

M1869

RECORDS OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND
SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND ABANDONED LANDS,
1865–1872

Records prepared for microfilming by members of the Civil War Conservation Corps,
under the direction of Russ and Budge Weidman.
Introduction by Reginald Washington.

Department of Special Collections, Smathers Library
University of Florida at Gainesville
and
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC
2002

United States. National Archives and Records Administration.
Records of the Assistant Commissioner and subordinate field
offices for the state of Florida, Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872.— Washington, DC :
National Archives and Records Administration, 2002.

17 p. ; 23 cm.— (National Archives microfilm publications.
Pamphlet describing ; M 1869)

Cover title.

"Records prepared for microfilming by members of the Civil
War Conservation Corps ... Introduction by Reginald
Washington."

"Produced through a cooperative arrangement between the
National Archives and Records Administration and the
Department of Special Collections, Smathers Library,
University of Florida at Gainesville."—P. 12.

1. United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned
Lands – Archives – Microform catalogs. 2. Freedmen – Florida
– Records and correspondence – Microform catalogs.
I. Washington, Reginald, 1949– II. Civil War Conservation Corps
(U.S.) III. George A. Smathers Libraries. Dept. of Special
Collections. IV. Title.

INTRODUCTION

On the 15 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1869, are reproduced the records of the Florida headquarters for the Assistant Commissioner and his staff officers and the subordinate field offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872. These records consist of 25 bound volumes and approximately 12 linear feet of unbound records, containing materials that include letters and endorsements sent and received, monthly reports, applications of freedmen for rations, and other records relating to freedmen's claims and homesteads. These records are part of the Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group (RG) 105, at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, also known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of Congress on March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507). The life of the Bureau was extended twice by acts of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). The Bureau was responsible for the supervision and management of all matters relating to refugees and freedmen, and of lands abandoned or seized during the Civil War. In May 1865, President Andrew Johnson appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard as Commissioner of the Bureau, and Howard served in that position until June 30, 1872, when activities of the Bureau were terminated in accordance with an act of June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366). While a major part of the Bureau's early activities involved the supervision of abandoned and confiscated property, its mission was to provide relief and help freedmen become self-sufficient. Bureau officials issued rations and clothing, operated hospitals and refugee camps, and supervised labor contracts. In addition, the Bureau managed apprenticeship disputes and complaints, assisted benevolent societies in the establishment of schools, helped freedmen in legalizing marriages entered into during slavery, and provided transportation to refugees and freedmen who were attempting to reunite with their family or relocate to other parts of the country. The Bureau also helped black soldiers, sailors, and their heirs collect bounty claims, pensions, and back pay.

The act of March 3, 1865, authorized the appointment of Assistant Commissioners to aid the Commissioner in supervising the work of the Bureau in the former Confederate states, the border states, and the District of Columbia. In June 1865, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton was appointed Assistant Commissioner for South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Several months after Saxton assumed his duties, however, Howard appointed Bvt. Col. T. W. Osborn as the first Assistant Commissioner of Florida. Osborn established his headquarters at Tallahassee in September 1865. In May 1867, the headquarters moved to Jacksonville, where it remained until it was relocated to St. Augustine in August 1868. It moved back to Jacksonville in November 1868, and remained there until July 1870. Records relating to Florida that were created during Saxton's tenure may be included among the files of the Assistant Commissioner of South Carolina.

Several military officers succeeded Osborn as either Assistant Commissioner or Acting Assistant Commissioner for the State of Florida. Maj. Gen. J. G. Foster served as Assistant Commissioner and Commander of the Department of Florida from June through December 1866. He was replaced in December by Bvt. Brig. Gen. John T. Sprague, who served as both Assistant Commissioner and Commander of the District of Florida until November 1868, when he was replaced by Bvt. Lt. Col. George W. Gile. Beginning in January 1869, Gile served as both Assistant Commissioner and superintendent of education.

While the work performed by Assistant Commissioners in each state was similar, the organizational structure of staff officers varied from state to state. At various times, the staff could consist of a superintendent of education, an assistant adjutant general, an assistant inspector general, a disbursing officer, a chief officer, a chief quartermaster, and a commissary of subsistence. Subordinate to these officers were the assistant superintendents, or subassistant commissioners as they later became known, who commanded the subdistricts. The major subordinate field offices for the Bureau at Florida, for example, included those with headquarters at Barancas, Fernandina, Jacksonville, Key West, Monticello, Ocala, Pensacola, Quincy, and Tallahassee. Under the direct supervision of the subassistant commissioners were the civilian and military agents. Occasionally, the Bureau retained military officers in a civilian capacity after the termination of their military service. For a list of known Florida subordinate field office personnel and their dates of service, see the Appendix.

