintendent of Education after the Office of the Assistant Commissioner was discontinued. Although Major Lewis served

in both capacities, the records of the two offices were not combined.

The volumes reproduced in this series were originally arranged by type of record and thereunder in numerical sequence. Originally no numbers were assigned to index books or, generally, to series consisting of single volumes; later all the volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers. In this microfilm publication the last set of numbers assigned are in parentheses and are useful as an aid in identifying the volumes.

Series Listings and Remarks

Letters Sent

The 9 volumes of letters sent, October 1865-May 1869, are generally arranged in chronological order. They consist mainly of press copies of letters and telegrams sent by the Assistant Commissioner and the Assistant Adjutant General. Also included are copies of letters sent by the Assistant Inspector General and the Assistant Commissary of Subsistence. A name index is at the beginning of each volume.

The legibility of some of the letters is poor, and a few are not readable. The last part of volume 2 of letters sent is missing, which is the reason for the gap in dates from February 21 to March 6, 1866. Letters sent by Assistant Commissioner Tillson from Savannah in March 1866 were copied into the volume of special field orders issued and are reproduced on Roll 34 of this series.

Endorsements Sent

According to the record keeping practices of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner, the Assistant Adjutant General, or the Assistant Inspector General, wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or statements were copied into endorsement books, with a summary of the contents of the incoming communication and with all the previous endorsements that had been written on the communication.

The 6 volumes of endorsements sent, October 1865-May 1869, are generally arranged in chronological order. In the left margin is the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the endorsement was sent. Fractions are entered in the left margin throughout volume 1 and in part of volume 2. The numerator is the number of the page in a volume on which there is a preceding endorsement to the same officer, and the denominator is the number of the page on which there is a subsequent endorsement. Frequently noted is the page number on which the incoming letter was entered in the register of letters received. A name index to volumes 1 and 2 has been filmed before volume 1.

Registers of Letters Received

Another record keeping practice of the day, as indicated above, was that of entering incoming communications into registers of letters received. The entries in the registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the date of the letter, the place from which it was written, an abstract of

African American

its contents, abstracts of the contents of the enclosures, the date of receipt of the letter, and the register entry number assigned to it.

The 5 volumes of registers of letters received, October 1865-May 1869, are arranged in two ways. The entries in registers 1-3 are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally in chronological order by date of receipt of communication. In addition, in registers 2 and 3 the letters were assigned entry numbers with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division. The entries in registers 4 and 5 are arranged in chronological order by date of receipt and numbered, with a separate numerical sequence for each register. A name index book to register 5 has been filmed before the register.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the registers often proved insufficient, it became necessary to continue the entries in other parts of the volume. The National Archives has filmed the registers in correct order, therefore some of the pages are not in the original numerical sequence. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

The registers contain several abbreviations. "E&M" refers to the series of endorsement books and "LRB" to the registers of letters received. In each case the numeral after the abbreviation in the register is the page number in the endorsement book or in the register of letters received.

Not all letters entered in the registers are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. Some letters were forwarded to the Bureau headquarters in Washington; others were referred to staff officers or sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has placed an asterisk (*) in the registers near the entry number of each letter that is still in the series of registered letters received.

Letters Received

The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner, the Assistant Adjutant General, and the Assistant Inspector General are in four unbound series--one series of registered letters and three series of unregistered letters, telegrams, and letters relating to appointments.

The letters entered in the registers of letters received, September 1865-April 1869, are arranged in the order in which they are entered in the registers. The file citation on a letter entered in registers 2-5 includes the volume number of the register, the page on which it is entered, and the entry number assigned to the letter. The letters entered in register 1 usually have no file citations.

The unregistered letters received, September 1865-January 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent. Letters received from the Bureau headquarters in Washington are at the beginning of the file for each year. The letters have no file citations, and no entries will be found for them in the registers of letters received. Some of the letters dated September 1865 are addressed to General Wild.

The unregistered telegrams received, September 1865-November 1868, are arranged chronologically, and no entries will be found for them in the registers of letters received.

The unregistered letters received relating to appointments, July 1865-October 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname of applicant. Included are applications, recommendations, and acceptances of positions in the Bureau, and form letters of appointment and revocation received from the Bureau headquarters in Washington. The letters that predate September 1865 seem to have been referred to General Wild, and those that postdate April 1869 relate to positions in the Office of the Superintendent of Education.

Filmed after the letters relating to appointments is a series of test oaths, 1866-69, which are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of individual who signed the oath. According to an act of Congress approved July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), every person elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States was required to take an oath of loyalty to the United States.

Reports

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are two unbound series of reports: the reports of operations and the reports of murders and outrages.

The reports of operations, 1866-68, are arranged chronologically. They consist mainly of copies of reports sent to the Commissioner about the Bureau's activities in Georgia. The series includes the Assistant Commissioner's annual report for September 1865-November 1866; the Assistant Commissioner's monthly reports, February-August 1867, October-May 1868, and August-November 1868; and also two reports by the Surgeon in Chief to the Assistant Commissioner for October 1866-September 1867 and October-December 1868.

The reports received from sub-assistant commissioners and agents relating to murders and outrages, 1866-68, are arranged chronologically. Also included is a copy of a report sent to the Commissioner concerning outrages committed upon the freedmen in Georgia during 1868. The reports usually list the names of the person murdered or assaulted and of the person accused of the crime, the race of the people involved, and the action taken in the case.

Filmed after the reports of murders and outrages is a list of freedmen assaulted in the State of Georgia during 1867. The entries in the register are arranged by subdistrict and give the date and place of the assault, the names of the freedman murdered or assaulted and of the person accused of the crime, the race of the people involved, and the action taken in the case.

There are also three volumes of registers of reports and returns received from subordinate officers and forwarded to the Bureau headquarters in Washington and to the Chief Quartermaster for Georgia, March 1867-February 1869. The entries are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of subordinate officer submitting the report and thereunder generally in chronological order by date of receipt. The entries in the registers give the date of receipt of the report, the name of the person submitting the report, the date of the report, the place of origin, the nature of the report, the name of the officer to whom the report was referred, and a copy of the endorsement written on the report. There are no entries for many letters of the alphabet. An incomplete name index is at the beginning of volume 1.

African American

Orders and Circulars

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are a register of orders sent to subordinate officers, a name and subject index, a volume of orders and circulars issued, a volume of special field orders issued, and unbound orders and circulars received and issued.

The entries in the register of orders, circulars, and forms sent to subordinate officers, April 1867-July 1868, are generally arranged in chronological order. The entry usually gives the date the document was sent, the name of the officer, his station, and the number and type of document sent. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

A name and subject index to the general and special orders only has been filmed before the volume of orders and circulars. In the volume of general orders, special orders, and circulars and circular letters issued, September 1865-May 1869, the orders are arranged by type of order, thereunder chronologically, and numbered in sequence. The circular letters, which are interfiled with the circulars, are also arranged chronologically but are not numbered. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

In the volume of special field orders issued at Savannah during 1866, the orders are arranged chronologically. On pages 101-104 are copies of letters sent from Savannah in March 1866.

The unbound orders and circulars, 1865-69, are arranged by type of order or circular, thereunder separately by received or issued, and thereunder chronologically.

Station Books and Rosters

The entries in the 2 volumes of station books, 1867-69, usually give the name of the officer or the civilian on duty in the Bureau, his station, the position held, the date and order assigning him to duty, and the date and order relieving him from duty. The staff of the Assistant Commissioner is listed first and then the officers and civilians on duty in the subdistricts. A name index is at the beginning of volume 1. Volume 2 contains only 4 pages of information.

There is also a volume listing the civilian agents on duty in Georgia, 1865-67. The volume consists of two registers containing duplicate information; one register is arranged alphabetically by name of county and the other, alphabetically by name of agent. The entries give the name of the county, the county seat, the name of the agent, the date of his appointment, by whom recommended, and the date he was relieved of duty. There are no entries in the registers for some letters of the alphabet.

The unbound rosters of officers and civilian agents on duty in Georgia in December 1866 and from August 1867 to November 1868 are arranged chronologically. The lists are mainly printed rosters.

Miscellaneous Records

On the last roll of this series is a register of land titles issued to freedmen and some unbound miscellaneous papers, 1865-69. The entries in the register, April-September 1865, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of former owner. Entries do not appear under every letter of the alphabet. The miscellaneous papers are arranged by type of record and consist mainly of documents relating to court cases, reports and papers

relating to lands, and a few copies of letters sent. A few of the papers are dated as early as 1862.

Related Records

Also in Record Group 105 are records of the Bureau headquarters in Washington, some of which have been reproduced as microfilm publications. Among them are two series of records of Commissioner Howard's office: Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-72 (Series M742), and Registers and letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-72 (Series M752).

In the same record group are records created by officers stationed in the States of Georgia and South Carolina. For the State of Georgia, in addition to the records of the Assistant Commissioner, there are records of the Superintendent of Education, the Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, the Surgeon in Chief, and the subordinate officers stationed in the subdistricts of Georgia. The records of the Superintendent of Education for Georgia, 1865-70, will be reproduced in a forthcoming microfilm publication (Series M799). Records pertaining to Bureau affairs in Georgia before the establishment of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner in September 1865 are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner for South Carolina.

Many records relating to the Freedmen's Bureau are in other record groups in the National Archives. Among them are records of military districts and departments in Record Group 393, Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920; and records of abandoned property in Record Group 366, Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department.

The editorial material for this publication was prepared by Elaine Everly. Willna Pacheli arranged the records.

Letters Sent

- M798-1** Volume 1(11) Oct. 9, 1865-Jan. 3, 1866; Volume 2(12) Jan. 3-Feb. 21, 1866
- M798-2** Volume 3(13) Mar. 6-May 28, 1866
- M798-3** Volume 4(14) May 28-Oct. 9, 1866
- M798-4** Volume 5(15) Oct. 10, 1866-Feb. 4, 1867
- M798-5** Volume 6(16) Feb. 4-May 17, 1867; Volume 7(17) May 17-July 25, 1867
- M798-6** Volume 8(18) July 25, 1867-Jan. 18, 1868
- M798-7** Volume 9(19) Jan. 18, 1868-May 10, 1869

Endorsements Sent

- M798-8** Name Index (21 1/2); Volume 1(20) Oct. 13, 1865-Nov. 23, 1866; Volume 2(21) Nov. 26, 1866-May 9, 1867
- M798-9** Volume 3(22) May 9-Oct. 2, 1867; Volume 4(23) Oct. 2, 1867-Mar. 19, 1868
- M798-10** Volume 5(24) Mar. 19-Dec. 10, 1868; Volume 6(25) Dec. 10, 1868-May 7, 1869

Registers of Letters Received

- M798-11** Volume 1(1) Oct. 1865-Nov. 1866; Volume 2(2) Nov. 1866-June 1867

African American

M798-12 Volume 3(3) June-Dec. 1867; Volume 4(4) Jan.-Sept. 1868; Name Index(7) to Volume 5(6); Volume 5(6) Oct. 1868-May 1869

Letters Received

(Entered in Register 1):

M798-13 A-W Sept. 1865-Nov. 1866

(Entered in Register 2):

M798-14 A-G Aug. 1866-June 1867

M798-15 H-F Aug. 1866-June 1867

M798-16 S-Y Aug. 1866-June 1867

(Entered in Register 3):

M798-17 A-F May-Dec. 1867

M798-18 G-P May-Dec. 1867

M798-19 R-W May-Dec. 1867

(Entered in Register 4):

M798-20 1-999 Dec. 1867-Apr. 1868

M798-21 1000-2099 Apr.-Aug. 1868

M798-22 2100-2309 Aug.-Sept. 1868

(Entered in Register 5):

M798-23 2-672 Sept. 1868-Apr. 1869

Unregistered Documents

Letters Received:

M798-24 A-W 1865

M798-25 A-C 1866

M798-26 D-F 1866

M798-27 G-L 1866

M798-28 M-R 1866

M798-29 S-Y 1866

M798-30 A-Y 1867-69

M798-31 Telegrams Received Sept. 1865-Nov. 1868; Letters Received Relating to Appointments July 1865-Oct. 1869; Test Oaths 1866-69

Reports

M798-32 Operations 1866-68; Murders and Outrages 1865-68; List of Freedmen Murdered or Assaulted (32) 1867

Registers of Reports Received From Subordinate Officers

M798-33 Volume 1(8) Mar.-Sept. 1867; Volume 2(9) Sept. 1867-May 1868; Volume 3(10) May 1868-Feb. 1869

Orders and Circulars

M798-34 Name and Subject Index(27) to Orders; Orders and Circulars Issued(26) 1865-69; Special Field Orders Issued(28) 1866; Unbound Orders and Circulars Received and Issued 1865-69; Register of Orders Sent (35) 1867-69

Other Records

M798-35 Station Books: Volume 1(29) 1867-68; Volume 2(30) 1869; Registers of and Civilian Agents(31) 1865-67; Rosters of Officers and Civilian Agents Dec. 1866; Aug. 1867-Nov. 1868

M798-36 Register of Land Titles Issued to Freedmen(33) Apr.-Sept. 1865; Unbound Miscellaneous Papers 1862-69

AFRICAN AMERICAN –LOUISIANA –ABANDONED LANDS

Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869.

This microfilm publication reproduces the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. The records consist of 43 bound volumes and some unbound documents.

In Louisiana, the Bureau's operations began in June 1865, when Assistant Commissioner Thomas W. Conway established his headquarters in New Orleans. The names and terms of the other Assistant Commissioners or Acting Assistant Commissioners in Louisiana are as follows: Gen. James S. Fullerton, Oct. 4-18, 1865; Gen. Absalom Baird, Oct. 19, 1865 - Sept. 7, 1866; Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, Oct. 5 - Nov. 27, 1866; Gen. Joseph A. Mower, Nov. 28, 1866 - Dec. 4, 1867; Lt. Col. William H. Wood, Dec. 5, 1867 Jan. 2, 1868; Gen. R. C. Buchanan, Jan. 3 - Aug. 24, 1868; and Gen. Edward Hatch, Aug. 25, 1868 - Jan. 1, 1869. In accordance with an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), Bureau operations within the States were terminated on Jan. 1, 1869, except for educational functions and the collection of claims.

The volumes reproduced here were arbitrarily assigned numbers by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) of the War Department after the records came into its custody. In the roll listings, the AGO numbers are shown in parentheses. The volume numbers without parentheses were assigned by the National Archives and Records Service staff.

Letters and Telegrams Sent

The five volumes of fair copies of letters, telegrams, and circular letters sent, Jun. 5, 1865 - Apr. 30, 1869, are arranged chronologically.

Each volume of letters sent has a name index. The entries in the indexes are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of individual, and thereunder correspondents are listed on even-numbered pages and persons mentioned in the correspondence are listed on odd-numbered pages, except in volume 1 where the order is reversed. Each index book is filmed immediately preceding the volume to which it pertains.

Endorsements Sent

There are five volumes of endorsements sent, July 12, 1865 - Apr. 30, 1869. Both the volumes and entries in each volume are arranged chronologically.

Each endorsement book has a name index that is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent. The index for volume 3, which was prepared by the NARS staff, is arranged alphabetically by entire name of correspondent. Each index is filmed immediately preceding the volume to which it pertains.

Registers of Letters and Telegrams Received

The eight volumes of registers of letters and telegrams received, July 1, 1865 - May 10, 1869, are arranged by time period. Entries in each volume are arranged by initial letter of surname

African American

of correspondent or office and thereunder by the number assigned on the date of receipt.

Originally, complete name indexes existed only for volumes 4-7. Indexes for volumes 1-3 list the names of persons mentioned in the correspondence but not the names of the correspondents. The NARS staff finished the indexing of volumes 1-3 by compiling name indexes to correspondents, and prepared a name index to volume 8. Indexes for volumes 1-3 and 8 are arranged alphabetically. Indexes for volumes 4-7 are arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of surname or place name. The NARS-prepared indexes to names of correspondents for volumes 1-3 are filmed before the other indexes for those volumes. Each index is filmed immediately before the register to which it refers.

Registered and Unregistered Letters and Telegrams Received

The registered letters and telegrams received, July 1, 1865 - Dec. 20, 1868, are arranged in the order of their entry in the register. Only a few letters or telegrams exist for 1866.

The small number of unregistered letters received, May 8, 1865 - Feb. 25, 1869, are arranged chronologically. The NARS staff has prepared a name index to the unregistered letters.

