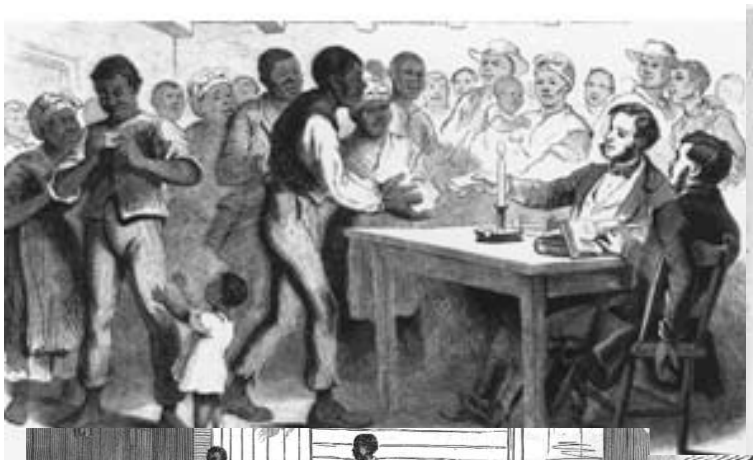
A Genealogical Finding Aid for Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau) at the National Archives at Atlanta



The National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Region, Atlanta

5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260

770-968-2100

atlanta.archives@nara.gov

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National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast region, Atlanta

Freedmen's Bureau Finding Aid

I. Introduction

a. General history and overview of the Freedmen's Bureau

The United States experienced a period of extreme transition after the termination of the Civil War, especially in the South. As the former reality of slave labor and the once untouchable "King Cotton" became a mere memory of the past, newly-freed African Americans attempted to create lives for themselves under the promise of emancipation. In order to assuage the difficult transition from slavery to freedom, the federal government established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, now known as the Freedmen's Bureau, on March 3, 1865.

Congress created the Freedmen's Bureau as a temporary extension of the War Department, originally intending the Bureau to last for one year. Some of the Bureau's main duties included the provision of food, clothing, medicine, and rations for freedmen and white southerners, the legitimization of marriage certificates and labor contracts, the establishment of freedmen schools, and the sequestration of confiscated and abandoned Confederate lands. Due to the large amount of work and organization that the Freedmen's Bureau required, Congress appointed General Oliver O. Howard as the Chief Commissioner of the Bureau in May 1865. Although General Howard established the Bureau's main headquarters in Washington, D.C., assistant commissioners and subordinate officers worked in various local and field offices throughout the southern and border states. These officers handled most of the day-to-day interactions with freedmen.

Even during its most active years, the Freedmen's Bureau faced a multitude of difficulties. White resistance, insufficient resources, and a lack of support from the president severely limited the Bureau and its effects. White southerners often ostracized and antagonized overworked Bureau officers as a means of demoralizing the Freedmen's Bureau's efforts. President Andrew Johnson expressed an outright opposition to the Freedmen's Bureau, making Congress the primary reason for the Bureau's existence six years after it was supposed to terminate.

Despite its many obstacles, the Freedmen's Bureau managed to establish hospitals and schools that are still thriving today. By working in conjunction with various philanthropic organizations, the Bureau helped many freedmen obtain the financial, medical, labor, and educational opportunities necessary to jumpstart their journey to full American citizenry. In January 1869, most assistant commissioners and subordinate officers withdrew from their respective states following the congressional order to bring the Freedmen's Bureau to an end. In 1870, the Freedmen's Bureau superintendents of education were withdrawn from their states, and on June 10, 1872, Congress officially abolished the Freedmen's Bureau.

Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands provide a plethora of documents relating to African American family history, which include but are not limited to information regarding marriages, children, deaths, labor, residencies, and the military. These

records can be instrumental in filling in gaps within detailed family histories, or they can serve as starting points for new genealogical efforts.

b. History behind the Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act

Records from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Record Group 105) are some of the most useful resources for understanding the African American experience after the Civil War. The many documents, letters, lists, and registers within this collection provide crucial information for both genealogical and scholarly research, as they give a rare insight into the lives and experiences of freedmen during the Reconstruction era.

The preservation of Freedmen's Bureau documents began in the 1970s, but for many years, these records were only available in Washington D.C. Limited access coupled with the fragility of the documents made it difficult for historians and researchers to use the voluminous and often disorganized records. In 2000, however, Congress approved a 5-year initiative called the Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act. This act provided 3 million dollars worth of funds to microfilm and index over 1000 cubic feet of Freedmen's Bureau documents and make their contents available nationwide. Now, Bureau records from Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia are all available for scholarly and public use.

Freedmen's Bureau Records at the National Archives at Atlanta

The National Archives at Atlanta possesses an expansive collection of Freedmen's Bureau records for the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Some records for Louisiana, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, however, are not available at the Atlanta vicinity, but they may be acquired through other means. The Freedmen's Bureau records mainly span from the year 1865 to the year 1872.

II. Introduction to the Finding Aid

a. Purpose

Although the Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act successfully accomplished the feat of microfilming the Freedmen's Bureau archives in an orderly manner, it is still difficult to know which types of documents and which rolls of film are useful for research, particularly genealogical research. Hence, the purpose of this finding aid is help researchers find information quickly within the Freedmen's Bureau records at the National Archives at Atlanta by narrowing down the areas of film that are most likely to contain pertinent and detailed information about freedmen and their whereabouts. Not only does this finding aid provide a step-by-step procedure for analyzing Freedmen's Bureau records in each of the featured states, but it also provides additional locations where these records may exist as well as suggested readings that may assist researchers with further inquiries.

b. How the finding aid is organized

Although the Freedmen's Bureau was one, central agency, individual states and communities had their own offices run by assistant commissioners and subordinate officers. Because freedmen would have naturally visited the Bureau offices within their state of residence, this finding aid is organized by state in alphabetical order. Records pertaining to each state are organized into three categories: field office records, state records, and general administration records. Information about additional holding locations and suggested readings are also included in the outline for each state. It is important to note that genealogical research is not an exact science. It cannot be guaranteed that the records and rolls of film suggested in this finding aid will provide researchers with the specific information that they seek. Using this finding aid, however, will greatly increase a researcher's chance of obtaining the most useful resources and information for ancestry research.

c. How to use this finding aid

i. Step One: In order for this finding aid to be effective for genealogical and family history research, a researcher must first know two pieces of information:

   1. Name of ancestor(s):
   2. State (or cluster of states) in which the ancestor lived or resided
      a. Although it is not necessary to know the city/county/district of a state where an ancestor lived, knowing this information is extremely helpful for the research process

ii. Step Two: After obtaining these two pieces of information, use the state outlines in this finding aid to review the records available for the state in question.

iii. Step Three: Records for each state will be divided into three categories: field office records, state records, and general administration records. Follow the state outline to obtain the records that are most applicable to your specific research needs. As a general rule, genealogists should begin with a state's field office records. Although these records are the most voluminous, they are most likely to contain personal data and information regarding individual freedmen. **Some series within the records are more helpful than others. See the description of helpful series on the following page for more information.** When possible, use name and subject indexes to accelerate the research process.

iv. Step Four: After searching within the field office records, use any state records listed, as some of these documents may also contain personal data. Some series within the records are more helpful than others. See the

descriptions of helpful series on the following page for more information. When possible, use name and subject indexes.

v. Step Five: Complete the search by viewing administrative, headquarter, and educational records. Although these records often contain information mostly pertinent to scholarly research or general history research, it is possible for them to contain personal information regarding individual freedmen. Some series within the records are more helpful than others. See the descriptions of helpful series on the following page for more information. When possible, use name and subject indexes.

vi. Step Six: If the records at the National Archives at Atlanta do not suffice, use the "additional holdings" and "suggested readings" portion of the outline to find other sources of information that may assist with the analysis of Freedmen's Bureau records.