The Assistant Commissioner corresponded extensively with both his superior in the Washington Bureau headquarters and his subordinate officers in the subdistricts. Based upon reports submitted to him by the subassistant commissioners and other subordinate staff officers, he prepared reports that he sent to the Commissioner concerning Bureau activities in areas under his jurisdiction. The Assistant Commissioner also received letters from freedmen, local white citizens, state officials, and other non-Bureau personnel. These letters varied in nature from complaints to applications for jobs in the Bureau. Because the assistant adjutant general handled much of the mail for the Assistant Commissioner's office, it was often addressed to him instead of to the Assistant Commissioner.

In a circular issued by Commissioner Howard in July 1865, the Assistant Commissioners were instructed to designate one officer in each state to serve as "general Superintendents of Schools." These officials were to "take cognizance of all that is being done to educate refugees and freedmen, secure proper protection to schools and teachers, promote method and efficiency, correspond with the benevolent agencies which are supplying his field, and aid the Assistant Commissioner in making his required reports." In October 1865, a degree of centralized control was established over Bureau educational activities in the states when Rev. John W. Alvord was appointed Inspector of Finances and Schools. In January 1867, Alvord was divested of his financial responsibilities, and he was appointed General Superintendent of Education.

An act of Congress, approved July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), ordered that the Commissioner of the Bureau "shall, on the first day of January next, cause the said bureau to be withdrawn from the several States within which said bureau has acted and its operation shall be discontinued." Consequently, in early 1869, with the exception of the superintendents of education and the claims agents, the Assistant Commissioners and their subordinate officers were withdrawn from the states.

For the next year and a half the Bureau continued to pursue its education work and to process claims. In the summer of 1870 the superintendents of education were withdrawn from the states, and the headquarters staff was greatly reduced. From that time until the Bureau was abolished by an act of Congress approved June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366), effective June 30, 1872, the Bureau's functions related almost exclusively to the disposition of claims. The Bureau's records and remaining functions were then transferred to the Freedmen's Branch in the office of the Adjutant General. The records of this branch are among the Bureau's files.

Constrained by limited resources, Southern opposition, and the politics of Reconstruction, the Bureau faced an enormous challenge in its efforts to assist the freedmen and refugees. Its relief efforts, without question, saved thousands of southerners from starvation. Its attempts to assist freedmen to become self-sufficient, to provide public education, administer justice, and, to a lesser degree, to provide land, all worked with varying degrees of success to lessen the difficulties during the transition from slavery to freedom. One of the Bureau's greatest legacies is the body of records it created and received during the course of its operations. These records are arguably some of the most important documents available for the study of the Federal Government's policies, efforts to reconstruct the South, and Southern social history and genealogy.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN FLORIDA

The Freedmen's Bureau activities in Florida generally resembled those conducted in other states. The Bureau issued rations to both freedmen and white refugees, supervised labor contracts between planters and freedmen, administered justice, worked with benevolent societies in the establishment of schools, and assisted freedmen in locating land. This last service contributed to an important, distinctive success in the Florida Bureau's program: more freedmen secured homesteads there than in any other Southern public-land state.

The Florida Bureau regularly assessed the need for services in the state. The resulting reports appear in these records and are valuable for learning about social conditions. In November 1865, for example, Asst. Comm. Osborn sent Capt. George Thompson on an inspection tour of southern Florida. During the following 4 months, Thompson toured the lower part of the state. His 47-page report includes living

conditions of the populace, agricultural possibilities, and geographical information. He discusses how the Bureau can assist freedmen in education and land ownership.¹

To prevent widespread starvation and destitution, the Florida Bureau issued more than 25,000 rations in its first year to some 22,000 blacks and nearly 4,000 whites.² By December 1868, the Bureau had issued more than 760,000 rations, at a cost of \$102,669.45.³ In addition to its general distribution of rations to those in dire need, the Florida Bureau also utilized a relief system similar to one in use in Louisiana and South Carolina that provided planters with food for their laborers. Under this system, blacks who rented and cultivated at least 10 acres of land on a crop-sharing basis were issued rations. This allowed planters to produce a crop without having to feed their workers during growing season.