The unregistered telegrams received, May 23 - Dec. 27, 1865, and Jan. 2, 1867 - Dec. 10, 1868, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by surname of correspondent. The NARS staff has prepared a name index to the telegrams.

Issuances

The volume of orders, circulars, and other directives issued and received, May 19, 1865 - Aug. 28, 1868, generally is arranged chronologically. In addition to issuances, there are also a small number of copies of congressional acts, speeches given by Bureau officials, lists of instructions from the Assistant Commissioner's office, and a copy of the constitution of the Howard Fraternal Union. Most of the issuances consist of printed or handwritten copies pasted into the volume, except for a few fair copies at the beginning.

The small number of unbound issuances, Mar. 11, 1865 - Dec. 7, 1868, consists of directives sent and received by the Assistant Commissioner, including general and special orders, circulars, and circular letters. Most of the series consists of special orders and circulars received. Issuances sent precede issuances received; both are arranged chronologically.

The volume of fair copies of orders and circulars issued, Oct. 1, 1867 - Apr. 28, 1869, is arranged chronologically. A name index is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname and filmed before the volume.

Reports of Operations and Conditions in Louisiana

There are retained copies of the Assistant Commissioner's annual narrative reports of operations and conditions, Oct. 1866 - Oct. 1868, and monthly narrative reports of operations and conditions, June 6, 1867 - Nov. 30, 1868. Both series are arranged chronologically. Each report is usually arranged by staff office but sometimes is further divided by subdistrict or parish.

The register of reports received from subordinate officers, Dec. 1867 - Dec. 1868, is arranged by month, thereunder by subdis-

trict, and thereunder by name of reporting agent. The register was used primarily to record the receipt of tri-monthly reports of general operations, but entries also are included for reports of indigents and lists of agents' accounts.

The narrative tri-monthly reports of operations, submitted by subordinate officers on Feb. 20, Mar. 31, Apr. 30, and Aug. 31, 1866, and between Jan. 10 and Dec. 23, 1867, are arranged chronologically by date of letter of transmittal.

Reports Relating to the Condition of Freedmen and Refugees

The Assistant Inspector General's consolidated reports on conditions of freedmen on the plantations, Jan. - Aug. 1866 and May - Nov. 1868, are addressed to the Assistant Commissioner. Arranged chronologically, the reports are in tabular form and include for each plantation the name of the parish or subdistrict; agent's name; number of freedmen (divided by sex) on each plantation; skills, condition, and age of freedmen; number of schools and children attending; number of acres under cultivation; and types of crops. Occasionally included in the reports are totals of figures concerning freedmen for all plantations in the parish or subdistrict.

Inspection reports of plantations from subordinate officers, Jan. 31, 1866 - Dec. 31, 1868, are similar to those of the Assistant Inspector General and probably provided the basis for them. The series includes consolidated reports, covering several months or a year, and monthly reports. Monthly reports precede consolidated reports; both are arranged chronologically. Most of the information in the reports is statistical, although there are also some narrative reports and a few statistical reports with attached narrative pages. There are no reports for February and March 1868. This is the only series containing a substantial number of records for 1866.

The reports of indigent refugees and freedmen from subordinate officers, Jan. 31, 1867 - Nov. 30, 1868, are arranged generally chronologically. Although primarily monthly reports, there are a few weekly reports and some consolidated reports covering longer periods. Each entry gives indigent's name, age, and sex; name of former owner (for freedmen); name of the civil official ("police juror") who considered the case; case registration date; and date and summary of the civil official's decision. Frequently, the reports include the subordinate officer's comments on a particular case or on the situation of indigents in general, some list the probable cause of destitution. There are often separate reports for destitute freedmen and whites. Generally, the term "indigent refugee" refers only to whites.

Records Relating to Confiscated and Abandoned Lands

There are three series of closely related monthly reports of confiscated and abandoned lands: retained copies of the Assistant Commissioner's reports, Aug. 13 - Dec. 31, 1865, and Jan. 31, 1867 - Dec. 31, 1868; reports received from subordinate staff officers, Sept. - Nov. 1865 and Jan. 1867 - Feb. 1868; and reports received from Bureau agents, Sept. - Dec. 1865, and July 31, 1868. The first and third series are arranged chronologically; the second series is arranged by staff department and thereunder

African American

chronologically. The reports in the first series are based on information contained in the last two.

The register of freedmen's applications for land, Sept. 1 - Nov. 24, 1865, is arranged numerically by date of receipt of application.

There are two volumes of registers of applications of former owners for restoration of their property. Volume 1, July 20 - 27, 1865, is arranged chronologically by date of the first application filed. Volume 2, Oct. 31, 1865 - Apr. 19, 1866, is arranged by assigned number. A name index, which is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of applicant's surname, is bound in the front of volume 2.

The Assistant Commissioner's monthly reports of property returned to owners, Oct. 1865 - Dec. 1867, are arranged chronologically.

Records Relating to Murders and Outrages

The register of murders and outrages, May 10 - Dec. 20, 1868, is arranged by month, thereunder by parish, and thereunder chronologically.

The unbound series of miscellaneous reports and lists relating to murders and outrages, Mar. 1867 - Nov. 1868, received from subordinate and field officers is arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically. Included are a few retained copies of the Assistant Commissioner's reports of murders and outrages. The lists provide consolidated information on all incidents reported for a particular period.

Personnel Records

Rosters of officers and civilians on duty in Bureau staff offices in Louisiana, Aug. - Dec. 1865, Jan. - Sept. 1867, and Jan., Aug., and Dec. 1868, are arranged chronologically. The names in each report are arranged by staff department; some also are divided into sections for military and civilian personnel.

The register of officers, agents, and clerks, 1867-68, is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of individual and thereunder by position (officer, agent, or clerk). There are only a few entries for 1865-66.

The reports of civilians employed by the Superintendent of Education, Sept. - Dec. 1865 and Mar. 1867, the medical department, Sept. 30, 1867-Mar. 12, 1868, the Provost Marshal General of Freedmen, Oct. 31, 1865, the plantation department, Oct. 31, 1865, and various sub-assistant commissioners, Sept. - Nov. 1865 and Sept. 23 - Oct. 14, 1867, are arranged by office and thereunder chronologically. The records consist primarily of tabular reports that include rosters, reports of officers and civilians on duty, and reports of changes.

The monthly reports of persons and articles hired, Oct. - Dec. 1865, Nov. - Dec. 1866, and Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1868, are arranged chronologically by month. Although the series includes retained copies of the Assistant Commissioner's reports, most of the records consist of reports received from the offices of the Chief Quartermaster, the Superintendent of Education, and the Surgeon-in-Chief. The reports were prepared on tabular forms, with each entry giving the name of the person or type of article hired, occupation or use, number of days employed or rented, rate of compensation, and the amount of compensation due. Included are a few consolidated reports covering periods of more than 1 month.

The series of monthly reports of changes in personnel, Aug. - Dec. 1865, and Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1868, is arranged chronologically. Entries are arranged by type of personnel action taken (assignment, relief, or change of duty station) and include name, rank, occupation, dates of service, and other information.

Volume (31) contains a 1-page list of 10 names of agents dismissed, relieved, or transferred during the period Oct. 17 - Nov. 10, 1868. Arranged chronologically by date of order, the entries also include duties, station, and order number for each personnel action.

The volume of accounts with subordinate officers, June 1, 1866 - May 11, 1867, is arranged by duty station and thereunder by name of agent. Each entry lists the name of an agent, reason for the monetary transaction, and amount. Only a few transactions are recorded in each entry. There is a table of contents at the front of the volume.

Receipt rolls of hired men in the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Oct. - Nov. 1865, Mar. 1866, and Feb. - Apr. 1867, were received by the Assistant Commissioner primarily from the offices of the Chief Quartermaster and the Superintendent of Education, although reports from other staff departments and from parishes are included. Arranged in chronological order, the rolls contain such information as the name and occupation of employee, date paid, period of service, rate of pay, deductions, amount received, and the employee's signature verifying that he received the stated amount.

Miscellaneous Records

Filmed at the end of roll 36 are a small number of miscellaneous reports, lists, estimates, schedules, and other records, arranged chronologically. The reports concern such matters as the activities of the "Collector of the Tax for Colored Schools," the investigation of Bureau Agent Hannon on charges of embezzlement, reactions to an 1865 speech General Howard delivered to the freedmen in New Orleans, and an Assistant Commissioner's biennial report of civilian employees, dated 1867. Other records include a list of robberies committed in connection with a riot in St. Bernard Parish, October 25, 1868; a list of property in New Orleans transferred to the Bureau by the Treasury Department in 1865; estimates of needed rations and funds submitted by subordinate officers; a schedule of property exempt from tax in New Orleans; and various vouchers and receipts.

Letters and telegrams sent:

- M1027-1** Vol. 1 (15) [including index]: June-Nov. 1865;
Name Index to Vol. 2 (17);
Vol. 2 (17): Dec. 1865-Apr. 1867
- M1027-2** Name Index to Vol. 3 (18);
Vol. 3 (18): Apr. - Dec. 1867;
Name Index to Vol. 4 (19);
Vol. 4 (19): Nov. 1867 - July 1868;
Name Index to Vol. 5 (20);
Vol. 5 (20): July 1868 - Apr. 1869

Endorsements sent:

- M1027-3** Vol. 1 (22): July - Sept. 1865;
Name Index to Vol. 2 (23);
Vol. 2 (23), Oct. 1865 - June 1867

African American

M1027-4 Vol. 3 (24): July - Dec. 1867;
Name Index to Vol. 4 (25);
Vol. 4 (25): Jan. - Apr. 1868;
Name Index to Vol. 5 (26);
Vol. 5 (26): Apr. 1868 - Apr. 1869

Registers of letters and telegrams received:

M1027-5 Name Index to Vol. 1 (1);
Vol. 1 (1): July - Dec. 1865;
Name Index (3) to Vol. 2 (2);
Vol. 2 (2): Jan. - Oct. 1866;
Name Index (5) to Vol. 3 (4);
Vol. 3 (4): Oct. 1866 - Feb. 1867;
Name Index (7) to Vol. 4 (6);
Vol. 4 (6): Jan. - Nov. 1867

M1027-6 Name Index (9) to Vol. 5 (8);
Vol. 5 (8): Oct. 1867 - Feb. 1868;
Name Index (11) to Vol. 6 (10);
Vol. 6 (10): Jan. - Sept. 1868;
Name Index (13) to Vol. 7 (12);
Vol. 7 (12): June 1868 - Jan. 1869;
Vol. 8 (14), Jan. - May 1869

Registered letters and telegrams received:

M1027-7 A-B: 1865
M1027-8 C-F: 1865
M1027-9 G-K: 1865
M1027-10 L-Mc: 1865
M1027-11 M-R: 1865
M1027-12 R-S: 1865
M1027-13 T-Z: 1865; Y-Z: 1866
M1027-14 A-D: 1867
M1027-15 E-G: 1867
M1027-16 H: 1867
M1027-17 I-L: 1867
M1027-18 M-P: 1867
M1027-19 R: 1867
M1027-20 S-T: 1867
M1027-21 U-Y: 1867
M1027-22 A-L: 1868
M1027-23 M-V: 1868
M1027-24 W: 1868

Unregistered letters and telegrams received:

M1027-25 Letters: May 1865 - Feb. 1869
Telegrams: May - Dec. 1865, Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1868

Issuances:

M1027-26 Orders, Circulars, and Other Directives Issued and Received, Vol. (27): May 1865 - Aug. 1868
Unbound Orders and Circulars Issued and Received: Mar. 1865 - Dec. 1868
Fair Copies of Orders and Circulars Issued, Vol. (28): Oct. 1867 - Apr. 1869

Reports of operations and conditions in Louisiana:

M1027-27 Annual Narrative Reports: Oct. 1866 - Oct. 1868
Monthly Narrative Reports: June 1867 - Nov. 1868
Register of Reports Received From Subordinate

Officers Vol. (36): Dec. 1867 - Dec. 1868
Narrative Tri-monthly Reports from Subordinate Officers: Feb. 1866 - Dec. 1867

Reports relating to the condition of freedmen and refugees:

M1027-28 Assistant Inspector General's Consolidated Reports on Conditions of Freedmen on the Plantations: Jan. - Aug. 1866, May - Nov. 1868
Inspection Reports of Plantations from Subordinate Officers: Jan. - May 1866

M1027-29 Inspection Reports of Plantations from Subordinate Officers: Jun. 1866 - Jul. 1867

M1027-30 Inspection Reports of Plantations from Subordinate Officers: Aug. 1867 - Apr. 1868

M1027-31 Inspection Reports of Plantations from Subordinate Officers: May - Dec. 1868

M1027-32 Reports of Indigent Refugees and Freedmen from Subordinate Officers: Jan. 1867 - Mar. 1868

M1027-33 Reports of Indigent Refugees and Freedmen from Subordinate Officers: Apr. - Nov. 1868

Records relating to confiscated and abandoned lands:

M1027-34 Retained Copies of the Assistant Commissioner's Reports: Aug. - Dec. 1865, Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1868
Reports Received from Subordinate Staff Officers: Sept. - Nov. 1865, Jan. 1867 - Feb. 1868
Reports Received from Bureau Agents: Sept. - Dec. 1865 and July 1868
Register of Applications of Freedmen for Land, Vol. (77): Sept. - Nov. 1865
Registers of Applications for Restoration of Property Vol. 1 (75): July 1865
Registers of Applications for Restoration of Property Vol. 2 (76): Oct. 1865 - Apr. 1866
Assistant Commissioner's Monthly Reports of Property Returned to Owners: Oct. 1865 - Dec. 1867

Records relating to murders and outrages:

Register of Murders and Outrages, Vol. (30): May - Dec. 1868
Miscellaneous Reports and Lists Relating to Murders and Outrages: Mar. 1867 - Nov. 1868

Personnel records:

Rosters of Officers and Civilians on Duty: Aug. - Dec. 1865; Jan. - Sept. 1867; Jan., Aug., and Dec. 1868
Register of Officers, Agents, and Clerks, Vol. (29): 1867-68
Reports of Employed Civilians: Sep. 1865 - Mar. 1868
Monthly Reports of Persons and Articles Hired: Oct. - Dec. 1865, Nov. - Dec. 1866, and Jan. - Apr. 1867

M1027-35 Monthly Reports of Persons and Articles Hired: May - Dec. 1867

M1027-36 Monthly Reports of Persons and Articles Hired: Jan. - Dec. 1868
Monthly Reports of Changes in Personnel: Aug. - Dec. 1865, Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1868

African American

List of Agents Dismissed, Relieved, or Transferred, Vol. (31): Oct. - Nov. 1868
Accounts with Subordinate Officers, Vol. (37): June 1866 - May 1867
Receipt Rolls of Hired Men in the Office of Assistant Commissioner: Oct. - Nov. 1865, Mar. 1866, and Feb. - Apr. 1867
Miscellaneous records: 1865-69

AFRICAN AMERICAN –MISSISSIPPI –ABANDONED LANDS

Records Of The Assistant Commissioner For The State of Mississippi Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1869.

On the 50 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. They consist of 41 volumes and approximately 30 feet of unbound records. The volumes include letters and endorsements sent; registers of letters received; orders issued and received; registers of indentures and marriages; a register of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received; and index books. The unbound records consist mainly of letters received, orders, reports, freedmen's labor contracts, and a few miscellaneous papers. Created or received in the office of the Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi, the records generally are addressed to or bear the signature of either the Assistant Commissioner or the Acting Assistant Adjutant General. The records are among the Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105.

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, often referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established under the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507). Congress assigned to the Bureau responsibilities that previously had been shared by military commanders and by agents of the Treasury Department. The duties included supervision of matters concerning refugees, freedmen, and abandoned property. Under the provisions of the initial legislation, the Bureau was to have been terminated 1 year after the close of the Civil War. It was twice extended by laws of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). Its functions were limited by an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), effective January 1869, to education and assistance in the collection of claims. Remaining Bureau functions were terminated following the discontinuance of the Bureau in 1872, in accordance with a law of June 10 of that year (17 Stat. 366).

In May 1865 the President appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard Commissioner of the Bureau. Howard, who served until the Bureau was discontinued, maintained his headquarters at Washington, D.C. Assistant commissioners supervised the work of the Bureau in the States.