d. Description of most helpful series:

i. Marriage records: extremely helpful; provide locations, official marriage dates, and detailed information regarding husbands, wives, and children

ii. School reports: usually helpful; oftentimes statistical, but usually provide names of teachers, locations of schools, and signatures of individual teachers; statistical reports are very thorough and may be of interest to scholarly researchers

iii. Lists of destitute freedmen/families receiving relief: almost always helpful; provide names of adults in the household, race, number of children, remarks

iv. Murder and outrage reports: almost always helpful; generally provide names of victims and perpetrators, date and nature of offense, race of individuals involved

v. Land and property claims/leases: sometimes helpful; often provide more information about the current or former landowners, not the freedmen renting the land; may provide names of owner and renter, location of land, number of acres of land, family size of the freedmen renters

vi. Labor contracts: almost always helpful; generally provide names of employers and employees, dates of contract, terms of agreement, location, wages

vii. Contracts/reports of indenture: almost always helpful; provide names of master and apprentice, age of apprentice, dates of contract, terms of agreement and employment duties, location

viii. Clothing/food/land ration reports and applications: usually helpful; reports of rations have a tendency to be statistical, but applications for rations and ration registers may provide names of freedmen and family members, residences, and the number rations that each family received or intended to receive

ix. Court proceedings/registers of complaints: usually helpful; often provide names of plaintiff and defendant, dates of trial or complaint, details of case, and residence information

x. Reports of sick and wounded freedmen: sometimes helpful; reports of sick and wounded freedmen are mostly statistical and are more helpful for scholarly research rather than genealogical research

xi. Registers of sick and wounded freedmen/registers of hospital patients: extremely helpful; provide alphabetical lists of sick freedmen and include details such as name, age, sex, disease, date admitted, date discharged, treatment, remarks, death dates (if applicable)

xii. Transportation orders and applications: almost always helpful; provide dates of application, names of freedmen, reasons for needing transportation, payment for adults and children

xiii. Census lists/registers of black persons: extremely helpful; provide names, locations, occupations etc. for individual freedmen

xiv. Lists of persons and articles hired: usually helpful; can provide names of recently hired employees, positions, services, wages, dates of contract

Important Note: Because this finding aid does not outline the contents of every roll of film within the Freedmen's Bureau archives collection, it may be necessary to reference the National Archives Microfilm Catalog during the course of research. The Microfilm Catalog provides exact descriptions of the records available on individual rolls of film and the locations of name/subject indexes that may accompany them.

III. Using the Freedmen's Bureau Records: Individual States

a. Alabama

i. Brief history

The Alabama Freedmen's Bureau operation began in July 1865, with Brig. Gen. Wagner Swayne as the state's Assistant Commissioner. Bvt. Brig. Julius Hayden, Col. Oliver L. Shepard, Col. T.H. Ruger, and Bvt. Lt. Col. Edwin Beecher succeeded Swayne respectively. The Alabama

Freedmen's Bureau operation contained many sub districts with individual headquarters. The most notable headquarters were those in Demopolis, Eufala, Greenville, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Opelika, Selma, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. The Alabama Freedmen's Bureau office officially closed in 1870.

ii. Field office records

1. M1900—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

    a. 34 rolls

    b. Contains letters sent and received, registers of rations, special orders and circulars, bounty claimants, reports, registers of contracts, registers of complaints, registers of hospital patients, registers of disbursements, account books, applications for relief, endorsements, labor contracts, rosters of officers and employees, court records

    c. Contains name indexes for most volumes of letters sent, letters received, and endorsements

    d. Rolls 1-8 contain general records for the Alabama Freedmen's Bureau operation

        i. Roll 3 is helpful for genealogical research

            1. Provides a list of families who received relief from 1867 to 1868

            2. Includes name, race, number of family members, signatures

            3. Arranged chronologically

    e. Rolls 9-34 contain records for subordinate field offices in Ashville, Bluffton, Cahaba, Claiborn, Demopolis, Elyton, Eufala, Eutaw, Garland, Girard, Greenville, Haynesville, Huntsville, Jacksonville, Livingston, Mobile, Montgomery, Opelika, Selma, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Tuscumbia, and Tuskegee

        i. Most helpful series within these rolls: labor contracts, register of rations and transportation, register of patients in the freedmen's hospital, reports of hospital patients, reports of destitute

individuals/soldiers, census records, register of the sick and wounded, register of complaints

iii. State records

1. M809—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Alabama Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

    a. 23 rolls

    b. Contains mostly letters, endorsements, reports, and telegrams from the Alabama Assistant Commissioner to Commissioner Oliver. O Howard in Washington, D.C.

    c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, endorsements, telegrams, and issuances

    d. Not likely to find accounts of individual freedmen in these records

2. M810—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Alabama Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

    a. 8 rolls

    b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, an account book, and school reports

    c. Contains complete and incomplete name indexes for volumes of letters sent, the single volume of endorsements, the register of letters received, and unbound miscellaneous records

    d. Rolls 4-8 are most likely to contain helpful information for genealogical research

        i. School reports are arranged chronologically by month and alphabetically by name of county or sub district

        ii. Contain lists of teachers, monthly school reports, names/ages/skill levels of freedmen students

iv. General administration records

1. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869*)

    a. 5 rolls

    b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

    c. Roll 1 contains the single Alabama marriage license for Abslum Susk and Martha Culbert

2. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

    a. 35 rolls

    b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

    c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

        i. Roll 15 is the only roll that contains information regarding freedmen schools in Alabama as well as personal information regarding white and African American teachers

        ii. School reports ordered chronologically

        iii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

v. Additional locations of Alabama holdings:

1. NARA-D.C. (M1900, M809, M810, M1875, M803)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M809 roll 23)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Bethel, Elizabeth. "The Freedmen's Bureau in Alabama" *Journal of Southern History* 14.1 (1948): 49-92.

b. Arkansas

i. Brief history

The Arkansas Freedmen's Bureau operation began in May 1865, when Brig. Gen. John W. Sprague became the state's Assistant Commissioner. Sprague's jurisdiction stretched outside of Arkansas to include the neighboring areas of Missouri, Indian Territory, and parts of Illinois and Kansas. Although Sprague originally established the headquarters in St. Louis, MO, Commissioner Howard ordered Sprague to transfer the headquarters location to Little Rock, AR in October 1865. Bvt. Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord succeeded Sprague in 1866 followed by Bvt. Maj. Gen. Charles H. Smith in 1867. The Arkansas Freedmen's Bureau ended its activities in 1869.

ii. Field office records

1. M1901—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

    a. 23 rolls

    b. Contains volumes of letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, registers of freedmen issued rations, special orders and circulars, registers of bounty claimants, monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, applications of freedmen for rations, records relating to claims, court trials, property restorations, homesteads

    c. Rolls 1-6 contain general records for the Arkansas Freedmen's Bureau operation

    d. Contains name indexes for most volumes of letters sent and press copies of letters sent

    e. Roll 6 is likely to help with genealogical research

        i. Provides registers of claimants

        ii. Arranged alphabetically by surname of soldier or claimant

    f. Rolls 6-23 contain records for subordinate field offices in Arkadelphia, Augusta, Batesville, Camden, Lewisburg, Devall's Bluff, Fort Smith, Hamburg, Hampton, Helena, Jacksonport, Lake Village and Luna Landing, Lewisville,

Little Rock, Madison, Magnolia, Marion, Monticello, Napoleon, Osceola, Ozark, Paraclifta, Pine Bluff, Princeton, South Bend, Union, Washington

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: registers of complaints, labor contracts, registers of marriages/marriage certificates, reports of persons hired, registers of school children, registers of persons receiving rations, court papers, indentures, teachers' school reports

2. T142—*Selected Records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

a. Contains letters between Bureau officials and field office officials, endorsements, correspondences between commissioners, reports of rations, murders, outrages, and riots, letters relating to lands and freedmen's homes, sanitation letters, labor contracts

b. Rolls 24, 39, 42, 51-54, and 61-72 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Contain records of complaints in freedmen's court, outrages and riots, land and property reports, monthly school reports, indentures, reports of rations, and labor contracts

iii. State records

1. M979—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 52 rolls

b. Contains letters and correspondences between Bureau officers, telegrams, endorsements, reports of operations, reports relating to education, reports relating to abandoned lands, reports of rations, labor contracts

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters and telegrams sent, volumes of endorsements sent, registers of letters and telegrams sent, issuances, select volumes of letters and telegrams received, and the Station Book for Bureau office workers

d. Rolls 31-52 are most helpful for genealogical research

i. Include ration reports, labor contracts, signatures, indenture contracts for African American orphans

ii. Ration reports are arranged chronologically; labor contracts are arranged alphabetically by initial surname of employer; indenture contracts are arranged chronologically

2. M980—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Contains three volumes of sent letters, four volumes of endorsements, and three volumes of registered letters and telegrams relating to Bureau administration, all with name indexes

c. Contains two series of monthly school reports from superintendents and agents

d. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, endorsements, and letters received

e. Roll 5 is most likely to aid in genealogical research

i. Monthly school reports

ii. Ordered chronologically

iii. Detailed accounts of schools including names of teachers and details about teachers (both black and white)

iv. Teacher details can be very helpful if genealogist knows the estimated dates of his or her ancestor's teaching career

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

i. Rolls 15 and 34 are the only rolls in this record that contain information about teachers and freedmen schools in Arkansas

ii. School reports ordered chronologically

iii. Provides names, locations, dates, and details about teachers within freedmen schools

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 1 contains reports of freedmen marriages in Arkansas from July 1865-September 1866 in the following sub districts: Arkadelphia, Ashley, Devall's Bluff, and Helena

v. Additional locations of Arkansas holdings:

1. NARA-D.C. (M1901, T142, M979, M980, M803, M1875)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M979 roll 52)

3. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (T142)

4. Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock, AR (M979)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Finely, Randy. *From Slavery to Uncertain Freedom: The Freedmen's Bureau in Arkansas*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1996. Print.