The first Assistant Commissioner of Mississippi was Col. Samuel Thomas, who established his headquarters at Vicksburg in June 1865.¹ Although the size and organization of the office varied from time to time, the Assistant Commissioner's staff usually included an Acting Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Surgeon in Chief, a Superintendent of Education, a Disbursing Officer, and a Chief Commissary of Subsistence.

At first the officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner were organized in an hierarchical manner. The State of Mississippi and the parishes of Madison, Carroll, Concordia, and Tensas in northeastern Louisiana were divided into the Western, Southern, and Northern Districts, with an Acting Assistant Commissioner in charge of each district. Subassistant commissioners in charge of subdistricts, which usually encompassed several counties, reported directly to the Acting Assistant Commissioners, who, in turn, reported to the Assistant Commissioner. In January 1866 the Louisiana parishes were placed within the jurisdiction of the Assistant Commissioner for Louisiana. In March 1866 the three districts were discontinued; thereafter, the subassistant commissioners or the civilian agents in charge of subdistricts reported directly to the Assistant Commissioner.

The policies and programs of the Freedmen's Bureau in Mississippi were established by the Assistant Commissioner and administered primarily through subordinate officers. Bureau officials, in cooperation with benevolent societies, established schools for freedmen and issued food, clothing, and medical supplies to refugees and freedmen. They approved or disapproved freedmen's labor contracts and indentures, investigated freedmen's complaints, kept registers of the marriages of freedmen, and helped black soldiers and sailors to file and collect claims for bounties, pensions, and pay arrearage. In addition, the Assistant Commissioner maintained several freedmen's hospitals and colonies for destitute freedmen, and provided transportation to return refugees to their homes or to convey freedmen to distant jobs.

In 1865 and 1866 much of the work of the Assistant Commissioner concerned the custody of abandoned property of former supporters of the Confederacy. Officers of the Bureau leased much of the abandoned property and used the proceeds to finance Bureau activities. The Assistant Commissioner maintained colonies for destitute freedmen on several of the abandoned plantations and sometimes utilized abandoned buildings as Bureau offices. The Assistant Commissioner, however, with the approval of the Commissioner of the Bureau, restored most of the property to former owners who signed loyalty oaths or received Presidential pardons.

Colonel Thomas was succeeded by three other officers who acted as both assistant commissioners and military commanders in Mississippi. In April 1866 Gen. Thomas J. Wood was appointed Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi; he was succeeded in January 1867 by Gen. Alvan C. Gillem. Appointed Assistant Commissioner in March 1869, Gen. Adelbert Ames established his headquarters at Jackson and supervised the closing of the office of the Assistant Commissioner. The appointment of General Ames was revoked April 30, 1869.

When the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished, its records were sent to the Office of the Adjutant General. Clerks in the Adjutant General's Office numbered the volumes or book records and prepared "indexes" or lists of these books. In this microfilm publication the number assigned to the volume by the clerks in the Adjutant General's Office appears in parenthesis. This number is useful only as a more precise method of identifying the volume.

African American

Series Listings and Remarks

Letters Sent:

The seven letter books, June 1865-May 1869, consist of present copies of letters, telegrams, and reports sent by the Assistant Commissioner and the Acting Assistant Adjutant General. The communications in the letter books are generally arranged in chronological order. There are name indexes in each of the first six volumes, and there are also subject index books for the first three volumes. Filmed before the seventh letter book is a name index prepared by the National Archives.

Frequently noted in the first three volumes are the entry numbers of letters received relating to the communications in the letter books. Sometimes citations of special orders or endorsements relating to the letters are also given.

Endorsements Sent:

According to the record keeping practices of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner or the Acting Assistant Adjutant General wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or statements were copied into endorsement books with a summary of the content of the incoming communication and also the previous endorsements that had been written on the communication.

The three volumes of endorsements sent, June 1865-May 1869, are generally arranged chronologically. In the left margin of the pages in the endorsement books are the names of the persons or titles of the officers to whom the endorsements were sent. There are frequently references in the style of a fraction in the left margin also. The numerator is the number of the page in the same volume on which a preceding endorsement to the same addressee appears, and the denominator is the number of the page on which there is a subsequent endorsement. Usually noted is the entry number of the incoming letter in the register of letters received or the page number of a previous endorsement written by the office of the Assistant Commissioner on the communication. There are name index books for each of the endorsement books and also a subject index book for the first volume. Since the name index books for the first and third endorsement books are incomplete, the National Archives has prepared additions to both indexes.

Registers of Letters Received:

Another record keeping practice of the day was the entering of incoming communications into registers of letters received. The registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the date of the letter, the place from which it was written, an abstract of its contents, the date of receipt of the letter, and the entry number assigned to it. Often there are notations in the left margin of the page in the register indicating action taken regarding the communication, such as the page number of an endorsement or a letter subsequently written in response to the letter received.

The entries in the five volumes of registers of letters received, June 1865-May 1869, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter

of the surname or office of the sender and thereunder by date of receipt of the communication. Each entry was assigned a number, with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division in the first four registers. The fifth register has a numerical sequence for each year within each alphabetical division.

Communications from staff officers, written at the direction of their commanding officers, are usually entered in the name of the superior officer. Letters from the executive departments of the U.S. Government are entered under the first letter of the department's or bureau's title: "W" for War Department, "P" for the President of the United States, and "R" for the headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Communications from the Assistant Commissioner's staff or subordinate officers in Mississippi are usually entered in the name of the sender.

There are name and subject indexes in the first register, and name and subject index books for the second register. The remaining registers have name index books.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the registers often proved insufficient, it was necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives has filmed the registers in corrected order so that the pages are no longer necessarily in numerical sequence. Blank pages have not been filmed.

The dates given for each register refer to the dates that the first and the last letters entered in that register were received in the office of the Assistant Commissioner. Although the inclusive dates received of the first three registers overlap, the first register contains only those letters written in 1865; the second register, those letters written in 1866; and the third register, those letters written in 1867.

Not all of the letters entered in the registers are still among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. Some letters were forwarded to the Bureau headquarters at Washington; others were referred to staff officers or sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has placed an asterisk in the registers near the entry numbers of the letters that are in the series of registered letters received. Often, related letters were filed together in the series of registered letters received. Notations in the registers, beneath the entry numbers of related letters filed together, indicate the location of the collective file in the series.

Letters Received:

The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner and the Acting Assistant Adjutant General are in two unbound series, registered letters and unregistered letters.

The letters and telegrams entered in the registers of letters received, June 1865-May 1869, are arranged in the order in which they are entered in the registers. The series also includes those reports received by the Assistant Commissioner that were entered in the registers of letters received. The reports are primarily monthly narrative reports from subassistant commissioners and civilian agents, and most are dated 1865 and 1866. The file citation includes the entry number of the letter, telegram, or report, and the year.

The unregistered letters and telegrams, August 1865-April 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial

African American

letter of the surname of the correspondent. Some of the letters have file citations, but none of the citations are from the registers of the Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi. A name index prepared by the National Archives is filmed before the unregistered letters.

Orders and Circulars:

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are three volumes of issuances, a register of orders received, a printed manual for Bureau officials in Mississippi, and a register of property restored. There is also an unbound series of orders and circulars received.

The volume of general orders and circulars issued by the Assistant Commissioner, June 1865-December 1868, is arranged by type of issuance, thereunder by year, and thereunder numerically. The general orders consist primarily of issuances outlining the general policies of the Bureau. Several of the general orders are reprints of letters of instructions from the Commissioner of the Bureau, the Secretary of War, and the President of the United States. The circulars are mostly policy directives published for the general information and guidance of the Bureau officials in Mississippi. There is a name index book for the general orders.

The volume of special orders and property orders issued by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68, is arranged by type of issuance, thereunder by year, and thereunder numerically. The special orders, June 1865-December 1868, consist of issuances concerning specific individuals on matters such as transportation, appointments, special assignments, and purchases. The property orders, August 1865-August 1866, consist of directives restoring abandoned lands and buildings to their former owners. Name index books for both the special orders and the property orders have been filmed before the issuances to which they refer.

The "scrapbook" of orders and circulars issued and received, 1967-68, consists of printed orders and circulars that have been pasted in the volume. The "scrapbook" includes the following: Orders issued by Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, Commander of the 4th Military District; general orders and circulars issued by Assistant Commissioner Gillem; and general orders and a circular issued by Gillem in his capacity as Military Commander of the Subdistrict of Mississippi. The volume is arranged by origin of order, thereunder by type of order, and thereunder chronologically.

The register of orders and circulars received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1866, provides such information as the origin of the issuance, the date and number of the issuance, and an abstract of its contents. Most of the orders are from Bureau headquarters at Washington, military commanders, or subordinate officials of the Bureau in Mississippi. The entries in the register are arranged and numbered chronologically.

The digest of orders and instructions to subassistant commissioners was compiled in the office of the Assistant Commissioner and printed in 1866. The manual includes copies of several orders and circulars and summaries of instructions on bookkeeping methods and on such subjects relating to freedmen as contracts, the administration of justice, orphans, vagrancy, and marriage.

The entries in the register of property restored by the Assistant Commissioner, July-October 1865, usually provide such

information as the date of the application for the restoration of property, the name of the applicant, a description of the property, and the date and number of the order that returned the property. The register is generally arranged chronologically according to the date the property was restored. There is a name index in the volume.

The unbound series of orders and circulars received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68, is arranged by type of order, and thereunder chronologically. The series includes general orders, special orders, and circulars.

Reports:

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are six unbound series of reports and one volume of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received. None of the reports in the series of unbound or bound reports were entered in the registers of letters received.

The narrative reports received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68, consist of monthly reports from subassistant commissioners and civilian agents, and concern destitution, complaints of freedmen, freedmen's labor contracts and marital problems, administration of State laws, and general operations of the subdistricts. The reports are generally arranged chronologically, and most of them are dated 1867 and 1868.

The series of land reports, 1865-66, consists of monthly tabular reports compiled by special agents of the Treasury Department, acting assistant commissioners, and subassistant commissioners. Arranged chronologically, the reports describe abandoned property and its use by the Bureau. Also included is a list compiled in the office of the Assistant Commissioner of property transferred to the Assistant Commissioner for Louisiana in January 1866.

The series of ration reports, August 1865-March 1869, consists of monthly tabular reports received from subassistant commissioners, hospitals, and orphanages. Arranged chronologically, the reports list the numbers of refugees and freedmen issued rations, clothing, or medical supplies.

The series of miscellaneous reports from subordinate officers, 1865-67, includes tabular reports from subassistant commissioners, hospitals, and orphanages. The series includes statistical reports on the rations, contracts, indentures, and marriages of freedmen, and also reports on persons and articles hired. The series is arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically.

There is also a small series of miscellaneous reports from staff officers, July 1865-October 1867. The series includes tabular and narrative reports from the Receiving and Disbursing Officers, Assistant Inspector General, Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Superintendent of Schools, Surgeon in Chief, and Commissary of Subsistence. The reports are arranged chronologically.

Finally, the series of unbound reports includes a short series of tabular reports compiled by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-69. The series consists of monthly reports of Assistant Commissioners Thomas and Gillem concerning rations, transportation, and rents. The reports are arranged chronologically.

The entries in the register of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received by the Assistant Commissioner, January 1866-August

African American

1867, are generally arranged and numbered chronologically. Most of the reports, vouchers, and requisitions registered are from Bureau officials in Mississippi, and concern financial matters that were subsequently referred to the Receiving and Disbursing Officers. There is a name index in the register. Also contained within the volume is a register of letters received by the Freedmen's Department, January-March 1865.

A small series of miscellaneous records, 1865-68, is filmed immediately after the reports. The series includes several letters and affidavits relating to the transportation of freedmen, receipts, indentures, and a deed to school property. The records are arranged in chronological order.

Citation Book, Oaths of Office, and Rosters:

The station book, 1865-66, lists the name of an officer or civilian on duty in the Bureau, his station, the positions held, the date and order assigning him to duty, and the date and order relieving him from duty. The volume is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the officer or civilian. The number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the citation book sometimes proved insufficient, and the entries for a particular alphabetical division were continued elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives has filmed the station book in corrected order so that the pages are no longer necessarily in numerical sequence.

A small series of oaths of office, 1865-68, contains oaths signed by employees of the Bureau in Mississippi. According to an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), every person elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States was required to take an oath of loyalty to the United States. The oaths are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the signee.

The unbound rosters of officers and civilians on duty in the Freedmen's Bureau in Mississippi, March 1865-April 1869, are primarily monthly reports on printed forms compiled by the Assistant Commissioner, staff officers, and subassistant commissioners. Arranged in chronological order, the rosters list officers on duty, citizen employees, enlisted men on duty, and changes in commissioned officers. Some of the rosters are entered in the registers of letters received by the Assistant Commissioner.

Registers of Indentures and Marriages of Freedmen:

The Register of Indentures of Colored Orphans, August 1865-May 1866, includes such information as the date of the indenture, name and age of the orphan, term of the agreement, and the name and residence of the employer. There are only four pages in the register, in addition to two pages of duplicate indentures pasted in the volume. The entries in the register are arranged chronologically.

There are four registers of the marriages of freedmen, 1863-66. Each entry provides such information as the name, residence, and age of the couple married; date of their marriage; their color and the color of their parents; and the names of the minister and witnesses to the ceremony. The second register contains a list of ministers in Mississippi accredited by the War Department to conduct marriage services. The entries within the first, second, and fourth registers are generally arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the husband, and thereunder

chronologically. The third register is arranged chronologically. The entries dated before July 1865 in the registers were compiled by the Freedmen's Department.

Labor Contracts of Freedmen:

The unbound freedmen's labor contracts, January 1865-November 1868, consist of agreements between planters and freedmen that were approved or disapproved by Bureau officials. In return for the labor of the freedmen, planters usually promised to pay them a specified wage in addition to providing them with food, clothing, living quarters, and medical attention. The contracts are arranged chronologically by the month approved or disapproved by the Bureau. Contracts dated before July 1865 were approved by the Provost Marshal of Freedmen.

Related Records:

Also in Record Group 105 are records of the Bureau headquarters in Washington, some of which have been reproduced as microfilm publications. The letters and endorsements sent and the orders and circulars issued by Commissioner Howard are available as *Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872* (M742). The registers and letters received are available as *Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872* (M752). The records of the Education Division have been reproduced as *Records of the Education Division, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871* (M803).

Other microfilm publications of records in Record Group 105 are *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869* (M798), *Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870* (M799), *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869* (M809), and *Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870* (M810).

Record Group 105 also contains records created by the staff officers of the Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi, subordinate officers in Mississippi, and the Freedmen's Department.

Many records relating to the Freedmen's Bureau are in other record groups in the National Archives. There are records of military districts and departments in Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393; records of abandoned property in Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department, Record Group 366; and records of the Freedmen's Savings Bank in Records of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Record Group 101. Record Group 393 also includes records relating to the Freedmen's Department and the Provost Marshal of Freedman.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared for filming by L. Marie Bouknight, who also wrote these introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

¹Before his appointment to the Freedmen's Bureau, Colonel Thomas served in Mississippi within Chaplain John Eaton's

African American

"Freedmen's Department" of the Department of the Tennessee. During the Civil War, several commanders of military departments delegated the superintendence of freedmen's affairs in occupied areas to special organizations, often referred to as "Freedmen's Departments." The functions and activities of the Freedmen's Department in Mississippi were similar to those of the later Freedmen's Bureau.

Letters Sent:

- M826-1** Subject Index (15) to Volume 1;
Volume 1 (14) June 22-Nov. 4, 1865;
Subject Index to Volume 2;
Volume 2 (16) Nov. 4, 1865-May 29, 1866
- M826-2** Subject Index to Volume 3;
Volume 3 (17) May 29-Oct. 31, 1866;
Volume 4 (18) Nov. 1, 1866-June 13, 1867
- M826-3** Volume 5 (19) June 14-Oct. 17, 1867;
Volume 6 (20) Oct. 19, 1867-Sept. 28, 1868;
Volume 7 (21) Sept. 26, 1868-May 1, 1869

Endorsements Sent:

- M826-4** Name Index (24) to Volume 1;
Subject Index (25) to Volume 1;
Volume 1 (23) June 26, 1865-Aug. 15, 1867;
Name Index (28) to Volume 2;
Volume 2 (26) Aug. 15, 1867-Dec. 31, 1867
- M826-5** Name Index (30) to Volume 3;
Volume 3 (29) Jan. 1, 1868-May 3, 1869

Registers of Letters Received:

- M826-6** Volume 1 (1) June 1865-Feb. 1866;
Name Index (5) to Volume 2;
Subject Index (6) to Volume 2;
Volume 2 (4) Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867;
Name Index (8) to Volume 3;
Volume 3 (7) Jan. 1867-Aug. 1867
- M826-7** Name Index (10) to Volume 4;
Volume 4 (9) Aug.-Dec. 1867;
Name Index (12) to Volume 5;
Volume 5 (11) Jan. 1868-May 1869

Letters Received:

- M826-8** Entered in Volume 1 June 1865-Feb. 1866: A - C
- M826-9** Entered in Volume 1 June 1865-Feb. 1866: D - F
- M826-10** Entered in Volume 1 June 1865-Feb. 1866: G - L
- M826-11** Entered in Volume 1 June 1865-Feb. 1866: M - R
- M826-12** Entered in Volume 1 June 1865-Feb. 1866: S - Z
- M826-13** Entered in Volume 2 Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867: A - F
- M826-14** Entered in Volume 2 Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867: G - L
- M826-15** Entered in Volume 2 Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867: M - Q
- M826-16** Entered in Volume 2 Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867: R
- M826-17** Entered in Volume 2 Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867: S - Y
- M826-18** Entered in Volume 3 Jan.- Aug. 1867: A - G
- M826-19** Entered in Volume 3 Jan.-Aug. 1867: H - P
- M826-20** Entered in Volume 3 Jan.-Aug. 1867: R - W
- M826-21** Entered in Volume 4 Aug.-Dec. 1867: A - N
- M826-22** Entered in Volume 4 Aug.-Dec. 1867: O - Y
- M826-23** Entered in Volume 5 Jan. 1868-May 1869: A - G
- M826-24** Entered in Volume 5 Jan. 1868-May 1869: H - O

- M826-25** Entered in Volume 5 Jan. 1868-May 1869: P - R
- M826-26** Entered in Volume 5 Jan. 1868-May 1869: S - W
- M826-27** Unregistered Aug. 1865-Apr. 1869

Orders and Circulars:

- M826-28** Name Index (32) to General Orders;
General Orders and Circulars Issued (31) June 1865-Dec. 1868;
Name Index (34) to Special Orders;
Name Index (35) to Property Orders;
Special Orders and Property Orders Issued (33) 1865-68;
Scrapbook of Orders and Circulars (37) 1867-68;
Register of Orders and circulars Received (36) 1866;
Digest of Orders and Instructions to Subassistant Commissioners 866;
Register of Property Restored (39) July-Oct. 1865
- M826-29** Orders and Circulars Issued and Received 1865-68

Reports:

- M826-30** Narrative Reports From Subordinate Officers Aug. 1865-Oct. 1867
- M826-31** Narrative Reports From Subordinate Officers Nov.-Dec. 1867
- M826-32** Narrative Reports From Subordinate Officers Jan.-June 1868
- M826-33** Narrative Reports From Subordinate Officers July-Dec. 1868
- M826-34** Land Reports 1865-66
- M826-35** Ration Reports Aug. 1865-Dec. 1866
- M826-36** Ration Reports Jan. 1867-Mar. 1869
- M826-37** Miscellaneous Reports From Subordinate Officers 1865-67;
Miscellaneous Reports From Staff Officers July 1865-Oct. 1867;
Tabular Reports of the Assistant Commissioner 1865-69;
Register of Reports, Vouchers and Requisitions Received (13) Jan. 1866-Aug. 1867;
Miscellaneous Records 1865-68

Station Book, Oaths, and Rosters:

- M826-38** Station Book (38) 1865-66;
Oaths of Office 1865-68;
Rosters Mar. 1865-May 1866
- M826-39** Rosters June 1866-June 1867
- M826-40** Rosters July-Dec. 1867
- M826-41** Rosters Jan. 1868-Apr. 1869

Indentures, Marriages, and Labor Contracts:

- M826-42** Register of Indentures of Colored Orphans (42) Aug. 1865-May 1866;
Register of Marriages of Freedmen Volume 1 (43) 1863-65;
Register of Marriages of Freedmen Volume 2 (44) 1864-65;
Register of Marriages of Freedmen Volume 3 (45) 1865;

African American

Register of Marriages of Freedmen Volume 4 (46)

1864-66

- M826-43** Labor Contracts of Freedmen Jan.-June 1865
- M826-44** Labor Contracts of Freedmen July 1865
- M826-45** Labor Contracts of Freedmen July-Aug. 1865
- M826-46** Labor Contracts of Freedmen Aug. 1865
- M826-47** Labor Contracts of Freedmen Aug.-Sept. 1865
- M826-48** Labor Contracts of Freedmen Oct. 1865-Dec. 1865
- M826-49** Labor Contracts of Freedmen Jan. 1866
- M826-50** Labor Contracts of Freedmen Feb. 1866-Nov. 1868

AFRICAN AMERICAN—NORTH CAROLINA —ABANDONED LANDS

Records Of The Assistant Commissioner For The State of North Carolina Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1870

On the 38 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of North Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70. The records consist of 32 volumes and approximately 20 linear feet of unbound records. The volumes include letters and endorsements sent; registers of letters received; telegrams sent and received; special orders, general orders, and circulars; registers of persons recommended as inspectors of elections; a register of apprentices indentured; and index books. The unbound series consist mainly of letters received, orders, reports, and freedmen's Labor contracts. These documents were created or received by the Assistant Commissioner, the Acting Assistant Commissioner, or either of two staff officers who acted for the Assistant Commissioner. The records are part of the Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105.

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, often referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507). Congress assigned to the Bureau responsibilities that previously had been shared by military commanders and by agents of the Treasury Department. The duties included supervision of all affairs relating to refugees, freedmen, and the custody of abandoned lands and property. Under provisions of the initial legislation, the Bureau was to have been terminated 1 year after the close of the Civil War. It was twice extended by laws of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). Its functions were limited to education and assistance in the collection of claims by an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), effective January 1869. Remaining Bureau functions were terminated following the discontinuance of the Bureau in 1872, in accordance with a law of June 10 of that year (17 Stat. 366).

In May 1865 the President appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard Commissioner of the Bureau. Howard, who served until the Bureau was discontinued, maintained his headquarters at Washington, D.C. Assistant commissioners supervised the work of the Bureau in the States.

Col. Eliphalet Whittlesey, the first Assistant Commissioner of North Carolina, established his headquarters at Raleigh in June 1865. Although the size and organization of the staff of the Assistant Commissioner varied from time to time, it usually included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector

General, a Surgeon in Chief, a Superintendent of Education, and a Disbursing Officer.

The policies and programs of the Freedmen's Bureau in North Carolina were established by the Assistant Commissioner and administered through his subordinate officers. Bureau officials, often in cooperation with benevolent societies, established schools for freedmen and issued food, clothing, and medical supplies to refugees and freedmen. They also approved or disapproved freedmen's labor contracts and indentures, investigated freedmen's complaints, and helped black soldiers and sailors to file and collect claims for bounties, pensions, and pay arrearages. The Assistant Commissioner maintained several freedmen's hospitals and colonies for the destitute, and provided transportation to return refugees to their homes or to convey freedmen to distant jobs.

During 1865 and 1866 much of the work of the Assistant Commissioner related to the custody of abandoned property of former supporters of the Confederacy. Officers of the Bureau leased much of the abandoned property and used the proceeds to finance Bureau activities. Sometimes buildings were utilized as Bureau offices and several abandoned plantations were used by the Assistant Commissioner as freedmen's camps or colonies. However, the Assistant Commissioner restored most of the property, as the Commissioner directed, to former owners who signed loyalty oaths or received Presidential pardons.

The first Assistant Commissioner divided North Carolina into four districts--with headquarters located at Newbern, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Goldsboro--and thereunder into subdistricts. The officers in charge of districts were designated superintendents and those in charge of subdistricts, assistant superintendents. On July 1, 1867, the basic unit of organization for the State was changed to the subdistrict. Eleven subdistricts were established, each containing from two to four further subdivisions. The officers in charge of the subdistricts were designated sub-assistant commissioners, and those who administered smaller segments of the subdistrict were titled assistant sub-assistant commissioners. Each of the sub-assistant commissioners reported directly to the Assistant Commissioner.

March 1, 1868, marked the last change in the organization of the North Carolina Bureau. The State was divided into the four subdistricts of Morganton, Wilmington, Raleigh, and Goldsboro, but there was provision for smaller subdivisions in each subdistrict. This new subdivision of the State resembled the first in organizational structure, although titles for the various officers remained the same as those of the second organizational structure. By May 1869 all of the Bureau offices and functions except education, were phased out in North Carolina, and the Assistant Commissioner closed his office the first week of that month.

The following officers succeeded Col. Eliphalet Whittlesey as Assistant Commissioner of North Carolina: Bvt. Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger, May-June 1866; Bvt. Maj. Gen. John C. Robinson, June-November 1866; Col. James V. Bomford, November 1866-April 1867 (Acting Assistant Commissioner); Bvt. Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, April 1867-October 1868; Bvt. Lt. Col. Jacob F. Chur, October 1868-January 1869; Bvt. Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, February-March 1869; and Bvt. Lt. Col. Charles E. Compton, April-May 1869.

African American

When the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished, its records were sent to the Office of the Adjutant General. Clerks in the Adjutant General's Office numbered the volumes or book records and prepared "indexes" or lists of these books. In this microfilm publication the number assigned to the volume by the clerks in the Adjutant General's Office appears in parenthesis. This number is useful only as a more precise method of identifying the volume.

Letters Sent

The four volumes of letters sent, July 4, 1865-April 13, 1869, consist of fair copies of letters sent by the Assistant Commissioner and his Assistant Adjutant General and some of the monthly, quarterly, and annual reports that the Assistant Commissioner sent to the Commissioner. They are arranged chronologically and numbered consecutively, with the exception of the first volume.

In that volume only the communications in the first quarter of the volume are numbered and the annual, monthly, and quarterly reports of the Assistant Commissioner are in the back of the volume rather than in chronological order.

There are name indexes to addressees and persons mentioned in the communications in the last three volumes. In these indexes the number after the name is the file number of the letter. A name index book (addressee only) for the first volume consists of two parts. In the first part, pages 1-160 are only partially indexed, and pages 161-179 are not indexed. The National Archives has prepared the name index for the first 179 pages, which is filmed before the index book for the first volume of letters sent. The second part of the index book indexes both the addressees and the names mentioned. There is a subject index book for part of the first volume. It is merely an incomplete chronological listing of some of the subjects of the letters in the volume.

Frequently in the letters sent volumes there are cross references to related records of the Assistant Commissioner's office. These are written in the form of abbreviations to other series of records and list either the page number or the file number of the related document. The abbreviations "LS" and "LB" refer to the letters sent volumes, "LR" refers to the registers of letters received, and "EB" refers to the endorsement and memorandum books.

Endorsements Sent

According to record keeping practices of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement and memorandum books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner or the Assistant Adjutant General wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or statements were copied into endorsement books, together with a summary of the contents and usually the file number of the incoming communication, which was often preceded by the abbreviation "LR" In the left margin of the pages of the volumes was written either the name of the person to whom the endorsement was sent or from whom the letter or endorsement was received.

The four volumes of endorsements sent, July 11, 1865-April 15, 1869, are arranged chronologically, and in the first volume each

endorsement is numbered. As in the letters sent volumes, there are cross references in the form of abbreviations to related records of the Assistant Commissioner's office.

The first volume has two index books, a name index, and a "subject index" for the first quarter of the volume. The subject index is an incomplete chronological listing of some of the subjects found in the endorsements. For the second volume there is a partial name index book. The National Archives has supplemented this with a name index and has filmed it after the book index. There are name indexes in the two remaining volumes.

Registers of letters Received

Another record keeping practice of the period was to enter incoming communications into registers of letters received. These entries include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, date of the letter, place from which it was written, abstract of its contents, date of receipt of the letter, and the assigned register entry number. Sometimes there are also cross references to related records of the Assistant Commissioner's office in the form of abbreviations, such as "LS" for the letters sent volumes, "EB" for the endorsements, or "SO" for special orders.

The communications entered in the four volumes of registers of letters received by the Assistant Commissioner, July 1865-June 1869, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder chronologically by date received, and are numbered in sequence for each letter of the alphabet. The entries in the last register cover two overlapping periods: January-April 1869 include those letters received by the Assistant Commissioner and March-June 1869, those received by the Superintendent of Education. This register, together with the letters received, has also been filmed as M844, *Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of North Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70*.

The first register has a "subject index," which is an incomplete chronological listing of subjects found in that register. The National Archives has prepared a name index to Register 1. There are name indexes for correspondents and names mentioned for the other volumes. The last register was originally indexed only through February 1869. The National Archives has added to the index of this register those names not previously indexed, which relate to the Assistant Commissioner's office.

Not all letters entered in the registers are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. Some letters were forwarded to Bureau headquarters at Washington, and others were referred to staff officers or sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has placed an asterisk (*) in the registers by the entry number of each letter that is still in the series of registered letters received. The double asterisks (**) indicate letters received by the Superintendent of Education, reproduced on M844. The citation "F/W" (filed with) indicates a letter was filed with a related letter.

Letters Received

The letters received by the Assistant Commissioner and the Assistant Adjutant General are in two unbound series—one of registered letters, the other of unregistered letters.

African American

The registered letters received, July 1865-June 1869, are arranged in the same order in which they were entered in the registers of letters received.

The unregistered letters received, July 1865-March 1869, are those that were received by the Assistant Commissioner's office but were never entered in the registers of letters received. They are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent. According to this filing system, letters received from the Assistant Commissioner when he was away from his office at Raleigh are filed under the letter "A," those from the Commissioner at Washington, D.C., under the letter "C," those from the Office of the Secretary of War or the Adjutant General's Office under "W" for War Department, and those from the State of North Carolina under the letter "N." The National Archives has prepared a name index for these letters and has filmed it at the beginning of each roll of unregistered letters.

Telegrams

There is one volume of telegrams sent and received and an unbound series of telegrams received. The volume containing telegrams is arranged in the following manner: telegrams sent, July 1867-January 1869, in the front of the volume and telegrams received, July 1867 and January 1868-January 1869, are in the back of the volume. Each set is arranged chronologically. The blank pages between the two sets of telegrams have not been filmed. The unbound series of telegrams received, January 1865-December 1868, is also arranged chronologically. Except for telegrams that duplicate those in the bound volume, the entire series has been filmed, including three telegrams in cipher.

Records Relating to the "Boston Fund"

In 1867 a group from Boston, Mass., donated money to purchase food and cloth where the supplies offered by the Government failed to provide proper nourishment and clothing for destitute people, "such as the sick, aged and infirm, and delicate children" regardless of race or political persuasion. William Gray, chairman of this committee, made the arrangements for the aid and asked that he be given information about how the funds were spent in North Carolina so that he could report to the committee. Probably because of this request, a collection of the Assistant Commissioner's records relating to the "Boston Fund" was made. The fund was administered in North Carolina by Assistant Commissioner Nelson A. Miles, Gov. William W. Holden, and R. W. Pulliman and locally by subcommittees in the districts and subdistricts of the State.

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are two short series of records relating to the "Boston Fund": a letters sent volume, June 19, 1867-August 25, 1868, and unbound letters received, May 1867-August 1868. The letters sent volume contains fair copies of letters sent by Bvt. Col. Jacob Chur, the Assistant Adjutant General, to various agents and officers of the Bureau and private citizens explaining the fund's use and granting of money. These chronologically arranged letters begin on page 30. Pages 2-7 were used by the Superintendent of the District of Wilmington; pages 1 and 8-29 are blank and unfiled. The series of unbound letters is arranged chronologically except for a few receipts, invoices, and communications filed together at

the end of 1867 under the title "Ladies Northern Aid Society." The remainder and major part of the records include letters from Gray, from various subcommittees that helped disburse aid, and from private persons, and some receipts and invoices.

Issuances

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are one volume of general orders and circulars issued, three volumes of special orders issued, and unbound series of general orders, circulars, and special orders received.