2. Pearce, Larry Wesley. "The American Missionary Association and the Freedmen's Bureau in Arkansas." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 30.3 (1971): 242-259.

c. District Of Columbia

i. Brief history

The District of Columbia Freedmen's Bureau operation began in June 1865, with the appointment of Col. John Eaton as the Assistant Commissioner. John C. Fullerton succeeded Eaton six months later in December 1865, followed by Brig. Gen. C.H. Howard (Commissioner Oliver Howard's brother) in 1866 and Bvt. Maj. David G. Swaim in 1868. The D.C. headquarters not only served local areas but was also responsible for activities in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and certain parts of Virginia. By October 1869, nearly all of the D.C. Bureau activities had ceased.

ii. Field office records

1. M1902—*Records of the Field Offices of the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

    a. 21 rolls

    b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, employment registers, registers of contraband camps, marriage records, special orders and circulars issued, monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, labor contracts, transportation orders, employment rosters, and ministers' reports relating to marriages

    c. Rolls 1-13 contain general records for the District of Columbia Freedmen's Bureau operation

        i. Contain name indexes for volumes of letters sent, press copies of letters sent, requisitions, and receipts

        ii. Rolls 12-13 are most likely to help with genealogical research

            1. Contain transportation orders and marriage records

            2. Arranged chronologically

    d. Rolls 13-21 contain information for subordinate field offices in Washington, Georgetown, Barry Farm, Freedmen's Village

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: persons and articles hired, employment registers, registers of sick and wounded freedmen, registers of hospital patients, labor contracts, registers of departing and arriving freedmen

iii. General administration records

1. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

   a. 5 rolls

   b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

   c. Roll 1 contains freedmen marriage records for the District of Columbia

2. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

   a. 35 rolls

   b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

   c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

   d. Rolls 16-18 are most likely to help with genealogical research

      i. Contain records regarding freedmen schools and teachers for the District of Columbia

      ii. School reports ordered chronologically

      iii. Provides names, locations, dates, and details about teachers within freedmen schools

iv. Additional locations of D.C. holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1902, M1055 [*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands 1865-1869*], M1056 [*Records of*

the Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1872], M1875, M803)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M1055 roll 21)

v. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Everly, Elaine Cutler. *Freedmen's Bureau in the National Capital*. Diss. George Washington University, 1971.

2. Harrison, Robert. "Welfare and Employment Policies of the Freedmen's Bureau in the District of Columbia." *Journal of Southern History* 72.1 (2006): 75-110.

d. Florida

i. Brief history

Florida's Freedmen's Bureau operations began in June 1865, when Bvt. Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the states of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. A few months later, however, Commissioner Howard appointed Bvt. Col. T.W. Osborn as the first Assistant Commissioner of Florida. Other assistant commissioners of Florida's Freedmen's Bureau included Maj. Gen. J.G. Foster, Bvt. Brig. Gen. John T. Sprague, and Bvt. Lt. Col. George W. Gile. Osborn established the Florida Freedmen's Bureau headquarters in Tallahassee in September 1865. This location would change three more times before the Florida Freedmen's Bureau closed its doors, as the office moved from Tallahassee to Jacksonville in 1867, from Jacksonville to St. Augustine in 1868, and then back to Jacksonville until 1870. In addition, major field office headquarters were established in cities such as Barancas, Fernandina, Jacksonville, Key West, Monticello, Ocala, Pensacola, Quincy, and Tallahassee.

ii. Field office records

1. M1869—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner and Subordinate Field Offices for the State of Florida, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

a. 15 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of rations, special orders, monthly reports, and documents relating to property and homesteads

c. Rolls 1-14 contain general records for the Florida Freedmen's Bureau operation

i. Contain complete and incomplete name indexes for select volumes of letters sent, volumes of endorsements sent, issuances, and one register of freedmen-issued rations

ii. Rolls 11-14 are most likely to help with genealogical research

1. Contain freedmen applications for land rations, statistical school reports, lists of teachers, military records and financial claims, labor contracts

2. Ration reports ordered alphabetically, school reports ordered chronologically, military records ordered chronologically

iii. Rolls 14-15 contain records for subordinate field offices in Barancas, Fernandina, Jacksonville, Key West, Monticello, Ocala, Pensacola, Quincy, Tallahassee

1. Most helpful series within these rolls: register of freedmen-issued rations, records relating to court trials

iii. State records

1. M869—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 44 rolls

b. Because the Freedmen's Bureau offices of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina originally shared a common headquarters in Beaufort, SC, some information regarding all three of these states is intermixed. There is no separate roll for Florida in the record M869.

c. Contains letters and registers of correspondences between Bureau officials, applications for the restoration of property, reports of murders and outrages, reports of conditions and operations, special orders, reports of rations, labor contracts, and records relating to transportation

d. Name indexes exist for most volumes of letters, the first and last volumes of endorsements, applications and orders for property restoration, selected volumes of special orders, and ration reports

e. Rolls 34, 38, 42 and 44 are most likely to contain personal data, and therefore, the most useful information for genealogical research

i. Contains specific information regarding murders and outrages, names and statistics regarding rations and destitute freedmen, labor contracts, transportation requests and orders

ii. Series are ordered chronologically or alphabetically

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 19 and 34 relate to activities in Florida

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869*)

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 1 contains Florida marriage records

v. Additional locations of Florida holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1869, M869, M803, M1785)
2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M869 rolls 34, 44)
3. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (M1869)
4. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (M1869)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Richardson, Joe M. "The Freedmen's Bureau and Negro Labor in Florida" *The Florida Historical Quarterly*. 39.2 (1960): 167-174.

e. Georgia

i. Brief history

In Georgia, Freedmen's Bureau operations began in June 1865, when Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton became the Assistant Commissioner for the states of South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia. In September 1865, the Office of the Assistant Commissioner was established in Georgia, and Brig. Gen. Davis Tillson was appointed the Acting Assistant Commissioner for the Georgia Freedmen's Bureau. The office of the Assistant Commissioner in Georgia saw many different commissioners and cities during its lifetime. Gen. Tillson established the headquarters in Augusta in 1865 and moved it to Savannah in the fall of 1866. Col. Caleb C. Sibley, Tillson's successor, moved the headquarters from Savannah to Macon in January 1867. In July 1867, Col. Sibley moved the headquarters from Macon to Atlanta. In 1868, Maj. John R. Lewis replaced Sibley and led the Georgia Freedmen's Bureau office until its termination in May 1869.

ii. Field office records

1. M1903—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*
   a. 90 rolls
   b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, special orders and circulars issued, registers of complaints, monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, unregistered letters and narrative reports received, general orders and circulars received, monthly reports, records relating to complaints, labor contracts, patients, and court papers
   c. Rolls 1-33 contain general records for the Georgia Freedmen's Bureau operation

i. Contain name indexes for volumes of letters sent, press copies of letters sent, select volumes of registers of letters and endorsements received

ii. Rolls 21-25, 33 are most likely to provide helpful information for ancestry research

1. Include monthly reports of persons and articles hired, transportation orders, medical department employees

2. Series arranged chronologically

d. Rolls 33-90 contain records for subordinate field offices in Albany, Americus, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Bainbridge, Bairdstown, Barton, Blakely, Brunswick, Butler, Campbellton, Carnesville, Carrollton, Cartersville, Clarksville, Columbus, Crawfordsville, Cumming, Cuthbert, Dahlonega, Dalton, Darien, Dawson, Dorchester, Eatonton, Elijay, Forsyth, Fort Gaines, Fort Valley, Greensboro, Griffin, Halcyondale, Hawkinsville, Hinesville, Irvinton, Isabella, Jackson, Jonesboro, LaFayette, LaGrange, Lexington, Macon, McDonough, Marietta, Marion, Milledgeville, Monroe, Newman, Newton, Perry, Quitman, Riceboro, Rome, St. Marys, St. Simons Island, Sandersville, Savannah, Smithville, Stockton, Thomasville, Warrenton, Washington, Watkinsville, Waynesboro, Woodville

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: affidavits of freedmen, monthly reports of the sick and wounded, register of hospital patients, register of complaints, register of rations and transportation, court papers, register of employees and contracts, school reports

iii. State records

1. M798—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

a. 36 rolls

b. Contains communications sent between Assistant Commissioners and staff officers, registers, orders issued, unbound letters, reports, miscellaneous papers

c. Complete and incomplete name indexes exist for register 5, volume 1 of reports, and volume 1 of station books and rosters

d. Rolls 32 and 36 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Murder and outrage reports, land title records

ii. Provide information about assaulted or murdered freedmen; provide information about land issued to freedmen

iii. Murders and outrages ordered chronologically and land titles ordered alphabetically

2. M799—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 28 rolls

b. Contains letters sent, registers, accounting records, unbound letters, and school reports

c. Contains name indexes for letters sent and registers of letters

d. Rolls 20-26 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Teachers' school reports

ii. Ordered chronologically

iii. Contain dates, teachers' names, locations of schools, classroom statistics

iv. These rolls of film are most helpful if researcher knows the estimated dates of ancestor's teaching career

3. M869—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 44 rolls

b. Because the Freedmen's Bureau offices of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina originally shared a common headquarters in Beaufort, SC, some information regarding all three of these states is intermixed. There is no separate roll for Georgia within the record M869.

c. Contains letters and registers of correspondences between Bureau officials, applications for the restoration of property, reports of murders and outrages, reports of conditions and operations, special orders, reports of rations, labor contracts, and records relating to transportation

d. Name indexes exist for most volumes of letters, the first and last volumes of endorsements, applications and orders for property restoration, select volumes of special orders, and ration reports

e. Rolls 34, 38, 42 and 44 are most likely to contain personal data, and therefore, the most useful information for genealogical research

i. Contain specific information regarding murders and outrages, names and statistics regarding rations and destitute freedmen, labor contracts, legal affairs, transportation requests and orders

ii. Murder and outrage reports, ration reports, labor contracts, and transportation requests are arranged chronologically

iii. Lists of destitute freedmen and records pertaining to legal affairs are arranged alphabetically

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 19 and 34 relate to activities in Georgia

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

v. Additional locations of Georgia holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1903, M798, M799, M869, M803)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M798 rolls 32, 36) (M869 34, 44)

3. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (M1903)

4. The University of Georgia Main Library, Athens, GA (M798, M799)

vi. Suggested readings and authors

1. Cimbala, Paul A. "On the Front Line of Freedom: Freedmen's Bureau Officers and Agents in Reconstruction Georgia, 1865-1868." *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* 76.3 (1992): 577-611.

2. Rapport, Sara. "The Freedmen's Bureau as a Legal Agent for Black Men and Women in Georgia 1865-1868." *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* 73.1 (1989): 26-53.

f. Kentucky

i. Brief history

In July 1865, Maj. Gen. C.B. Fisk was appointed the Freedmen's Bureau Assistant Commissioner for the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. Bureau activities in Kentucky, however, did not begin until March 1866, when Fisk appointed Bvt. Brig. Gen. John Ely as the chief superintendent of the Kentucky Freedmen's Bureau. Then, in June 1866, Fisk appointed Maj. Gen. Jeff C. Davis as the first Assistant Commissioner of the Kentucky Bureau. Davis was succeeded by Brig. Gen. Sidney Burbank in 1867 followed by Maj. Benjamin Runkle in 1869. Although Ely established the Kentucky Freedmen's Bureau headquarters in Louisville, major subordinate field offices existed in Bowling Green, Lebanon, Lexington, Louisville, and Paducah.

ii. Field office records

1. T142—*Selected Records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

a. Contains letters between Bureau officials and field office officials, endorsements, correspondences between commissioners, reports of rations, murders, outrages, and riots, letters relating to lands and freedmen's homes, sanitation letters, labor contracts

b. Rolls 24, 39, 42, 51-54, and 61-72 are most likely to help with genealogical research

c. Contain records of complaints in freedmen's court, outrages and riots, land and property reports, monthly school reports, indentures, reports of rations, and labor contracts

i. Kentucky records are limited within these rolls—not a likely place to find information regarding Kentucky freedmen

2. M1904—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Kentucky, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

a. 133 rolls

b. Contains letters sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of freedmen court cases, special orders and circulars, registers of claimants, registers of complaints, marriage certificates, monthly reports, labor contracts

c. Rolls 1-86 contain general records for the Kentucky Freedmen's Bureau operation

i. Name indexes exist for select volumes of letters sent, press copies of letters sent, and registers of letters received

ii. Rolls 50-58, 64-68, 76-77, 81-87 are most likely to provide helpful information for genealogical research

1. Contain school reports, lists of teachers, labor contracts, registers of claimants, reports of sick and wounded freedmen

2. School reports and reports of sick and wounded freedmen arranged chronologically, lists of teachers arranged

alphabetically by town, labor contracts arranged alphabetically by surname of employer, register of claimants arranged alphabetically by surname of claimant

d. Rolls 87-133 contain records for subordinate field offices in Augusta, Bowling Green, Brandenburg, Burksville, Columbus, Covington, Cynthiana, Danville, Falmouth, Georgetown, Greensburg, Henderson, Hodginsville, Lebanon, Lexington, Louisville, Maysville, Mt. Sterling, Nicholasville, Owensboro, Paducah, Paris, Russellville, Smithland, Stanford, Versailles, Winchester

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: monthly school reports, reports of complaints, register of marriages, cases in freedmen's court, registers of indentures, labor contracts, reports of persons hired

iii. State Records

1. Because Maj. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk originally served as the Freedmen's Bureau Assistant Commissioner for both Kentucky and Tennessee, records relating to Kentucky Bureau activities prior to March 1866 may appear in interspersed within the following records:

a. M999—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

b. M1000—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 20 and 21 relate to activities in Kentucky

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 1 contains freedmen marriage records for Kentucky

v. Additional locations of Kentucky holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (T142, M1904, M803, M1875)

2. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (T142)

vi. Suggested readings and authors

1. Howard, Victor B. "The Black Testimony Controversy in Kentucky, 1866-1872." *The Journal of Negro Education* 58.2 (1973): 140-165

2. Howard, Victor B. "The Struggle for Equal Education in Kentucky, 1866-1884." *The Journal of Negro Education* 46.3 (1977: 305-328

g. Louisiana

i. Brief history

Louisiana Freedmen's Bureau operations began on June 13, 1865, when Commissioner Oliver O. Howard appointed Chaplain Thomas W. Conway as the state's assistant commissioner. Seven more assistant commissioners would pass through the Louisiana Bureau office between 1865 and 1869. Under Conway, Louisiana was divided into districts that were made up of parishes, but by 1867, the state was reorganized into seven sub districts led by sub assistant commissioners. Major subordinate field offices existed in the cities of Baton Rouge, Franklin, Monroe, Natchitoches, New Orleans, Shreveport, and Vidalia.

ii. Field office records

1. T142—*Selected Records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*
    a. Contains letters between Bureau officials and field office officials, endorsements, correspondences between commissioners, reports of rations, murders, outrages, and riots, letters relating to lands and freedmen's homes, sanitation letters, labor contracts
    b. Rolls 24, 39, 42, and 51-54, and 61-72 are most likely to help with genealogical research
    c. Contain records of complaints in freedmen's court, outrages and riots, land and property reports, monthly school reports, indentures, reports of rations, and labor contracts
        i. Louisiana records limited within these rolls—not a likely place to find information regarding Louisiana freedmen
2. M1905—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1863-1872)*
    a. 111 rolls
    b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, registers of freedmen court cases, special orders and circulars, registers of claimants, registers of complaints, marriage certificates, monthly reports, labor contracts
    c. Rolls 1-52 contain general records from the Louisiana Freedmen's Bureau operation
        i. Rolls 1-2, 7-9, 24-52 are most likely to help with genealogical research and personal data searches
            1. Contain registers of claimants and payments, registers of proceedings in freedmen's court, registers of houses occupied by soldiers' families, conscripts, refugees, indentured orphans, contracts, registers of hospital patients, employment information, labor contacts