The volume of general orders and circulars issued by the Assistant Commissioner or his Assistant Adjutant General, July 1, 1865-December 9, 1868, is arranged chronologically. This volume also contains several circular letters interfiled chronologically with general orders and circulars. General orders consist primarily of issuances outlining the general policies of the Bureau. Several of them are reprints of letters of instruction from the Commissioner of the Bureau, the Secretary of War, and the President. The circulars are mostly policy directives published for general information and guidance of Bureau officials in North Carolina. There is a partial "subject index" book for the circulars issued in 1865.

The three volumes of special orders issued by the Assistant Commissioner or his Assistant Adjutant General, June 28, 1865-May 4, 1869, are arranged by year and numbered in sequence. These orders deal with personnel matters and therefore differ from general orders and circulars. Special orders were also used by the Assistant Commissioner in North Carolina to order specific investigations and to restore property. There is a name index for each volume of the special orders. For the first and third volumes the reference is in the form of a fractional citation; the numerator denotes the order number, the denominator the page number. In the second volume the index reference is to page number.

The unbound general orders and circulars (filmed after the general orders and circulars issued) and unbound special orders received (filmed after the special orders issued) by the Assistant Commissioner were issued by the Commissioner's office, the War Department, or the military command of which North Carolina was a part. These three series--general orders received, March 1865-July 1868, circulars received, May 1865-April 1869, and special orders received, July 1865-March 1869--are arranged by type of issuance and thereunder chronologically.

Reports of Operations

Two series of unbound narrative reports were received by the Assistant Commissioner: annual reports from staff officers and semimonthly, monthly, and quarterly reports from subdistrict officers. In addition, there is a series of statistical reports.

The annual reports from staff officers, 1866 and 1867, are arranged by year. They include reports from the Surgeon in Chief, the Chief Quartermaster, the Superintendent of Education, and other subordinate officers.

Semimonthly, monthly, and quarterly reports from officers in charge of subdivisions are arranged by year and thereunder by month. These reports, August-October 1865 and June 1867-December-1868, contain information on destitution, the number of

African American

rations given to white and black persons, crop production, the number of sick, and the number of contracts made.

The tri-monthly, semimonthly, and monthly statistical reports of operations, October 1865-October 1866, January-December 1867, and July-August 1868 are arranged chronologically. These reports, on printed forms, include information about the number of farms worked, contracts made, rations supplied to freedmen, number of people dared for, amount of property held by the Bureau, wages paid to freedmen, and remarks on general conditions. Almost all of these were sent to the Assistant Commissioner by his subordinate officers, but a few summary reports on operations prepared by the Assistant Commissioner are interfiled in the series.

Reports on Sanitary Conditions

In the monthly and semimonthly narrative reports on sanitary conditions, June 1866-December 1868, subordinate officers reported on such matters as the quality of rations offered freedmen, medical care available to them, general conditions of the environment in which they lived, general health of the freedmen, number of houses occupied by freedmen, and number of persons in each house. The reports are arranged chronologically.

Reports of Rations Issued and Related Records

Three of the series are unbound statistical reports submitted, for the most part, on printed forms. These include monthly and quarterly reports of rations issued by subordinate officers, August 1865-December 1868; retained copies of semimonthly, monthly, and quarterly rations reports prepared by the Assistant Commissioner, September 1865-November 1868; and miscellaneous ration reports of subordinate officers, July 1865-December 1868. All are arranged chronologically.

The statistical monthly and quarterly rations reports of subordinate officers list the number of rations issued, the number of people given rations, the number of births and deaths, and other statistics. These reports generally concern camps, colonies, and hospitals operated by the Bureau in North Carolina.

Retained copies of rations reports of the Assistant Commissioner are mostly monthly reports that summarize the same type of information as the above reports, but for the various subdivisions of the State of North Carolina.

The miscellaneous tri-monthly, monthly, and quarterly rations reports are from subordinate officers who reported the clothing, rations, and medicine issued and other statistics.

In addition, there are several brief series of reports or records relating to subsistence rations, rations issued, and destitution. Receipts for rations issued by the Bureau to persons, December 1866-July 1867, are arranged chronologically. These list the color of the person, the number in the family, the amount of rations, and the date, and include the signatures of those receiving rations. The abstracts of subsistence stores received and issued by subordinate officers, December 1866-June 1868, are arranged chronologically and indicate how much corn and pork was on hand or issued and whether issued to whites or blacks.

A few narrative reports on destitution, August-October 1867, and January-June 1868, are arranged chronologically and recount

destitution in the subdistricts reporting. These reports indicate, in particular, whether the county boards of wardens were able to cope with the problem of destitution and provide needed relief. A last, chronologically arranged, miscellaneous series of reports of destitution of 1866 lists some landowners who needed seed to plant crops and some people who needed relief.

Records Relating to Transportation

One of the activities of the Bureau was to furnish transportation to freedmen who could find jobs in places other than where they lived. A series of contracts and related records, arranged as case files, document much of the process by which large groups of freedmen in 1867 contracted to work in States other than North Carolina. Included are contracts between prospective workers and employers, correspondence between Bureau officials and those wishing to make contracts with freedmen, and legal documents. The records indicate that large groups of freedmen who made contracts were transported at Bureau expense to such States as Tennessee, Mississippi, and Texas, where they worked on plantations.

Following this series of records, two short series are filmed--one of transportation order receipts authorized and signed by officials of the Bureau for travel, mainly in North Carolina, January 1867-December 1868, and a series of transportation orders, November 1866-February 1868, which authorized travel for officials of the Bureau and freedmen. Each series is arranged by order number and date.

Records Relating to Personnel

There are one bound and three unbound series of records relating to personnel: a station book for 1867 listing the officers, agents, and clerks in North Carolina; rosters of officers and civilians, September 1865; and January 1867-December 1868; "personal reports," January 1867-December 1868; and oaths of office, July 1866-April 1869.

The lists in the station book are in hierarchical order and give the duty, rank, date, title, and remarks for each number of the Assistant Commissioner's staff. The rosters, arranged chronologically, provide the name, rank, station, and date of appointment for military personnel and the name, station, date of contract, and pay for civilians. The "personal reports" consist of notifications sent to the Assistant Commissioner by officers and agents when they assumed office. They are arranged by year and thereunder by initial letter of surname of the appointee. The oaths of office, which were required of all civilian employees of the Bureau, are arranged by initial letter of signee's surname.

Reports of Persons and Articles Hired

Reports of persons and articles hired in North Carolina by the Bureau are contained in a bound volume and an unbound series. The volume, January 1868-December 1869, and the unbound series, February 1866-April 1869, are arranged by month. They list the name or place, occupation or use, length of service, and rate of pay for persons hired and articles used by the Bureau. The volume for April-December 1869 lists the wages for the Superintendent of Education's immediate staff and the rent paid for schools and their locations. The Superintendent of Education evidently continued to use the volume to register rents and

African American

salaries related to his office after the Assistant Commissioner's office was abolished in the spring of 1869.

Records Relating to Court Cases

The records relating to court cases and the administration of justice, March 1865-June 1868, are arranged chronologically. Included are cases heard under both military and civilian jurisdiction. Statements, depositions, and reports from boards of survey (investigative boards) are among the documents found in this series. The records were produced in cases concerning whippings, beatings, adjudication over crops, and also in cases involving agents or officers of the Bureau accused of misusing funds or property.

There are also a few monthly reports of subordinate officers concerning court cases, February 1867-January 1868, arranged chronologically. They list the name, place, race, offense, judgement, verdict, sanctions, and the solicitors and judges involved in the case.

A few powers of attorney, dated March and September 1867, are also in the Assistant Commissioner's records and have been filmed after the above series.

Registers and Reports of Registrars Recommended for the Election of Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1868

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are two volumes that register the unbound reports containing recommendations of people to serve as registrars and inspectors for the election of delegates to the North Carolina constitutional convention, which met in January 1868. The registry volumes, dated 1867, are arranged by county, using a numerical system, and contain indexes. The reports, April-June 1867, are arranged numerically, except for the last third, which are chronologically arranged. Most of the reports were provided by Bureau officials, but some were provided by private individuals. Information given in the reports and registers includes the name of the person recommended, occupation, color, age, resident status, length of residence, person who recommended him as a delegate to the convention, and such remarks as: "Union man," "served in Union Army," or "intelligent."

Reports of Outrages and Arrests

This unbound series of semimonthly reports from subordinate officers of outrages, whites against blacks and blacks against whites, usually includes the date, place, by whom and against whom the outrage was committed, the nature of the outrage, the action taken, and remarks about the incident. These are arranged chronologically, June 1866-December 1868.

Following this has been filmed a series of semimonthly reports of arrests submitted by subordinate officers, August 1866-December 1868. A few of the Assistant Commissioner's reports summarizing his officers' reports are interfiled in this series. Information included in these reports is the date, name of the person arrested, place of residence, complaint, name of the complainant, place where the arrested person was confined, and remarks on the arrest. The reports are arranged chronologically.

Freedmen's Labor Contracts

As part of the Bureau's function the officers and agents were responsible for the protection of the legal rights of freedmen, which included assistance in drawing up contracts for labor. There is a series of contracts, January 1865-October 1868, which is arranged chronologically. These agreements between freedmen laborers and employers stated such terms of employment as pay, clothing, and medical care due the freedmen, the part of the crop retained by freedmen, and sometimes whether a plot of ground for growing subsistence crops was to be provided for the freedman.

Records Relating to Indentures

Another area where Bureau officials were concerned with freedmen's rights was indenturing or apprenticeships. Underaged children who were not or could not be supported by their parents were apprenticed by Bureau officials to persons who would be responsible for their upbringing and welfare. There is an unbound series of indentures, September 1865-August 1867, arranged chronologically. Some cancellations are among the 1867 indentures, probably because in that year the North Carolina Supreme Court invalidated indentures.

A register of indentures, December 1865-June 1866, arranged in numerical sequence, provides the date, name of the person indentured, name of the officer who officiated, and name of the custodian to whom the person was indentured.

Records Relating to Lands and Property

There are three unbound series relating to property. The largest is the monthly statistical reports of lands under Bureau control, July 1865-December 1868, with some undated reports at the end of the series. These chronologically arranged reports were made by subordinate officers to the Assistant Commissioner, and there are a few of the Assistant Commissioner's summary reports interfiled in the series. The reports list the owner, county, boundaries, date and how gained, date and how lost, why held, total acres, acres cultivated, buildings, and remarks on the property.

A brief series of miscellaneous land reports, March 1865-November 1868, lists plantations and buildings rented or abandoned and under custody of the Bureau. These are arranged chronologically.

Another brief series contains deeds for schools and churches and some leases of lands. These date 1866-70 for the most part, but there are three from 1862-63. They are chronologically arranged.

Records Relating to Accounts and Claims

Records related to accounts and claims are in four unbound series and one volume.

Retained copies of reports of funds on hand sent to the Commissioner at Washington, D.C., make up one series. This is arranged chronologically and dated May-December 1867. The Disbursing Officer's weekly and monthly reports of funds and expenditures, June 1866-April 1869, are arranged chronologically. They list either expenditures, including purpose and amount, or funds on deposit, including place and amount.

The volume is a short list of vouchers received, February 1868-February 1869, by the Assistant Commissioner's office. The name, date, nature of charge, and amount are listed.

African American

One of the claims series consists of monthly reports of the claims division of North Carolina, October 1866-April 1869. Chronologically arranged, these show the number and type of claim and amounts collected by the claims officer. The other claims series is a group of miscellaneous claims for arrears in pay. This series is arranged chronologically and dated June 1866-April 1869.

Reports of Freedmen Available for Work

A series of tri-monthly reports of subordinate officers, July 1867-December 1868, gives the number of freedmen who applied for work and the number of people who applied for freedmen workers. The reports are chronologically arranged.

Other Records

The series of miscellaneous reports of subordinate officers, 1865-68, contains records relating to property, rations, treatment of black families, contracts, the number of indigent blacks and whites, and other topics. These are arranged chronologically. Finally, there is a chronologically arranged series of quartermaster property returns, October 1865-January 1868 and November-December 1868, submitted by subordinate officers of the Bureau in North Carolina to the Assistant Commissioner. These concern supplies received and issued.

Related Records

Also in Record Group 105 are records of the Bureau headquarters at Washington, some of which have been reproduced as microfilm publications. Among them are two series of records of Commissioner Howard's office: *Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872* (M742), and *Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872* (M752).

In the same record group are records created by other officers stationed in the State of North Carolina. In addition to the records of the Assistant Commissioner, there are records of the Superintendent of Education, the Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, the Surgeon in Chief, and the subordinate officers stationed in the subdistricts of North Carolina. The records of the Superintendent of Education for North Carolina are reproduced as Microfilm Publication M844.

Many records relating to the Freedmen's Bureau are in other record groups in the National Archives. Among them are records of military districts and departments in Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393, and records of abandoned property in Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department, Record Group 366.

The editorial material for this publication was prepared by Jack L. Best, who also arranged the records. Supplementary indexes filmed on rolls 1, 4, 5, 16, 17, and 18 were prepared by Alice Haynes and Jack L. Best.

Note: *Set incomplete will order upon request*

Letters Sent:

M843-1 Name Index to Volume 1, p. 1-179
Name Index(8) to Volume 1

Subject Index(9) to Volume 1
Volume 1(7) July 4, 1865-July 13, 1867
M843-2 Volume 2(10) July 15, 1867-July 31, 1868
Volume 3(11) Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 1868
Volume 4(12) Jan. 4-Apr. 13, 1869

Endorsements Sent:

M843-3 Name Index(17) to Volume 1
Subject Index(16) to Volume 1
Volume 1(15) July 11, 1865-Sept. 20, 1866
M843-4 Name Index(19) to Volume 2
Name Index to Volume 2
Volume 2(18) Sept. 27, 1866-July 24, 1868
Volume 3(20) Mar. 4-Dec. 30, 1868
Volume 4(21) Jan. 11-Apr. 15, 1869

Registers of Letters Received:

M843-5 Name Index to Register 1
Subject Index(2) to Register 1
Volume 1(1) July 1865-Oct. 1866
Name Index(4) to Register 2
Volume 2(3) Nov. 1866-Feb. 1868
M843-6 Volume 3(5) Mar.-Dec. 1868
Volume 4(6) Jan.-June 1869

Letters Received:

Entered in Register 1:

M843-7 A-I July 1865-Oct. 1866
M843-8 J-R July 1865-Oct. 1866
M843-9 S-Y July 1865-Oct. 1866

Entered in Register 2:

M843-10 A-E Nov. 1866-Feb. 1868
M843-11 F-M Nov. 1866-Feb. 1868
M843-12 N-V Nov. 1866-Feb. 1868
M843-13 W-Y Nov. 1866-Feb. 1868

Entered in Register 3:

M843-14 A-P Mar.-Dec. 1868
M843-15 R-W Mar.-Dec. 1868

Entered in Register 4:

A-W Jan.-June 1869

Unregistered:

M843-16 Name Index A-W July 1867-Dec. 1865
A-E 1866
M843-17 Name Index F-W 1866
A-W 1867
M843-18 Name Index A-W 1868
A-W Jan.-Mar. 1869
Telegrams Sent and Received (14) July 1867-Jan. 1869
Telegrams Received Jan. 1865-Dec. 1868

Records Relating to the "Boston Fund":

M843-19 Letters Sent(13) June 19, 1867-Aug. 25, 1868
Letters Received May 1867-Aug. 1868

Issuances:

M843-20 Subject Index(23) to Circulars
General Orders and Circulars(28) July 1, 1865-
Dec. 9, 1868

African American

- General Orders Received Mar. 1865-July 1868
Circulars Received May 1865-Apr. 1869
- M843-21** Special Orders Issued
Volume 1(22) June 28, 1865-July 12, 1867
Volume 2(25) July 15, 1867-Dec. 31, 1868
Volume 3(27) Jan. 8-May 4, 1869
Special Orders Received July 1865-Mar. 1869

Reports of Operations:

- M843-22** Annual 1866 and 1867
Semimonthly, Monthly, Aug.-Oct. 1865 and
Quarterly June 1867-Dec. 1868
- M843-23** Statistical Oct. 1865-Oct. 1866,
Jan.-Dec. 1867, and July-Aug. 1868

Reports on Sanitary Conditions:

- M843-24** June 1866-Dec. 1868

Reports of Rations Issued and Related Records:

- M843-25** Statistical Rations Reports From Subordinate
Officers Aug. 1865-Dec. 1868; Retained Copies of
Statistical Rations Sept. 1865-Nov. 1868
- M843-26** Miscellaneous Rations Reports July 1865-Dec.
1868
- M843-27** Receipts for Rations Issued Dec. 1866-July 1867
Abstracts of Subsistence Stores Received and
Issued Dec. 1866-June 1868
Reports on Destitution Aug.-Oct. 1867 and Jan.-
June 1868
Miscellaneous Reports of Destitution 1866

Records Relating to Transportation:

- M843-28** Case Files 1867; Receipts for Orders Jan. 1867-
Dec. 1868; Orders Nov. 1866-Feb. 1868

Records Relating to Personnel:

- M843-29** Station Book(29) 1867; Rosters Sept. 1865 and
Jan. 1867-Dec. 1868; Personal Reports Jan. 1867-Dec.
1869; Oaths of Office July 1866-Apr. 1869

Reports of Persons and Articles Hired:

- M843-30** Bound Reports(31) Jan. 1868-Dec. 1869; Unbound
Reports Feb. 1866-Apr. 1869

Records Relating to Court Cases:

- M843-31** Case Files Relating to the Administration of Justice
Mar. 1865-June 1868; Reports of Court Cases Feb. 1867-
Jan. 1868; Powers of Attorney Mar. and Sept. 1867

Registers and Reports of Registrars Recommended for the Election. of Delegates to the Constitutional Con- vention of 1868:

- M843-32** Register of Registrars, Volume 1(34) 1867; Register
of Registrars, Volume 2(35) 1867; Unbound Reports Apr.-
June 1867

Reports of Outrages and Arrests:

- M843-33** Reports of Outrages June 1866-Dec. 1868; Reports
of Arrests Aug. 1866-Dec. 1868

Freedmen's Labor Contracts:

- M843-34** Jan. 1865-Oct. 1868

Records Relating to Indentures:

- M843-35** Register of Indentures (33) Dec. 1865-June 1866
Indentures Sept. 1865-Aug. 1867

Records Relating to Lands and Property:

- M843-36** Statistical Land Reports July 1865-Dec. 1868
Miscellaneous Land Reports Mar. 1865-Nov. 1868
Deeds and Leases 1862-63 and 1866-70

Records Relating to Accounts and Claims:

- M843-37** Reports of Funds on Hand May-Dec. 1867
Reports of Expenditures June 1866-Apr. 1869
Register of Vouchers(32) Feb. 1868-Feb. 1869
Reports of Claims Division Oct. 1866-Apr. 1869
Papers Relating to Claims June 1866-Apr. 1869

Reports on Freedmen Available for Work:

- M843-38** July 1867-Dec. 1868

Other Records:

- M843-38** Miscellaneous Reports 1865-68
Quartermaster Property Oct. 1865-Jan. 1868 and
Returns Nov.-Dec. 1868

AFRICAN AMERICAN—SOUTH CAROLINA —ABANDONED LANDS

Records Of The Assistant Commissioner For The State
Of South Carolina, Bureau Of Refugees, Freedmen,
and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870

On the 44 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70. A few of the records are dated as early as 1863. The records consist of 38 volumes and approximately 30 cubic feet of unbound records. The volumes include letters and endorsements sent, registers of letters received, and orders issued. The unbound records consist mainly of reports, letters received, and applications for restoration of property. The documents were primarily created or received by the Assistant Commissioner and his assistant adjutants. A few of the documents were created or received by Capt. Alexander P. Ketchum, one of Commissioner Oliver Otis Howard's staff officers, who was sent to South Carolina to mediate a dispute over restoration of abandoned land on the sea islands of South Carolina and Georgia. The records are part of the Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105.

The Freedmen's Bureau, as the Bureau was commonly known, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507). Congress assigned to the Bureau responsibilities that previously had been shared by military commanders and by agents of the Treasury Department. The duties included supervision of all affairs relating to refugees, to freedmen, and to the custody of abandoned property.

Under the provisions of the initial legislation, the Bureau was to have been terminated 1 year after the close of the Civil War. It

African American

was twice extended by laws of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). Its functions were limited to education and assistance in the collection of claims by an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), effective January 1869. Remaining Bureau functions were terminated following the discontinuance of the Bureau in 1872, in accordance with a law of June 10 of that year (17 Stat. 366).

The operations of the Freedmen's Bureau resembled, in many ways, the work of later Federal social agencies. In addition to supervising the disposition of abandoned or confiscated lands and property, Bureau officers issued rations, clothing, and medicine to destitute refugees and freedmen; established hospitals and dispensaries; cooperated with benevolent societies in establishing schools; listened to complaints of the freedmen; witnessed the writing of labor contracts; and helped black soldiers and sailors to file and collect claims for bounties, pensions, and pay arrearages.

In May 1865 Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard was appointed Commissioner of the Bureau and established his headquarters at Washington, D.C. Assistant commissioners were appointed to supervise the work of the Bureau in the States, but because the number of assistant commissioners was limited to 10 by an act of Congress, some officers were assigned to duty in more than one State.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who had directed the "Port Royal Experiment," was appointed Assistant Commissioner for South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Shortly after Saxton assumed his new duties, Howard appointed Assistant Commissioners for Georgia and Florida. Thus, by September 1865, Saxton was, for all practical purposes, Assistant Commissioner solely for South Carolina. Generally, the records pertaining to Georgia and Florida among those of the Assistant Commissioner of South Carolina were created during this early period.

The organization of the Bureau in South Carolina was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C. Saxton's original staff included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Inspector General, a Superintendent of Education, an Assistant Quartermaster, a Chief Commissary of Subsistence, and an aide-de-camp.

Officers subordinate to Saxton were responsible for administering the policies of the Bureau in the subdistricts of South Carolina. These subdistricts, as they finally evolved in February 1867, were: Anderson, Beaufort, Columbia, Charleston, Lynn, Darlington, Edisto, Greenville, Georgetown, Hilton Head, South Carolina side of the Savannah River, Unionville, and Williamsburg. The subdistricts were administered by officers titled sub-assistant commissioners. Officers or civilians serving under sub-assistant commissioners were called agents.

During the period of the Bureau's existence in South Carolina, there were three Assistant Commissioners operating from three different cities. Gen. Rufus Saxton established his headquarters at Beaufort, but in September 1865 he moved his headquarters to Charleston. Bvt. Maj. Gen. Robert K. Scott succeeded Saxton in January 1866 and carried out the duties of Assistant Commissioner until July 1868 when he resigned to become Governor of South Carolina. Just before Scott resigned, the headquarters was moved to Columbia. Assuming the position of Assistant Commissioner in August 1868, Bvt. Col. John R. Edie served

until May 1869. Bvt. Maj. Horace Neide, Superintendent of Education, acted as Assistant Commissioner until May 31, 1869, when the office was abolished in South Carolina.

Neide and his successor, Bvt. Maj. Edward L. Deane, served as Superintendent of Education until June 1870 when that office was discontinued. Many of the series of records begun by Assistant Commissioners were continued by Superintendents of Education; thus, some records created by Superintendents of Education will be found with those of Assistant Commissioners. The Bureau functioned in South Carolina until June 1872, but its activity after June 1870 was mainly in the area of claims. These claims records are among the Provisions and Claims Divisions records and have not been reproduced on this microfilm publication. They are part of the records of the South Carolina Freedmen's Bureau.

When the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished, its records were sent to the Office of the Adjutant General. Clerks in the Adjutant General's Office numbered the volumes or book records and prepared "indexes" or lists of these books. In this microfilm publication the number assigned to the volume by the clerks in the Adjutant General's Office appears in parenthesis. This number is useful only as a more precise method of identifying the volume.

Series Listing and Remarks Letters Sent

The six volumes of letters sent, June 13, 1865-January 22, 1870, consist of fair copies of letters, telegrams, and reports sent mainly by the Assistant Commissioner and assistant adjutants. The communications in these volumes are generally arranged in chronological order. A name index is at the beginning of each volume except the sixth (14). The National Archives has prepared a name index for volume 6 (14), and it is filmed before the volume on roll 2.

In the left margin of the pages of the volumes is the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the letter was sent. There are also notations in the form of fractions in the margins of volumes 1 (9) and 3 (11). The numerator is the number of the page in that volume on which there is a preceding letter to the same person, and the denominator is the number of the page on which there is a subsequent letter to the same officer. The subject of the letter is also found in the margin.

Filed after the volumes are six unbound copies of letters sent, October 30, 1865-May 5, 1868, addressed to Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C., and not duplicated in the volumes of letters sent. Also reproduced here is an enclosure to a letter sent that is in volume 2 (10), November 20, 1865, document number 317.

Endorsements Sent

According to the record keeping practice of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner or assistant adjutants wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or forwarding statements were copied into endorsement books, with a summary of the contents

African American

of the incoming communication and with the previous endorsements that had been written on the communication.

The nine volumes of endorsements sent, June 15, 1865-June 24, 1870, are generally arranged in chronological order. In the left margin of the pages are the number of the endorsement (assigned in the order that it appears in the volume), the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the endorsement was sent, and the subject of the endorsement. The entry number of the letter received on which the endorsement was written also appears in the left margin (abbreviations used to denote registers of letters received are "IMB" and "IB"). Also found in the left margin of some of the pages are the words "continued to" and "continued from" with the number of a subsequent or preceding endorsement. This serves the same purpose as the fractions did for letters sent.

There are name indexes for the first four volumes and the last.

Registers of Letters Received

Another record keeping practice of the day was that of entering incoming communications into registers of letters received. The entries in the registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the place from which the letter was written, an abstract of the letter, and the register entry number assigned to the communication. Document numbers for related letters and endorsements sent are also given. Abbreviations used in the registers to denote such correspondence are "LB," or "EB," or "ENB".

Entries in the eight registers of letters received, June 1865-October 1870, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally by date of receipt of the communication. The letters were assigned entry numbers in the order that they were entered in the volume, with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the registers often proved insufficient, it became necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives has filmed the registers in correct order; therefore some of the pages are not in the original numerical sequence. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed. There are name indexes for volumes 1 (1) and 3 (3).

Cross-reference symbols enclosed in brackets have been entered by the National Archives. The notation "F/W" before a cross reference indicates that the letter is filed with the cited letter. The notation "F/as" indicates that the letter is filed under the designated cross-referenced file number. Not all letters entered in the registers are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has placed an asterisk (*) in the registers by the entry number of each letter that is still in the series of registered letters received. Others were forwarded to Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C., or were sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. Some of the letters are filed in the series of applications for restoration of property. The National Archives has stamped a double asterisk (**) by the entry number in the register when a letter was found in that series. The applications are reproduced on rolls 25-31 of this microfilm publication.

Stamped explanations of the asterisks and symbols appear in the front of each register.

Letters Received

The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner are in two unbound series--one series of registered letters and one series of unregistered letters.

The letters entered in the register of letters received, May 1865-February 1870, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally in chronological order. The file citation on a letter includes the abbreviation "IB," the letter of the alphabet under which it will be found in the register, and the entry number assigned to it.

The unregistered letters received, May 1865-May 1869, are arranged by year, thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent, and thereunder in chronological order. Letters received from Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C., are filed under the letter "H" for O. O. Howard. The letters were not given file citations by the Assistant Commissioner's office, but some letters were given file citations by other offices, such as Headquarters, Military District of South Carolina.

Records Relating to Restoration of Property

At the time of the Bureau's establishment in South Carolina, it was given many lands to administer. These lands had come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government in various ways. In 1862 a direct land tax was levied in South Carolina, and if not paid the land was confiscated. Also in 1862 Congress enacted a measure to seize the land of military and civil officers of the Confederate government. In 1863 seizure was allowed of property belonging to an owner who was voluntarily absent from his land to fight or work for the Confederacy. Then in 1865 Gen. W. T. Sherman, while moving his army through the State, issued Special Field Order 15, which added a sizable amount of land to that already seized. It was the understanding of many people that the land expropriated by Sherman was to be given to the freedmen.

In May 1865 President Andrew Johnson, in his Amnesty Proclamation, announced that pardoned Confederates would have their land returned if it had not been sold by court decree. The proclamation did not affect the lands seized by Sherman. Commissioner Howard established a board, chaired by Capt. A. P. Ketchum of his staff, to decide the fate of these lands. Eventually, most of these lands also were restored to their owners.

The Bureau was given the responsibility of restoring the lands after the necessary paperwork had been completed. An individual who wanted his land restored had to submit to the Bureau an application for restoration of property. Along with the application, the individual was required to submit proof of having taken the loyalty oath, proof of pardon, and proof of ownership of the land.

Many records relating to the restoration of property are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. These consist of a one-volume register of applications for restoration of property, one unbound series of registered applications for restoration of property, one unbound series of unregistered applications for restoration of property, four volumes and one unbound series of records created by A. P. Ketchum, and one unbound series of abandoned land reports.

African American

Ketchum's records mainly pertain to South Carolina and because some of the applications received by him for restoration of property were interfiled with those of the Assistant Commissioner, Ketchum's records have been kept with those of South Carolina.

The entries in the register of applications for restoration of property, August 1865-May 1866, are arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally in chronological order by date of receipt of the application.

In the register for each letter entered, there is an entry number, the name of the petitioner, the name or description of the property, and the date the land was restored, if applicable. A cross-reference entry number is given for the application if it is also entered in the Assistant Commissioner's registers of letters received.

Not all the applications entered in the register are among the records. Some were forwarded to Bureau headquarters or other offices or officers. The National Archives has placed an asterisk (*) in the register by the entry number of each application still among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has also placed cross-reference symbols in the register in the same manner as in the registers of letters received.

The unbound series of registered applications for restoration of property, May 1865-May 1866, consist of several different types of documents. These include the application itself, and often filed with it are the loyalty oath of the owner, the pardon of the owner, the proof of ownership, and the restoration order.

The applications are arranged according to their entry in the register of applications for restoration of property. The file citation on the application gives the letter of the alphabet and entry number under which the application was entered in the register.

The unregistered applications for restoration of property, July 1865-October 1868, are applications that were received too late to be entered in the register, or they were applications administered by Ketchum. The applications are arranged alphabetically by the surname of the owner or organization. While these applications have no file citations that pertain to the register of applications for restoration of property received, some do have file citations that apply to the registers of letters received or to Ketchum's register of applications for restoration of property.

The records created or received by Ketchum consist of an endorsement book, November 1865-March 1866; a register of letters received, November 1865-March 1866; a register of applications for restoration of property, November 1865-February 1866; a register of lands and occupants, May 1865-December 1868; a register of restoration orders, December 1865-February 1866; and an unbound series of restoration orders, December 1865-February 1866. The endorsements sent and the register of letters received are arranged in the same way as their counterparts in the records of the Assistant Commissioner.

The entries in the register of applications for restoration of property are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or institution of correspondent and thereunder in chronological order. The entry numbers were assigned chronologically without regard to alphabetical divisions.

The register of lands and occupants is arranged first by geographic area, such as island or city, and thereunder alphabetically by surname of owner of a parcel of land. Some of the more important listings are: the amount of land being used, the number of freedmen working on the land, and the date that the land was restored. After Ketchum was recalled in February 1866 entries in this register continued to be recorded in the office of the Assistant Commissioner.

The register of restoration orders is arranged chronologically by the date of restoration, and it corresponds to the unbound series of restoration orders that is arranged numerically, 1-123. Often filed with the restoration orders are the applications for restoration of property, correspondence, loyalty oaths, and other pertinent documents. A name index has been completed by the National Archives that indexes both series of applications for restoration of property and the restoration orders. To use the index the name of the petitioner, whether owner, lawyer, administrator, or institution, must be known. This index has been filmed before each of the series.

The abandoned land reports, August 1865-December 1868, are arranged in chronological order. They contain listings of the former owner of the land, how the land was acquired by the Bureau, and a description of the land.

Reports

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are three series of reports: reports of murders and outrages, reports of conditions and operations, and miscellaneous reports.

Reports received from subordinate officers relating to murders and outrages, October 1865-November 1868, are arranged chronologically. The reports usually list the names of the persons murdered or assaulted and of those accused of the crime, the race of the people involved, and the action taken on the case. Some of the officers submitted two reports for 1 month--one listed offenses committed by whites against blacks, and the other listed offenses of blacks against whites.

The reports of conditions and operations, July 1865-December 1868 are arranged chronologically. Reports of prevailing conditions, such as race relations and the status of crops, and of the operations of the Bureau, were submitted monthly to the Assistant Commissioner. They were written by the Assistant Commissioner's staff and by subordinate officers and by civilians in South Carolina.