2. Contain name indexes for select volumes of claims received, registers of payments, court proceedings, orphan children, lists of contracts with freedmen

d. Rolls 52-111 contain records for subordinate field offices in Abbeville, Alexandria, Algiers, Amite City, Baton Rouge, Bayou Sara, Bragg Home Colony, Brashear City, Carrollton, Chofield Plantation, Clinton, Columbia, Covington, De Cros Station, Donaldsonville, Evergreen, Franklin, Greenville Colony, Hammond Station, Homer, Houma, Jefferson City, Jesuits Bend, Kenilworth Plantation, Labatus Landing, Lake Providence, McHatton Home Colony, Madisonville, Mansfield, Marksville, Merritts Plantation, Millikens Bend, Monroe, Montgomery, Mossy Farm Plantation, Napoleonville, Natchitoches, New Iberia, New Orleans, New Roads, Pointe Coupe, Port Hudson, Prairie Landing, Rost Home Colony, St. Bernard, St. Francisville, St. James, St. Joseph, St. Martinsville, Shreveport, Sparta, Springfield, Thibodeaux, Trenton, Trinity, Vermillionville, Vernon, Vidalia, Waterloo

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: school reports, applications for relief, registers of court trials, registers of black persons, registers of complaints, registers of contracts, ration records, indentures, registers of arrivals and departures, births and deaths, lists of sick and wounded freedmen, applications for laborers, registers of leased property, register of indigents

iii. State records

1. M1026—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1864-1869)*

a. 12 rolls

b. Contains letters, telegrams, endorsements, school reports, finance and property records

c. Contains name indexes for volumes 1, 2, and 4 of letters and telegrams, the single volume of endorsements, press copies of letters sent, reports from the superintendent relating to personnel

d. Rolls 4-8 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Monthly school reports

ii. Generally in chronological order

iii. Contain names of teachers, names and number of students, location of schools, average attendance, records of good students and suspended students, rates of pay for teachers, applications for teacher employment

2. M1027—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

a. 36 rolls (NARA-ATL only has rolls 1-31)

b. Contains letters, telegrams, endorsements, issuances, operations, reports about condition of freedmen, confiscated lands, murders and outrages, persons and articles hired

c. Contains name indexes for all volumes of letters and telegrams sent, select volumes of letters and endorsements received, issuances, applications for the restoration of property

d. Roll 34 (murders and outrages) is most likely to help with genealogical research, but this roll is not available at NARA-ATL

3. M826—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

a. Mississippi and select parishes of Louisiana originally shared an assistant commissioner, so many of their records are intermixed. There is no separate roll for Louisiana in this record.

b. 50 rolls

c. Contains letters sent, endorsements sent, registers of letters received, orders and circulars, monthly reports from subordinate officers, station books, oaths, rosters, marriage registers, registers of indentures, labor contracts

d. Contains name/subject indexes for select volumes of letters and endorsements sent, and registers of letters received

e. Rolls 42-50 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Contain detailed registers of indentures of African American orphans, registers of freedmen marriages, labor contracts

ii. Marriage records are generally ordered alphabetically by surname of husband and then chronologically; labor contracts are ordered chronologically

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 22-23 and 34 relate to activities in Louisiana

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869*)

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 1 contains Louisiana marriage records

v. Additional locations of Louisiana holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (T142, M1905, M1026, M1027, M1483 *[Records of the New Orleans Field Offices, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1869*], M803, M826, M1875)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M826 roll 42, M1027 rolls 33-34)

3. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (T142, M1483 10 rolls)

vi. Suggested readings and authors

1. White, Howard A. *The Freedmen's Bureau in Louisiana*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1970. Print.

h. Maryland and Delaware

i. Brief history

In June 1865, Commissioner Oliver O. Howard appointed Col. John Eaton as the Freedmen's Bureau Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, and this jurisdiction included additional areas such as Maryland, Alexandria, and the neighboring Virginia counties of Fairfax and London. Col. William P. Wilson became the Assistant Superintendent for Maryland in September 1865, and in March 1866, Bvt. Maj. Gen. George J. Stannard became Maryland's first Assistant Commissioner. He established his headquarters in Baltimore. In 1867, Maryland's Freedmen's Bureau jurisdiction was expanded to include Delaware. Between 1866 and 1868, assistant commissioners for Maryland included Bvt. Maj. Gen. Francis Fessenden, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Edgar M. Gregory, and Bvt. Brig. Gen. Horace M. Brooks. In August 1868, the responsibility for Bureau activities in Maryland and Delaware was reassigned to the District of Columbia's Assistant Commissioner. The Baltimore headquarters officially closed its doors in 1872.

ii. Field office records

1. M1902—*Records of the Field Offices of the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. Maryland and the District of Columbia originally shared an assistant commissioner, so records for both regions tend to be intermixed. There is no separate roll for Maryland within this record.

b. 21 rolls

c. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, employment registers, registers of

contraband camps, marriage records, special orders and circulars issued, monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, labor contracts, transportation orders, employment rosters, and ministers' reports relating to marriages

d. Rolls 1-13 contain general records for the District of Columbia Freedmen's Bureau operation

i. Contain name indexes for volumes of letters sent, press copies of letters sent, requisitions, and receipts

ii. Rolls 11-13 are most likely to help with genealogical research

1. Contain labor contracts, transportation orders, and marriage records

e. Rolls 13-21 contain records for subordinate field offices in Washington, Georgetown, Barry Farm, Freedmen's Village

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: persons and articles hired, employment registers, registers of sick and wounded freedmen, registers of hospital patients, labor contracts, registers of departing and arriving freedmen

2. M1906—*Records of the Field Offices for the States of Maryland and Delaware, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

a. 42 rolls

b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, unregistered letters received, general and special orders and circulars received, registers of claimants for bounties and pay arrearages, and registers of complaints of illegal apprenticeships, special orders and circulars

c. Rolls 1-19 contain general records for the Maryland and Delaware Freedmen's Bureau

i. Contain name indexes for volumes of letters and endorsements sent and received, general and special orders, register of complaints and illegal

apprenticeships, press copies of letters sent, registers of cash

ii. Rolls 5-6, 16-19 are likely to contain helpful information for genealogical research

1. Include teacher monthly reports, lists of apprenticeships, and registers of claimants and cash

d. Rolls 19-42 contain records for subordinate field offices in Baltimore, Annapolis, Bladensburg, Rockville

i. Most helpful series: registers of claimants, case files for claims, register of slaves and slave owners

iii. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and selected volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 16-18 and 34 relate to activities in Maryland and Delaware

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869*)

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 1 contains marriage records for the District of Columbia and two marriage affidavits for Delaware.

Marriage records for Maryland may be interspersed within records from the District of Columbia.

iv. Additional locations of Maryland and Delaware holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1902, M1906, M803, M1875)

2. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (M1902 21 rolls)

v. Suggested readings and authors

1. Low, W.A. "The Freedmen's Bureau and Civil Rights in Maryland." *The Journal of Negro History* 37.3 (1952): 221-247.

i. Mississippi

i. Brief history

The Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau operation began in June 1865, when Col. Samuel Thomas became the state's first Assistant Commissioner and established his headquarters in Vicksburg. Originally, the state of Mississippi and select parishes of Louisiana were divided into three districts with an acting assistant commissioner in charge of each. In January 1866, the parishes were instead placed under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Commissioner of Louisiana. Col. Thomas had three successors: Gen. Thomas J. Wood in 1866, Gen. Alvan C. Gilem in 1867, and Gen. Adelbert Ames in 1869. The state's major subordinate field offices existed in Jackson, Lauderdale, Natchez, and Vicksburg. The Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau was especially concerned with the documentation and legitimization of freedmen marriages, and the state's subordinate field office records document over 4600 marriages. The Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau came to a close in 1868.

ii. Field office records

iii. M1907—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

1. 65 rolls

2. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, registers of freedmen issued rations, special orders and circulars issued, registers of bounty claimants, monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, amnesty oaths, applications of freedmen for rations, records relating to claims, court trials, property restoration, and homesteads

3. Rolls 1-11 contain general records for the Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau operation

a. Contain name indexes for endorsements sent and received, register of vouchers, select volumes of press copies of letters sent, select volumes of registers of letters received, select volumes of letters sent and received, memorandums relating to medical officers

b. Rolls 1, 6-10 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Include monthly school reports, register of vouchers, employee information, sick and wounded freedmen

4. Rolls 11-65 contain information for subordinate field offices in Aberdeen, Brookhaven, Canton, Charleston, Columbia, Columbus, Corinth, Davis Bend, De Kalb, Durant, East Pascagoula, Forest, Friars Point, Goodman, Greenville, Greenwood, Grenada, Hernando, Hickory, Holly Springs, Jackson, Lake Station, Lauderdale, Lexington, Louisville, Macon, McNutt, Magnolia, Meridian, Monticello, Natchez, Okolona, Oxford, Pass Christian, Panola, Philadelphia, Port Gibson, Rodney, Rosedale, Sardis, Skipwiths Landing, Starkville, Tupelo, Vicksburg, Washington Home Colony, Winchester, Woodville, Yazoo City

a. Most helpful series within these rolls: register of complaints, register of contracts, register of cases tried, register of marriages, register of freedmen, reports of sick and wounded, register of children and hospital patients, reports of persons and articles hired, register of rations, reports of freedmen, labor contracts, records relating to the division of crops, register of former slaves

iv. State records

1. M1914—*Records of the Mississippi Freedmen's Department ("Pre-Bureau Records"), Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1863-1865)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Contains letters sent and received, special orders issued and received, registers of freedmen contracts and rations issued, school lists, registers of patients, and hospital reports, letters and circulars issued and received, oaths of allegiance and evidence of amnesty, reports of operations and

abandoned property, reports of teachers and missionaries serving in the areas

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent and registers of letters received

d. Rolls 2-5 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Include records regarding renting and leasing property, registers of freedmen, registers of contracts, registers of rations issued, school lists, registers and reports of hospital patients

ii. Series are arranged in a variety of ways—chronologically, alphabetically (by surname), and numerically

2. M826—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

a. 50 rolls

b. Contains letters sent, endorsements sent, registers of letters received, orders and circulars, monthly reports from subordinate officers, station books, oaths, rosters, marriage registers, registers of indentures, labor contracts

c. Contains name/subject indexes for select volumes of letters and endorsements sent and registers of letters received

d. Rolls 42-50 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Contain detailed registers of indentures of African American orphans, registers of freedmen marriages, labor contracts

ii. Marriage records are generally ordered alphabetically by surname of husband and then chronologically; labor contracts ordered chronologically

3. M1026—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1864-1869)*

a. Mississippi and select parishes of Louisiana originally shared an assistant commissioner, so many of their records are intermixed. There is no separate roll for Mississippi in this record.

b. 12 rolls

c. Contains letters, telegrams, endorsements, school reports, finance and property records

d. Contains name indexes for volumes 1, 2, and 4 of letters and telegrams, the volume of endorsements, and press copies of letters sent, reports from superintendent relating to personnel

e. Rolls 4-8 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Monthly school reports

ii. Generally in chronological order

iii. Contain names of teachers, names and number of students, location of schools, average attendance, records of good students and suspended students, rates of pay for teachers, applications for teacher employment

4. M1027—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

a. Mississippi and select parishes of Louisiana originally shared an assistant commissioner, so many of their records are intermixed. There is no separate roll for Mississippi in this record.

b. 36 rolls (NARA-ATL has rolls 1-31)

c. Contains letters, telegrams, endorsements, issuances, operations, reports about condition of freedmen, confiscated lands, murders and outrages, persons and articles hired

d. Contains name indexes for all volumes of letters and telegrams sent, select volumes of letters and endorsements received, issuances, applications for the restoration of property

e. Roll 34 (murders and outrages) is most likely to help with genealogical research, but this roll is not available at NARA-ATL

v. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and selected volumes of school reports

d. Roll 24 relates to activities in Mississippi

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Rolls 2 and 3 contain freedmen marriage records for Mississippi

vi. Additional locations of Mississippi holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1907, M1914, M826, M1026, M1027, M803, M1875)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M826 roll 42, M1027 rolls 33-34)

3. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS (M826 rolls 43-50, M999 [*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869*] roll 25)

vii. Suggested readings and authors

1. Ganus, Jr., Clifton Lloyd. *The Freedmen's Bureau in Mississippi*. MA Thesis. Tulane University, 1953.

j. Missouri

i. Brief history

The Missouri Freedmen's Bureau operation began on May 31, 1865, when Commissioner Oliver O. Howard appointed Brig. Gen. John W. Sprague as the Assistant Commissioner for Missouri and Arkansas. Sprague established his headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. Initially, Sprague's jurisdiction included not only Missouri and Arkansas, but also Indian Territory and parts of Kansas and Illinois. Missouri proved to be a less hostile environment for freedmen compared to other states, so in September 1865, Commissioner Howard decided to terminate Freedmen's Bureau activities there. He ordered Sprague to move the headquarters from St. Louis, MO to Little Rock, AR and to withdraw all Bureau operations in Missouri. In April 1867, however, F.A. Seely became a disbursing officer for what was left of the Missouri Freedmen's Bureau, and he remained in this position until 1872.

ii. Field office records

1. M1908—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Missouri, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

a. 24 rolls

b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, registers of bounty claimants, a marriage register, letters received by endorsement, unregistered letters received

c. Contains name indexes for press copies of letters sent, select volumes of registers of letters received, registers of adjusted claims

d. Roll 24 is most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Register of marriages at Cape Girardeau

ii. Arranged chronologically

iii. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and selected volumes of school reports

d. Roll 25 relates to activities in Missouri

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 3 contains freedmen marriage records for Missouri

iv. Additional locations of Missouri holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1908, M803, M1875)

v. Missouri Digital Heritage, Jefferson City, MO (M803 roll 25, M752 selected records)

vi. Suggested readings and authors

1. Williams, Henry Sullivan. "The Development of the Negro Public School System in Missouri." *The Journal of Negro History* 5.2 (1920): 137-165.

k. North Carolina

i. Brief history

In June 1865, Col. Eliphalet Whittlesey became the first Assistant Commissioner for the North Carolina Freedmen's Bureau, and he established his headquarters in Raleigh. In addition to the Raleigh office, Whittlesey eventually established three more headquarters in Newberne, Wilmington, and Goldsboro. These headquarters divided the state into four districts and then further into sub districts. By 1867, the organization of the North Carolina Freedmen's Bureau

had shifted from districts to solely sub districts with offices in Morganton, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Goldsboro. Like most Bureau offices throughout the United States, the North Carolina Freedmen's Bureau provided freedmen and refugees with food, clothing, medical care, education, and social assistance. In May 1869, all functions of the Freedmen's Bureau ended in North Carolina except for educational operations.

ii. Field office records

1. T142—*Selected Records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

    a. Contains letters between Bureau officials and field office officials, endorsements, correspondences between commissioners, reports of rations, murders, outrages, and riots, letters relating to lands and freedmen's homes, sanitation letters, labor contracts

    b. Rolls 24, 39, 42, 51-54, and 61-72 are most likely to help with genealogical research

        i. Contain records of complaints in freedmen's court, outrages and riots, land and property reports, monthly school reports, indentures, reports of rations, and labor contracts

        ii. North Carolina records are limited within these rolls—not a likely place to find information regarding North Carolina freedmen

2. M1909—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of North Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

    a. 78 rolls

    b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, unregistered letters received, general and special orders and circulars received, registers of claimants for bounties and pay arrearages, registers of complaints of illegal apprenticeships, narrative reports received

    c. Rolls 1-4 contain general records for the North Carolina Freedmen's Bureau operation

i. Contain three unidentified volumes of name indexes as well as name indexes for press copies of letters sent from the surgeon

ii. Roll 4 is most likely to provide personal data and assist with genealogical research

1. Provides a list of sick and wounded freedmen

2. Arranged by sex, then chronologically

d. Rolls 4-74 contain records for subordinate field offices in Asheville, Beaufort, Charlotte, Concord, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Elizabethtown, Fayetteville, Franklin, Franklinton, Goldsboro, Graham, Greensboro, Halifax, Henderson, Hillsboro, James City, Jefferson, Jonesboro, Kinston, Lexington, Lincolnton, Lumberton, Magnolia, Morganton, Murfreesboro, Newberne, Oxford, Plymouth, Raleigh, Roanoke Island, Rockingham, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Smithfield, Smithville, Statesville, Trent River Settlement, Wadesboro, Washington, Whiteville, Wilkesboro, Wilmington

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: reports of indentures, ration and land reports, reports of persons hired, register of hospital patients, register of complaints, register of sick and wounded, reports of outrages, reports from the court, reports of arrests, monthly school reports, agreements for leasing land, labor contracts, certificates of destitution

iii. State records

1. M843—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of North Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 38 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, telegrams, issuances, reports of operations, rations, sanitary conditions, rosters, orders, reports of transportation and employment, court cases, reports of outrages, labor contracts, indentures, land and financial records

c. Contains name indexes for 3 volumes of letters sent, partial volumes of endorsements sent, partial volumes of registers of letters received, and volumes of special orders

d. Rolls 28-31, 33-38 are most likely to help with genealogical research

i. Contain transportation orders, lists of persons hired, court cases, reports of murders and outrages, labor contracts, reports of indentures, records of land and property, records of accounts and claims, reports on freedmen available for work

ii. Most series arranged chronologically; transportation orders arranged by order number