The miscellaneous reports, 1865-67 are arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically. They include one report of indigent people in Greenville District, January 1867; a report of black orphans in South River District, April 1867; a report of a visit to Buzby Plantation, John's Island, January 1866; three reports of arrests in Anderson District, April, May, and July 1867; a report of a tour of inspection in South Carolina by Insp. Gen. C. H. Howard, November 1865.

Orders and Circulars

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are a volume of general orders and circulars issued, four volumes of special orders issued, a volume of special orders received from Headquarters, 2d Military District, a volume of orders received

African American

pertaining to Bureau personnel in South Carolina, and unbound orders and circulars issued and received.

The volume of general orders and circulars issued, January 1866-May 1869, is generally arranged in chronological order. There is no index to this volume.

The four volumes of special orders issued, June 1865-July 1870, are generally arranged chronologically. There are indexes to the first three volumes.

The volume of special orders received from Headquarters, 2d Military District, April 1867-July 1868, is arranged chronologically. There is no index to this volume.

The volume of orders received pertaining to Bureau personnel in South Carolina, July 1865-February 1869, is arranged by name of officer to whom the order or orders pertain and thereunder generally chronologically. The names are not in alphabetical order but there is a name index. These orders were issued by Bureau headquarters and Headquarters of the Army.

The unbound orders and circulars issued and received, 1865-67, are arranged by type of order or circular, thereunder by whether received or issued, and thereunder chronologically. Included in these records is a copy of General Sherman's Special Field Order 15.

Records Relating to the Issuance of Rations

A specific function of the Bureau was to issue rations to the destitute of the State as well as to soldiers. Records pertaining to the issuance of rations consist of the following series: a ration book, lists of destitutes, ration returns, estimates of rations required, ration reports, a receipt for rations, applications for relief, bonds of planters for supplies, proceedings of the Commission on Liens, and a register of orders given planters for provisions for black employees.

The ration book, May 1863- July 1866, is generally arranged in chronological order. It was begun when Saxton was in command of the "Port Royal Experiment," but entries were later made by Bureau officials. It contains lists of rations for teachers, superintendents, destitutes, enlisted men, and civilians.

The lists of destitutes, 1866-67, are arranged in alphabetical order. Each list, sent in by a subordinate officer or civilian, is arranged alphabetically by names of the destitutes.

The ration returns, January 1866-November 1868, were received from subordinate officials. They are arranged in chronological order. Generally the returns list the amount of rations issued, the amount remaining, and the people to whom the rations were issued.

The estimates of rations required, July 1865-August 1866, are arranged in chronological order. These estimates were submitted by subordinate officers.

The ration reports, August 1865-December 1868, are arranged in chronological order. These monthly reports submitted by the Assistant Commissioner to Bureau headquarters list the subdistricts of the State and the amount of rations issued in each.

The one receipt for rations, June 1867, is for the district of Edisto. Each destitute person is listed and the amount of rations issued to each is given.

The three applications for relief, January-December 1868, were submitted to the Assistant Commissioner by planters, and explain the need for rations and the number of workers requiring relief.

The bonds of planters for supplies, June 1867-February 1869, are arranged in chronological order. The amount of money or crops borrowed and other important data is given.

Before the growing season of 1868 many people borrowed money or crops from the Assistant Commissioner, and in return they signed a lien on their future crops. During the summer and fall, many people lost their crops and were, therefore, unable to repay their loan. As a result, a Commission on Liens was established to decide which liens would be extended and which would be called in immediately. The Commission, which met from December 16, 1868-January 16, 1869, was composed of the Assistant Commissioner, Col. James P. Low, and ex-Governor William Aiken. The proceedings of the Commission on Liens, October 19, 1868-January 16, 1869, which also include some letters sent by Commissioner O. O. Howard, are generally arranged in chronological order. The name of each person considered and the decision reached is listed. There is an index to this volume.

The register of orders given planters for provisions for black employees, April 1-July 14, 1865, is arranged chronologically. This register was begun by Saxton before he was appointed Assistant Commissioner. It contains the name of the planter, the plantation, the number of field hands, and the types and amounts of rations issued.

Records Relating to Contracts

There are two unbound series of records relating to contracts: contracts received, February 1866-January 1868, and contract reports, January 1867-September 1868. Both series were received from subordinate officials and are arranged chronologically. The contracts state the conditions under which an employee or employees worked or rented land and the compensation, in money or crops, that would be paid or received. Each contract report gives the name of the employer, the number of employees, and the terms of the contract.

Records Relating to Legal Actions

There are a few small series of records relating to legal actions: investigations of charges, January 1866-July 1867; ten affidavits, September 1865-June 1868; and four powers of attorney, September-October 1865. In each series the records are arranged in alphabetical order.

Quartermaster Records

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are returns of quartermaster stores received and issued, December 1865-April 1867, and requisitions for quartermaster supplies, August 1868.

Staff and subordinate officers usually submitted copies of returns and requisitions to the Assistant Commissioner for approval. These records are arranged chronologically and generally list the stores received, issued, or requisitioned, and the amounts.

Personnel Records

The personnel records consist mainly of the unbound personnel

African American

rosters, August 1865-July 1868, Arranged chronologically in one body of records, the rosters are of agents and clerks, of officers, and of officers and civilians. Usually prepared monthly, the rosters list the name of the official and such pertinent information as his duty station and Bureau title.

Records Relating to Transportation

The records relating to transportation consist of a list of requests for transportation, October 1, 1865-December 31, 1866; a register of signed transportation orders given to officers, March 6, 1866-February 3, 1867; a register of orders authorizing transportation, February 9-September 4, 1866; an unbound series of transportation requests received, April 20-December 21, 1866; an unbound series of transportation orders issued, December 19, 1865-December 31, 1866; a series of monthly transportation reports, October 1866-November 1868; and a transportation receipt, November 16, 1865. All of these records are arranged by type of record and thereunder generally in chronological order. They usually give the name or names of the people requiring transportation and their proposed destination.

Other Records

Filmed directly after the records relating to transportation are a few unbound miscellaneous records, 1865-67. They are arranged by type of record and consist mainly of documents relating to property titles, marriage of freedmen, and receipts or bills of lading for such items as machinery and tools, furniture, and newspaper advertisements.

Related Records

Also in Record Group 105 are records of the Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C., some of which have been reproduced as microfilm publications. Two of these reproduce records of Commissioner Howard's office: *Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872* (M742) and *Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1872* (M752). Records relating to the educational activities of the Freedmen's Bureau have been reproduced as *Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871* (M803).

For the State of South Carolina, in addition to the records of the Assistant Commissioner, there are records of the Superintendent of Education, the Inspector General, the Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, the Chief Medical Officer, and the subordinate officers and agents stationed in the subdistricts of South Carolina. Also, in the same record group are records created by Bureau officials in other States and the District of Columbia.

Many records relating to the Freedmen's Bureau are in other record groups in the National Archives. Among them are records of military districts, departments, and divisions in the Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393; and records of abandoned property in the Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department, Record Group 366.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were

prepared for filming by Dale E. Floyd, who also wrote these introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

1. The "Port Royal Experiment," originally launched by the Treasury Department in March 1862, was to provide work and education for blacks on the sea islands of Georgia and South Carolina. In the summer of 1862 the experiment was transferred to the War Department, and Gen. Rufus Saxton was placed in command. Under Saxton the amount of land administered was greatly increased in 1865. When the Bureau was established the experiment was placed under the Bureau's control, and Saxton was retained, with authority over the three States.

2. One of the sub-assistant commissioners, John William DeForrest, wrote an account of his experiences. See John W. DeForrest, *A Union Officer in the Reconstruction*, ed. by James H. Croushore and David M. Potter (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1948).

Note: Set incomplete will order upon request.

Letters Sent:

- M869-1** Volume 1(9) June 13-Nov. 1, 1865
Volume 2(10) Nov. 1-Dec. 30, 1865
Volume 3(11) Jan. 1-Dec. 29, 1866
Volume 4(12) Jan. 1-Dec. 30, 1867
- M869-2** Volume 5(13) Jan. 2-Dec. 31, 1868
Volume 6(14) Jan. 4, 1869-Jan. 22, 1870
Unbound Copies of Letters Sent Oct. 30, 1865-
May 5, 1868

Endorsements Sent:

- M869-3** Volume 1(17) June 15-Oct. 4, 1865
Volume 2(18) Oct. 4-Oct. 31, 1865
Volume 3(20) Nov. 1-Dec. 30, 1865
Volume 4(19) Jan. 2-Dec. 31, 1866
Volume 5(21) Jan. 2-July 30, 1867
- M869-4** Volume 6(22) Aug. 1-Dec. 30, 1867
Volume 7(23) Jan. 2-June 27, 1868
Volume 8(24) July 1, 1868-Jan. 20, 1869
Volume 9(25) Jan. 22, 1869-June 24, 1870

Registers of Letters Received:

- M869-5** Volume 1(1) June-Oct. 1865
Volume 2(2) Oct.-Dec. 1865
Volume 3(3) Jan.-Dec. 1866
Volume 4(4) Jan.-Aug. 1867
Volume 5(5) Aug.-Dec. 1867
- M869-6** Volume 6(6) Jan.-June 1868
Volume 7(7) July 1868-Jan. 1869
Volume 8(8) Jan. 1869-Oct. 1870

Registered Letters Received:

- Entered in Registers 1 and 2
- M869-7** A-O May-Dec. 1865
M869-8 P-Y May-Dec. 1865
Entered in Register 3
- M869-9** A-G Oct. 1865-Dec. 1866
M869-10 H-O Oct. 1865-Dec. 1866
M869-11 P-Z Oct. 1865-Dec. 1866
Entered in Registers 4 and 5
- M869-12** A-E Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867

African American

- M869-13** F-J Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867
M869-14 K-R Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867
M869-15 S-Y Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867
Entered in Registers 6 and 7
M869-16 A-G Oct. 1867-Jan. 1869
M869-17 H-R Oct. 1867-Jan. 1869
M869-18 S-Y Oct. 1867-Jan. 1869
Entered in Register 8
M869-19 A-W Jan. 1869-Feb. 1870

Unregistered Letters Received:

- M869-20** A-W May-Dec. 1865
A-E 1866
M869-21 F-W 1866
M869-22 A-J 1867
M869-23 L-W 1867
M869-24 A-W 1868-May 1869

Records Relating to Restoration of Property:

- M869-25** Register of Applications for Aug. 1865-May 1866
Restoration of Property(38) Registered Applications for Restoration of Property: A-B May 1865-May 1866
M869-26 C-F May 1865-May 1866
M869-27 G-K May 1865-May 1866
M869-28 L-R May 1865-May 1866
M869-29 S-Z May 1865-May 1866

Unregistered Applications for Restoration of Property:

- M869-30** A-K July 1865-Oct. 1868
M869-31 L-Z July 1865-Oct. 1868

Capt. A. P. Ketchum's Records:

- M869-32** Endorsements Sent(40) Nov. 1865-Mar. 1866
Register of Letters Nov. 1865-Mar. 1866 Received (39)
Register of Applications for Nov. 1865-Feb. 1866
Restoration of Property (41)
Register of lands May 1865-Dec. 1868
and Occupants(42)
Register of Restoration Dec. 1865-Feb. 1866
Orders (42)
Restoration Orders 1-123 Dec. 1865-Feb. 1866
M869-33 Abandoned Land Reports Aug. 1865-Dec. 1868

Reports:

- M869-34** Reports of Murders and Oct. 1865-Nov. 1868
Outrages, Reports of Conditions and Operations
(Pt.) July 1865-Dec. 1866
M869-35 (Pt.) Jan. 1867-May 1868
M869-36 (Pt.) June-Dec. 1868
Miscellaneous Reports 1865-67

Orders and Circulars:

- General Orders and Jan. 1866-May 1869
Circulars Issued (26) Special Orders Issued
Volume 1(27) June 1865-Jan. 1866
M869-37 Volume 2(28) Jan. 1866-Dec. 1867
Volume 3(29) Jan.-Dec. 1868
Volume 4(30) Jan. 1869-July 1870
Special Orders Received Apr. 1867-July 1868

From Headquarters, 2d Military District (32)
Orders Received Pertaining July 1865-Feb. 1869
to Bureau Personnel in South Carolina(31)
Orders and Circulars 1865-67, Issued and Received

Records Relating to the Issuance of Rations:

- Ration Book(36) May 1863-July 1866
M869-38 List of Destitutes 1866-67
Ration Returns Jan. 1866-Nov. 1868
Estimates of Rations July 1865-Aug. 1866
Required Ration Reports (Pt.) Aug. 1865-Mar.
1866
M869-39 (Pt.) Apr.-Dec. 1866
M869-40 (Pt.) Jan.-Aug. 1867
M869-41 (Pt.) Sept. 1867-Dec. 1868
M869-42 Applications for Jan.-Dec. 1868
Relief Bonds of Planters June 1867-Feb. 1869 for
Supplies

Proceedings of the Oct. 19, 1868-Jan. 16, 1869
Commission on Liens (34)
Register of Orders Apr. 1-July 14, 1865
Given Planters for Provisions for Black Employees
(35)

Records Relating to Contracts:

Contracts Received Feb. 1866-Jan. 1868
Contract Reports Jan. 1867-Sept. 1868

Records Relating to Legal Actions:

Investigations of Jan. 1866-July 1867
Charges, Affidavits Sept. 1865-June 1868
Powers of Attorney Sept.-Oct. 1865

Quartermaster Records:

Returns of Quartermaster Dec. 1865-Apr. 1867
Stores Received and Issued Requisitions for Aug.
1868
Quartermaster Stores

Personnel Records:

- M869-43** Personnel Rosters (Pt.) Aug. 1865-Dec. 1867
M869-44 (Pt.) Jan.-July 1868

Records Relating to Transportation:

List of Requests for Oct. 1, 1865-Dec. 31, 1866
Transportation (35)
Register of Signed Mar. 6, 1866-Feb. 3, 1867
Transportation Orders Given to Officers(35)
Register of Orders Feb. 9-Sept. 4, 1866
Authorizing Transportation (35)
Transportation Apr. 20-Dec. 21, 1866
Requests Received
Transportation Dec. 19, 1865-Dec. 31, 1866
Orders Issued
Monthly Transportation Oct. 1866-Nov. 1868
Reports
Other Records 1865-67

African American

AFRICAN AMERICAN –TENNESSEE –ABANDONED LANDS

Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869.

This microfilm publication reproduces the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865 - 69. The records consist of 32 volumes and nearly 36 feet of unbound documents.

In Tennessee, the Bureau's operations began on July 1, 1865, when Brig. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk took command as Assistant Commissioner at the Tennessee Bureau headquarters in Nashville. Brig. Gen. John R. Lewis succeeded Fisk in Sept. 1866 and served until Dec. 1866; Maj. Gen. William P. Carlin served from Jan. 1867 - Oct. 1868; and Lt. Col. James Thompson served from Oct. 1868 - May 1869. At that time, in accordance with an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), Bureau operations were terminated except for educational functions and the collection of claims. From July 1865 - June 1866, the Assistant Commissioner of Tennessee also had jurisdiction over the State of Kentucky and the northern part of Alabama.

Letters and Telegrams Sent

There are two series of press copies of letters sent: the main series of letters sent (five volumes) and a separate series of letters sent to General Howard and his staff (three volumes). The five volumes of the main series, July 1, 1865 - Dec. 29, 1866, are arranged chronologically, and each volume has a name index. The two registers of letters sent, June 29, 1865 - Dec. 29, 1866, serve as a finding aid to the main series of press copies and have been filmed preceding those volumes. The three volumes of letters addressed to General Howard and his staff, July 3, 1865 - Apr. 30, 1869, are arranged chronologically. Volumes 2 and 3 have name indexes, and volume 1 has a list of contents.

The first half of each of the two volumes of fair copies of letters sent, Jan. 1, 1867 - Dec. 30, 1868, contains copies of letters sent to all correspondents except General Howard and his staff, and the second half contains letters sent to General Howard and his staff. The letters in each half of both volumes are arranged and numbered in chronological order. There is a name index to volume 2; volume 1 was originally unindexed; NARS has prepared a name index that has been filmed immediately preceding the volume.

The volume of press copies of telegrams sent, June 25, 1865 - Dec. 22, 1866, is arranged chronologically and contains a name index.