2. M844—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of North Carolina Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 16 rolls

b. Contains letters, issuances, school reports, records relating to teachers, unbound records of persons hired

c. Contains name indexes for letters sent and most volumes of letters received

d. Rolls 15 and 16 are most likely to assist with genealogical research

i. Monthly school reports from teachers, lists of teachers, reports of teachers hired—details include names of teachers, class attendance, classes offered, demographics, occupational information

ii. Arranged in chronological order

iii. Records are most helpful if researcher already knows the specific area of North Carolina where an ancestor taught and the years that he or she worked in education

iv. General administration records

1. M803 —*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 26-28 relate to activities in North Carolina

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

v. Additional locations of North Carolina holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (T142, M1909, M843, M844, M803)

2. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (T142, M1909)

3. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M843 rolls 33 and 35)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Goldhaber, Michael. "A Mission Unfulfilled: Freedmen's Education in North Carolina, 1865-1870." *Journal of Negro History* 77.4 (1992): 199-210.

l. South Carolina

i. Brief history

South Carolina's Freedmen's Bureau operation began on June 10, 1865, when Gen. Rufus Saxton became the Freedmen's Bureau Assistant Commissioner for the states of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. By September 1865, Saxton's jurisdiction was downsized to focus solely on South Carolina. Under Saxton, subordinate officers oversaw Bureau activities in South Carolina's 13 sub districts: Anderson, Beaufort, Columbia, Charleston, Lynn, Darlington, Edisto, Greenville, Georgetown, Hilton Head, the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, Unionville, and Williamsburg. The Freedmen's Bureau in South Carolina saw three different headquarters and three different assistant commissioners. Saxton established his headquarters in Beaufort, but in September 1865, he moved it to Charleston. In 1866, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Robert K. Scott succeeded Saxton and moved the headquarters to Columbia. Bvt. Col. John R. Edie succeeded Scott in 1868 and served until 1869. The office of the Assistant Commissioner closed on May 31, 1869, and the South Carolina Freedmen's Bureau functioned until 1872.

ii. Field office records

1. M1910—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1972)*

    a. 106 rolls

    b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, unregistered letters received, general and special orders and circulars received, registers of claimants for bounties and pay arrearages, registers of indentures of apprenticeship, and other series

    c. Rolls 1-30 contain general records for the South Carolina Freedmen's Bureau operation

        i. Contain name/subject indexes for select volumes of letters sent and press copies of letters sent, register of letters received, endorsements sent, special orders

        ii. Rolls 4-6, 12-24 are most likely to help with genealogical research

            1. Include teachers' monthly reports, personal reports, lists of persons hired, reports of sick, wounded, and unfortunate freedmen, reports of rations, register of claims and claimants,

            2. Claims arranged alphabetically by surname, all other series listed above arranged chronologically

    d. Rolls 30-106 contain records for subordinate field offices in Abbeville Court House, Aiken, Anderson Court House, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkely District, Camden, Charleston, Cheraw, Chester, Columbia, Combahee Ferry, Darlington, Fairfield District, Georgetown, Grahamville, Greenville, Hilton Head, Honey District, Hopkins Turn Out, Johns Island, Kingstree, Ladies Island, Lancaster, Laurensville, Legareville, Lexington, Manning, Marion, Moncks Corner, Mount Pleasant, McClellanville, Newberry, Orangeburg, Rice Hope Plantation, Richland District, Ridgeville, Rockville, St. Helena Island, St. Pauls Parish, Spartanburg,

Summerville, Sumpter, Union District, Unionville, Walhalla, Williamsburg, York District

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: monthly school reports, outrages, ration reports and applications, register of complaints, report of persons and articles hired, labor contracts, indentures of apprenticeship, court cases, certificates of destitution, register of patients, reports of sick and wounded

iii. State records

1. M869—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 44 rolls

b. Contains letters and registers of correspondences between Bureau officials, applications for the restoration of property, reports of murders and outrages, reports of conditions and operations, special orders, reports of rations, labor contracts, and records relating to transportation

c. Name indexes exist for most volumes of letters, the first and last volumes of endorsements, applications and orders for property restoration, select volumes of special orders, and ration reports

d. Rolls 34, 38, 42 and 44 are most likely to contain useful information for genealogical research

i. Contain specific information regarding murders and outrages, names and statistics regarding rations and destitute freedmen, labor contracts, transportation requests and orders

ii. Series are ordered chronologically or alphabetically

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 29 and 35 relate to activities in South Carolina

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

a. 5 rolls

b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

c. Roll 3 contains freedmen marriage records for South Carolina

v. Additional locations of South Carolina holdings

1. NARA (M1910, M869, M803, M1875)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M869 rolls 34 and 44)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Abbott, Martin. "The Freedmen's Bureau and Negro Schooling in South Carolina." *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* 57.2 (1956): 65-81.

2. Abbott, Martin. *The Freedmen's Bureau in South Carolina 1865-1872*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967. Print.

m. Tennessee

i. Brief History

The Tennessee Freedmen's Bureau operation began on July 1, 1865, when Brig. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk became the state's Assistant Commissioner and established his headquarters in Nashville. From July 1865 to June 1866, the Tennessee Freedmen's Bureau jurisdiction encompassed the

entire state of Kentucky and the northern part of Alabama as well. In September 1866, Brig. Gen John R. Lewis succeeded Fisk as the Assistant Commissioner for the state of Tennessee, followed by Maj. Gen. William P. Carlin in 1867 and Lt. Col. James Thompson in 1868. Originally, Fisk divided the state into three sub districts with headquarters in Nashville, Memphis, and Chattanooga. Eventually, the sub districts were further divided into individual agencies with local offices. Some of the more significant local offices were headquartered at Columbia, Gallatin, Jackson, Kingston, Lebanon, Murfreesboro, Purdy, Springfield, and Trenton. By 1868, the Tennessee Freedmen's Bureau had terminated all of its operations with the exception of education.

ii. Field office records

1. T142—*Selected Records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

    a. Contains letters between Bureau officials and field office officials, endorsements, correspondences between commissioners, reports of rations, murders, outrages, and riots, letters relating to lands and freedmen's homes, sanitation letters, labor contracts

    b. Rolls 24, 39, 42, 51-54, and 61-72 are most likely to help with genealogical research

        i. Contain records of complaints in freedmen's court, outrages and riots, land and property reports, monthly school reports, indentures, reports of rations, and labor contracts

2. M1911—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*

    a. 89 rolls

    b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, unregistered letters received, general and special orders and circulars received, registers of claimants for bounties and pay arrearages, registers of indentures of apprenticeship, and other series

    c. Rolls 1-13 contain general records for the Tennessee Freedmen's Bureau operation

        i. Contain name indexes for the first 3 volumes of press copies of letters sent, select volumes of back

pay and bounty, miscellaneous claims and claims for pension, special orders, select volumes of letters sent

ii. Rolls 10 and 12 may possess personal data for genealogical research

1. Include miscellaneous claims, claims for pensions, vouchers, miscellaneous monthly financial reports

2. Claims are unarranged and miscellaneous reports are arranged by type of record

d. Rolls 13-89 contain records for subordinate field offices in Bolivar, Brownsville, Charlotte, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Columbia, Decaturville, Dyersburg, Franklin, Gallatin, Humboldt, Jackson, Johnsonville, Jonesboro, Knoxville, Lebanon, McMinnville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Paris, Pulaski, Purdy, Shelbyville, Springfield, Trenton, Wayne County, Winchester

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: labor contracts, bounty claims, registers of complaints, registers of claims, registers of unfortunates, monthly reports of orphans, registers of marriages, registers of freedmen

iii. State records

1. M999—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1969)*

a. 34 rolls

b. Contains letters, telegrams, and endorsements sent, letters and telegrams received, registers of endorsements received, special orders, records relating to freedmen's labor and supplies, reports of bounty claims, reports of abandoned property, personnel records, reports of outrages, transportation records, miscellaneous records

c. Contains name indexes for select volumes of letters and telegrams sent, letters received, volumes of special orders, select volumes of registers of abandoned property,

d. Rolls 20-25, 34 are most likely to assist with genealogical research

i. Include labor contracts, detailed indenture contracts, register and reports of outrages, transportation reports, miscellaneous records

ii. Most series arranged chronologically; some labor contracts arranged alphabetically by county or state

2. M1000—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 9 rolls

b. Contains letters sent, registers of letters received and endorsements sent, letters received, school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of letters received and endorsements sent

d. Rolls 7-9 are most likely to contain helpful information for genealogical research

i. Include monthly school reports from teachers and the superintendent, receipts from teachers

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Roll 30 relates to activities in Tennessee