Endorsements Sent

The four volumes of endorsements sent, May 3, 1865 - Jan. 25, 1869, are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 has a name index; volumes 2-4 have no indexes. Endorsements for the period Jan. 1 - May 5, 1869, are in volume 5 of the registers of letters received.

Registers of Letters Received

The first four volumes of registers of letters received June 18, 1865 - Jan 25, 1869, are arranged by time periods. The entries in the volumes are arranged by initial letter of surname of corre-

spondent and thereunder are arranged and numbered by date of receipt. Entries in the fifth volume, Jan. 1 - May 5, 1869, are arranged and numbered by date of receipt. There were originally name indexes to all volumes except the fourth. The NARS staff has prepared a name index for volume 4, and the index is filmed immediately preceding the volume. Volume 5 contains copies of endorsements sent along with the register entries for the period Jan. 1 - May 5, 1869.

Letters and Telegrams Received

The registered letters received, June 18, 1865 - May 5, 1869, are arranged in the order of their entry in the registers.

The unregistered letters received, July 1865 - May , 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent. The NARS staff has prepared a name index that has been filmed immediately preceding the letters.

The Unregistered telegrams received, July 1865 - Nov. 1866, are arranged by year. Those for 1865 are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent and thereunder chronologically. The 1866 telegrams are arranged chronologically.

Issuances

The three volumes of special orders and circulars issued, June 26, 1856 - Dec. 31, 1868, are arranged by type of issuance and thereunder arranged and numbered in chronological order. Unnumbered circular letters are interfiled with the numbered circulars according to date. Each volume contains a name index to the special orders. In addition, volume 2 has a list of circulars and circular letters; volume 3 has a register of circulars and circular letters and contains three general orders dated July 20 and 22, and Oct. 30, 1865.

The volume of special orders received, May 19, 1866 - Mar. 2, 1869, and the unbound orders, special orders, and circulars received, June 18, 1865 - May 30, 1869, are arranged chronologically. The bound orders contain the entire text of the issuance, while the unbound orders are mostly extracts.

Reports on Operations and Conditions

The Assistant commissioner's retained narrative annual reports of conditions and operations, Oct. 1866 - Oct 1868 and narrative quarterly reports of conditions and operations, Sept. - Dec. 1866, are arranged chronologically. The retained monthly reports of operations, Apr. 1866 - Dec. 1868, are arranged chronologically. A number of consolidated monthly reports are included.

The narrative reports of operations and conditions in the subdistricts, Feb. 1866 - Apr. 1869, are arranged chronologically. Statistical reports on the number and kinds of persons receiving rations and the value of the rations issued are interfiled with the narrative reports.

The inspection reports submitted by field officers, Sept. 6, 1865 - Mar. 12, 1869, are arranged chronologically. These reports were normally prepared in response to special orders asking for a report on operations and conditions in a designated area.

Records Relating to the Issue of supplies to Freedmen
Reports of numbers of persons who were issued rations, clothing,

African American

and medicines are in two series: retained copies of monthly reports, June 1866 - October 1868, sent by the Assistant Commissioner to General Howard; and reports received by the Assistant Commissioner from the subdistricts, Nov. 1865 - Sept. 1868, from which the reports in the former series were compiled. Each series is arranged chronologically.

Reports of freedmen's homes and institutions. Aug. - Oct. 1865, June - Oct. 1867, and June - Oct. 1868 are arranged chronologically. These weekly and tri-monthly reports document the issuance of rations at freedmen's homes, refugees' and freedmen's hospitals, and orphan's asylums. These reports also contain information regarding the activities and general status of the institutions.

Records Relating to Freedmen's Labor

Indentures of apprenticeship, Dec. 1865 - Feb. 1868, arranged chronologically, are preprinted or handwritten forms giving pertinent data concerning the contracted parties, dates of apprenticeship, and including a statement of the obligations and responsibilities of each party.

The labor contracts, Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, are arranged in two sub-series. The first sub-series contains contracts in which both contracting parties were from Tennessee and is arranged alphabetically by county and thereunder chronologically. Included in this sub-series are contracts between landowners and the Federal Government by which landowners agreed to hire a certain number of freedmen in lieu of repaying a Government debt. The second sub-series consists of contracts between freedmen from Tennessee and employers from other states. This sub-series is arranged alphabetically by state, thereunder alphabetically by county, and thereunder chronologically. Some of the contracts also include the transportation arrangements provided for the freedmen. Included at the end of this sub-series are four contracts between Tennessee employers and freedmen from other states, arranged alphabetically by employer.

Reports Relating to Bounty Claims and Disbursements

These narrative reports and statistical charts, May 18, 1867 - Apr. 30, 1869, were forwarded from the subdistricts to the Assistant Commissioner and contain information about the number and value of claims processed and settled. The disbursements relate to payments of back pay to black soldiers and sailors.

Records Relating to Abandoned Property

There are three volumes of registers of abandoned property, each volume for Feb. 1861 - May 1868. Entries in volume 1 are arranged alphabetically by county; those in volume 2 are arranged numerically by lease number; those in volume 3 are arranged alphabetically by name of former owner. Volume 1 contains a table of contents listing counties; volume 2 contains a name index to lessees that also includes the names of former owners; and volume 3 contains a name index to former owners that shows the date the property was restored and the order authorizing the restoration.

A volume of descriptions of abandoned property and its former owners, 1865-66, is divided into four sections. The first three sections are arranged according to the name of the agent who seized the property and thereunder by name of property owner.

One of these three sections contains information about land in Alabama. The information in the three sections is similar to that in the registers of abandoned property described above but includes more details. The fourth section contains a listing of leases made by Special Treasury Agent E. Hotchkiss, Feb. - June 1865.

Lists, reports, and correspondence pertaining to land and property are arranged by type of record. There are three kinds of lists: lists of abandoned land, Oct. 1865 - Jan. 1868, arranged in two alphabetical sequences (first by county and then by general geographic area); consolidated lists of abandoned land and property, Sept. 30, 1865 - Sept. 30, 1868, arranged chronologically; and a list of personal property (debts) held by the Bureau, Nov. 15, 1866. Reports relating to land and property include reports relating to restoration of abandoned land, Feb. 14 - Dec. 19, 1867, arranged chronologically; a report of rents collected in Nashville, Jan. 21, 1866; and a report on abandoned land and property leased in Memphis, Oct. 1865. The correspondence relating to the restoration of property, Jan. 23, 1864 - Jan. 23, 1868, is arranged alphabetically by surname of correspondent.

Leases of abandoned property let out by the Bureau, Sept. 1864 - Feb. 1867, are arranged alphabetically by county and thereunder chronologically.

Applications for restoration of property, Aug. 1865 - Jan. 1868, are arranged by initial letter of the surname of the applicant.

Personnel Records

Correspondence relating to appointments, July 19, 1865 - Nov. 6, 1866, and Nov. 10-23, 1868, is arranged chronologically and consists of letters of introduction or recommendation for persons seeking positions as Bureau agents or teachers.

Letters of appointments, Mar. - Dec. 1867, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of appointee and are form letters used to notify applicants of their appointments.

Oaths of office, Apr. - Nov. 1867, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the person taking the oath.

The personal reports of officers and agents, Jan. 1867 - Jan. 1869, are arranged by date of receipt.

The station book of officers and agents, Jan. 1867-Dec. 1868, is arranged by year, thereunder by district, and thereunder in two parts by type of officer—those on the Assistant Commissioner's staff and the agents.

The monthly reports of changes of officers and agents on duty, Feb. 1, 1866 - Mar. 1, 1869, are arranged chronologically. The reports include rosters of personnel on duty.

Letter revoking appointments, July - Nov. 1867, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of appointee.

Records Relating to Outrages

Entries in the register of outrages, Oct. 1865 - July 1868, are not arranged.

Reports of outrages, riots, and murders, Jan. 15, 1866 - Aug. 12, 1868, are arranged chronologically. Many of these reports were submitted on a monthly basis from the field offices to the Assistant Commissioner.

Affidavits relating to outrages, Mar. 1866 - Aug. 1868, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of person

African American

submitting the affidavit. The affidavits consist of sworn eyewitness accounts of outrages, often given by the injured parties.

Included in this series is a report with affidavits concerning the Memphis riot of May 1866.

Transportation Records

Monthly transportation reports (from field offices), Jan. 1867 - Nov. 1868, are arranged chronologically.

Miscellaneous Records

These records include correspondence, June 1865 - Oct. 1868, concerning the requisitioning of supplies, petitions, and instructions to district officials relating to such matters as burials. In addition, there are reports relating to the Freedman's Savings and Trust Co., reports relating to the conduct of agents and officers, and a report of buildings constructed by the Bureau.

*Set Incomplete - Will Order Upon Request.

Letters and telegrams sent:

- M999-1** Registers of letters sent: Vol. 1 (8), Jun. 29, 1865 - Dec. 30, 1865;
Registers of letters sent: Vol. 2 (12), Dec. 30, 1865 - Dec. 29, 1866;
Press copies of letters sent: Vol. 1 (6), Jul. 1, 1865 - Sep. 9, 1865
- M999-2** Press copies of letters sent: Vol. 2 (7), Oct. 2, 1865 - Dec. 30, 1865;
Press copies of letters sent: Vol. 3 (9), Dec. 30, 1865 - Feb. 13, 1866
- M999-3** Press copies of letters sent: Vol. 4 (10), Feb. 13, 1866 - Mar. 17, 1866
Press copies of letters sent: Vol. 5 (11), Mar. 17, 1866 - Dec. 29, 1866;
Press copies of letters sent to General Howard and staff: Vol. 1 (15), Jul. 3, 1865 - Nov. 8, 1865;
Press copies of letters sent to General Howard and staff: Vol. 2 (16), Nov. 8, 1866 - Aug. 1, 1868;
Press copies of letters sent to General Howard and staff: Vol. 3 (17), Jul. 18, 1868 - Apr. 30, 1869
- M999-4** Letters Sent: Vol. 1 (13), Jan. 1, 1867 - Dec. 31, 1867;
Letters Sent: Vol. 2 (14), Jan. 3, 1868 - Dec. 30, 1868;
Press copies of telegrams sent: Vol. 1 (18), Jun. 25, 1865 - Dec. 22, 1866;
Endorsements sent: Vol. 1 (19), May 3, 1865 - Jan. 12, 1866;
Endorsements sent: Vol. 2 (20), Jan. 15, 1866 - Feb. 25, 1867
- M999-5** Endorsements sent: Vol. 3 (21), Jan. 3, 1867 - Mar. 21, 1868;
Endorsements sent: Vol. 4 (22), Jan. 2, 1868 - Jan. 25, 1869;
Registers of letters received: Vol. 1 (1), Jun. 18, 1865 - Jan. 14, 1866;
Registers of letters received: Vol. 2 (2), Jan. 3, 1866 - Jan. 23, 1867
- M999-6** Registers of letters received: Vol. 3 (3), Jan. 2, 1867 - Dec. 31, 1867;

Registers of letters received: Vol. 4 (4), Jan. 2, 1868 - Jan. 25, 1869;

Registers of letters received: Vol. 5 (5), Jan. 1, 1869 - May 5, 1869;

Letters and telegrams received:

- M999-7** Registered Letters Received: A - D, 1865
- M999-8** Registered Letters Received: E - L, 1865
- M999-9** Registered Letters Received: M - T, 1865
Registered Letters Received: U - Y, 1865;
Registered Letters Received: A - F, 1866
- M999-10** Registered Letters Received: G - M, 1866
- M999-11** Registered Letters Received: N - S, 1866
- M999-12** Registered Letters Received: T - Z, 1866;
Registered Letters Received: A - C, 1867
- M999-13** Registered Letters Received: D - S, 1867
- M999-14** Registered Letters Received: T - W, 1867;
Registered Letters Received: A - P, 1868
- M999-15** Registered Letters Received: R - W, 1868;
Registered Letters Received: A - Z, 1869;
Unregistered Letters Received, Jul. 1865 - May 1869;
- Unregistered Telegrams Received, Jul. 1865 - Nov. 1866

Issuances:

- M999-16** Special Orders and Circulars Issued: Vol. 1 (23), Jun. 26, 1865 - Dec. 30, 1865;
Special Orders and Circulars Issued: Vol. 2 (24), Jan. 1, 1866 - Dec. 31, 1866;
Special Orders and Circulars Issued: Vol. 3 (25), Jan. 3, 1867 - Dec. 31, 1868;
Special Orders Received: Vol. 1 (26), May 19, 1866 - Mar. 2, 1869;
Unbound Orders, Special Orders, and Circulars Received, Jun. 18, 1865 - May 30, 1869;

Reports on operations and conditions:

- Narrative Annual Reports, Oct. 1866 - Oct. 1868;
Narrative Quarterly Reports, Sep. 1866 - Dec. 1866;
Monthly Reports of Operations, Apr. 1866 - Dec. 1868
- M999-17** Narrative Reports of Operations and Conditions, Feb. 1866 - Sep. 1866
- M999-18** Narrative Reports of Operations and Conditions, Oct. 11, 1866 - Apr. 30, 1869
- M999-19** Inspection Reports, Sep. 6, 1865 - Mar. 12, 1869;

Records relating to the issue of supplies to freedmen:

- Reports of Numbers of Persons Issued Rations, Clothing, and Medicines, Nov. 1865 - Oct. 1868;
Reports of Freedmen's Homes, Aug. 1865 - Oct. 1868;

Records relating to freedmen's labor:

- M999-20** Indentures of Apprenticeship, Dec. 1865 - Feb. 1868;
- Contracts: Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, Dyer County
- M999-21** Contracts: Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, Fayette - Hardman Counties

African American

- M999-22** Contracts: Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, Hardman - Madison Counties
- M999-23** Contracts: Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, Robertson - Shelby Counties
- M999-24** Contracts: Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, Shelby-Wilson County
- M999-25** Contracts: Jan. 1, 1865 - Jan. 1, 1868, Arkansas County, AR - Bolivar County, MS;
Reports relating to bounty claims and disbursements: May 18, 1867 - Apr. 30, 1869

Transportation Reports, Jan. 1867 - Nov. 1868;
Miscellaneous records, Jun. 1865 - Oct. 1868

Records relating to abandoned property:

- M999-26** Registers of Abandoned Property: Vol. 1 (29), Feb. 1861 - May 1868;
Registers of Abandoned Property: Vol. 2 (30), Feb. 1861 - May 1868;
Registers of Abandoned Property: Vol. 3 (31), Feb. 1861 - May 1868;
Descriptions of Abandoned Property and Its Former Owners: Vol. 1 (32), 1865 - 1866;
Lists, Reports, and Correspondence Pertaining to Land and Property, Jan. 23, 1864 - Sep. 30, 1868;
Leases of Abandoned Property: Sep. 1864 - Feb. 1867, Anderson - Blount Counties
- M999-27** Leases of Abandoned Property: Sep. 1864 - Feb. 1867, Blount - Knox Counties
- M999-28** Leases of Abandoned Property: Sep. 1864 - Feb. 1867, Knox - Shelby Counties
- M999-29** Leases of Abandoned Property: Sep. 1864 - Feb. 1867, Shelby - Wilson Counties;
Applications for Restoration of Property: A - B, Aug. 1865 - Jan. 1868
- M999-30** Applications for Restoration of Property: C - H, Aug. 1865 - Jan. 1868
- M999-31** Applications for Restoration of Property: J - O, Aug. 1865 - Jan. 1868
- M999-32** Applications for Restoration of Property: P - Y, Aug. 1865 - Jan. 1868

Personnel records:

- M999-33** Correspondence Relating to Appointments, Jul. 19, 1865 - Nov. 23, 1868;
Letters of Appointments, Mar. 1867 - Dec. 1867;
Oaths of Office, Apr. 1867 - Nov. 1867;
Personal Reports of Officers and Agents, Jan. 1867 - Jan. 1869;
Station Book of Officers and Agents Vol. 1 (27), Jan. 1867 - Dec. 1868;
Monthly Reports of Changes of Officers and Agents on Duty, Feb. 1, 1866 - Mar. 1, 1869;
Letters Revoking Appointments, Jul. 1867 - Nov. 1867

Records relating to outrages:

- M999-34** Register of Outrages: Vol. 1 (28), Oct. 1865 - Jul. 1868;
Reports of Outrages, Riots, and Murders, Jan. 15, 1866 - Aug. 12, 1868;
Affidavits Relating to Outrages, Mar. 1866 - Aug. 1868;