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

2. M1875—*Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1861-1869)*

    a. 5 rolls

    b. Marriage reports ordered alphabetically by state and then by surname of bridegroom

    c. Rolls 3-5 contain freedmen marriage records for Tennessee

v. Additional locations of Tennessee holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (T142, M1911, M999, M1000, M803, M1875)

2. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (T142)

3. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M999 rolls 20, 22, 34)

4. Tennessee Library and State Archives, Nashville, TN (T142, M1000)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Taylor, A.A. "Fisk University and the Nashville Community 1866-1900." *Journal of Negro History* 39.2 (1954): 111-126.

n. Texas

i. Brief History

Brig. Gen. Edgar M. Gregory was the first Assistant Commissioner for the Texas Freedmen's Bureau operation, and he established his headquarters in Galveston in September 1865. Other assistant commissioners for the state of Texas included Brig. Gen. Joseph Kiddoo, Maj. Gen. Charles Griffin, and Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Reynolds. The Galveston headquarters that Gregory established in 1865 remained until 1867 when Reynolds moved the headquarters to Houston. Major points of interests for the Texas Freedmen's Bureau were the regulation of labor contracts and the protection of freedmen's legal rights. In 1869, all functions of the Texas Freedmen's Bureau terminated with the exception of education. All superintendents of education were withdrawn in 1870.

ii. Field office records

1. M1912—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Texas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

    a. 28 rolls

b. Contains endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, press copies of letters sent, letters sent, special orders issued, registers of complaints, registers of contracts, affidavits and settlements, reports of persons and articles hired, miscellaneous records

c. Rolls 1-11 contain general records for the Texas Freedmen's Bureau operation

i. Contain name indexes for volumes of press copies of letters sent, endorsements sent and received, register of letters received

ii. Rolls 7-9, 11 are most likely to provide helpful information for genealogical research

1. Include reports of persons and articles hired, orders for transportation

2. Arranged chronologically

iii. Rolls 12-28 contain information for subordinate field offices in Austin, Bastrop, Beaumont, Belton, Boston, Brenham, Brownsville, Bryan, Centerville, Clarksville, Clinton, Columbia, Columbus, Cotton Gin, Courtney, Crockett, Galveston, Gilmer, Gonzales, Fort Griffin, Hallettsville, Houston, Huntsville, Jefferson, LaGrange, Liberty, Lockhart, Marlin, Marshal, Matagorda, Meridian, Millican, Nacogdoches, Navasota, Palestine, Richmond, San Antonio, San Augustine, Seguin, Sterling, Sumpter, Tyler, Waco, Woodland, Wharton

1. Most helpful series within these rolls: register of complaints, register of contracts, monthly school reports

iii. State records

1. M821—*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Texas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*

a. 32 rolls

b. Contains letters sent and received, register of letters received, endorsements sent, issuances and monthly rosters

of Bureau personnel, reports of operations, reports of murders and outrages

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, endorsements sent, registers of letters received, issuances and monthly rosters

d. Roll 32 is most likely to contain helpful information for genealogical research

i. Includes murder, outrage, and criminal offense reports

ii. Generally arranged in chronological order

2. M822—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Texas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 18 rolls

b. Contains letters and endorsements sent, registers of letters received, letters received, monthly school reports, miscellaneous records

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters and endorsements sent, select volumes of registers of letters received, letters received

d. Rolls 10-18 are most likely to contain information helpful for genealogical research

i. Include monthly school reports from teachers and the superintendent, teachers' letters of appointment, lists and records of teachers

ii. Most series arranged chronologically; records of teachers may be arranged alphabetically by surname of teacher

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 31 and 35 relate to activities in Texas

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

v. Additional locations of Texas holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1912, M821, M822, M803)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M821 roll 32)

vi. Suggested readings and authors:

1. Elliot, Claude. "The Freedmen's Bureau in Texas." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 56.1 (1952): 1-24.

2. Hornsby, Jr., Alton. "The Freedmen's Bureau Schools in Texas 1865-1870." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 76.4 (1973): 497-417.

o. Virginia

i. Brief History

The Virginia Freedmen's Bureau operation began in June 1865, when the state's Assistant Commissioner, Orlando Brown, established his headquarters in Richmond. Brown served as the Assistant Commissioner until May 1866, when Maj. Gen. Alfred H. Terry took office. Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield succeeded Terry in August 1866, and in March 1867, Orlando Brown reclaimed his position until the closing of the Virginia Assistant Commissioner office in 1869. Initially, the Virginia counties of Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudon, and the Freedmen's Village near Arlington were under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Commissioner of the District of Columbia. By 1867, however, these counties had become a part of the Virginia Freedmen's Bureau jurisdiction. The Virginia Freedmen's Bureau was organized by sub districts with primary headquarters in Alexandria, Fort Monroe, Fredericksburg, Gordonsville, Lynchburg, Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond, Winchester, and Wytheville.

ii. Field office records

1. M1913—*Records of the Field Offices for the State of Virginia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1872)*
    a. 203 rolls
    b. Contains letters and endorsements sent and received, registers of letters received, unregistered letters received, general and special orders and circulars received, registers of complaints, registers relating to Freedmen's Bureau courts, narrative reports received, and other series
    c. Rolls 1-40 contain general records for the Virginia Freedmen's Bureau operation
        i. Contain name indexes for 16 volumes of press copies of letters sent
        ii. Rolls 34-40 are most likely to help with genealogical research
            1. Contain reports of persons and articles hired, ration returns, lists of destitute freedmen, lists of unfortunates
            2. Generally arranged chronologically
    d. Rolls 40-203 contain records for subordinate field offices in Abingdon, Alexandria, Amelia Courthouse, Amherst Courthouse, Appomattox Courthouse, Ashland, Barhamsville, Bowling Green, Boydton, Buckingham, Burkesville, Charlotte Courthouse, Charlottesville, Chesterfield Courthouse, Christianburg, City Point, Clarkesville, Columbia, Culpeper Courthouse, Culpeper, Cumberland Courthouse, Danville, Dinwiddie Courthouse, Drummondtown Courthouse, Fairfax Courthouse, Falls Church, Farmville, Fredericksburg, Front Royal, Gloucester Courthouse, Goochland, Gordonsville, Halifax Courthouse, Hampton, Harrisonville, Heathsville, Jerusalem, King George Courthouse, King William Courthouse, Lawrenceville, Leesburg, Lexington, Liberty, Little Washington, Louisa Courthouse, Lovingston, Lunenburg Courthouse, Lynchburg, Madison Courthouse, Manassas, Manchester, Marion, Martinsville, Marysville, Matthews Courthouse, Maysville, Middleburg, Fort Monroe, New Kent Courthouse, Newport, Norfolk,

Onancock, Orange Courthouse, Palmyra, Petersburg, Pittsylvania, Princess Anne, Richmond, Rocky Mount, Salem, Smithfield, Staunton, Suffolk, Tappahannock, Vienna, Warrenton, Warsaw, Waverly, Wilson's Landing, Williamsburg, Winchester, Woodstock, Wytheville, Yorktown,

i. Most helpful series within these rolls: school reports, monthly reports of tenants, reports of persons and articles hired, register of complaints, ration reports, labor contracts, census lists, proceedings in freedmen's court, indentures, register of marriages, register of freedmen sent to New England states, applications for employment

iii. State records

1. M1053—*Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Virginia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1870)*

a. 20 rolls

b. Contains letters sent, registers of letters received and endorsements sent, letters received, school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, volumes of letters received and endorsements sent, and an unregistered series of letters received

d. Rolls 14-20 are most likely to provide helpful information for genealogical research

i. Include teachers' monthly school reports, register of teachers

ii. Arranged chronologically

iv. General administration records

1. M803—*Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1871)*

a. 35 rolls

b. Contains letters, endorsements, registers of letters, and monthly school reports

c. Contains name indexes for volumes of letters sent, registers of unbound letters received, and select volumes of school reports

d. Rolls 32 relates to activities in Virginia

i. School reports ordered chronologically

ii. Lists of teachers are interspersed throughout the records

v. Additional locations of Virginia holdings

1. NARA-D.C. (M1913, M1048 [*Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Virginia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (1865-1869)*] M1053, M803)

2. The Freedmen's Bureau Online http://freedmensbureau.com (M1048 roll 59)

3. Ancestry.com http://ancestry.com (M1913)

vi. Suggested readings and authors

1. Lowe, Richard. "The Freedmen's Bureau and Local Black Leadership." *The Journal of American History* 80.3 (1993): 989-998.

2. Lowe, Richard. "The Freedmen's Bureau and Local White Leaders in Virginia." *The Journal of Southern History* 64.3 (1998): 455-472.