Of genealogical interest are the applications of freedmen for rations. These printed documents give the number of acres of rented land. They list the first and last name and age of the freedman renting the property, of family members, and of any others who will live and work the named property. Included in the information are the location of the property and the name of the owner. In some cases the relationship of those living with the freedman is given (e.g., stepson or nephew).⁴

The regulation of written labor contracts between planters and freedmen was a major part of the Bureau's operation in Florida. Between 1865 and 1868 thousands of freedmen entered into contract agreements for either wages or a share of the crops in virtually every part of the state. Contracts generally stipulated the hours and days of work, types of rations to be provided, and the amount of wage or crop to be paid. Nearly half of the freedmen on plantations in Florida worked for a third of the crop plus rations. Those who worked for wages also received rations and were paid at a rate of \$12 per month for men, \$9 for women, and \$5 for children. Bureau officials generally witnessed the contracts and were paid a small fee by the planter.

Safeguarding the rights and securing justice for freedmen was of great concern to the Freedmen's Bureau as well. Following the Civil War, several Southern states enacted a series of laws commonly known as "black codes," which restricted the rights and legal status of freedmen. Freedmen were often given harsh sentences for petty crimes and in some instances were unable to get their cases heard in state courts. In a circular issued by Commissioner Howard in May 1865, Assistant Commissioners were directed to adjudicate all difficulties occurring between blacks

¹ See microfilm roll 15, Subordinate Field Offices, Tallahassee, Letters Received, Apr. 1866–Feb. 1868.

² House Ex. Doc. 1, 39th Cong., 2nd Sess., p. 740.

³ Joe M. Richardson, "An Evaluation of the Freedmen's Bureau in Florida," *The Florida Historical Quarterly* XLI, no. 3 (January 1963): 224.

⁴ See microfilm rolls 11 and 12, Office of Assistant Commissioner, Other Records, "Applications of Freedmen for Rations."

and whites in places where the civil courts were interrupted or where blacks were not allowed to testify.⁵ On November 15, 1865, in response to Howard's order, Florida Assistant Commissioner Osborn issued a circular ordering that freedmen be allowed to testify in court and that corporal punishment be restricted and personal violence be reported to military commanders.⁶ In Florida, Bureau officials, for the most part, supervised state courts until a new government was established under the military reconstruction act of March 2, 1867 (14 Stat. 428).

Bureau educational activity in Florida officially began with the appointment of E. B. Duncan as inspector and superintendent of schools in November 1866. Duncan served until June 1867, when he was replaced by C. T. Chase. Chase, who served from June 1867 to March 1868, was succeeded by Charles Foster, formerly Assistant Commissioner, who served from March through December 1868. In January 1869, in accordance with an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), Bureau operations in Florida, as in other states, were terminated except for the educational functions and the collection of claims. George W. Gile, who was the Assistant Commissioner at the time, became the superintendent of education and served in that capacity until August 1870, when the remaining Bureau activities in Florida were also terminated.

The schools maintained by the Bureau in Florida included day schools for children, night schools for adults, and Sabbath schools. Rudimentary education including reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography received primary emphasis in most Bureau schools. Teachers were recruited from the local white population, from among the freedmen themselves, and from the North by freedmen's aid societies. No single policy of assigning responsibilities in the maintenance of the schools was followed consistently. The Bureau generally supplied buildings for schools and transportation for teachers and relied on the aid societies and freedmen to pay for textbooks and teachers' salaries, although at times teachers were paid from Bureau funds.

The Freedmen's Bureau in Florida sought, with a mixed degree of success, to secure land for African Americans. The Southern Homestead Act, approved by Congress on June 21, 1866, made available for public settlement 46 million acres of public lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Nineteen million acres of this Federal land was located in Florida. Because the Act specified that persons who applied could not be discriminated against because of race, it offered an opportunity for many Florida freedmen to become landowners. The land office opened on August 25, 1866. The Freedmen's Bureau, through "locating agents," assisted interested freedmen in finding plots, and provided them with 1-month subsistence, free transportation to their prospective tracts of land, and seeds for the

⁵ Richardson, "An Evaluation of the Freedmen's Bureau in Florida," pp. 228–29; House Ex. Doc. No. 11, 39th Cong., 1st Sess., p. 45.

⁶ House Ex. Doc. 70, 39th Cong., 1st Sess., p. 87; Richardson, "An Evaluation of the Freedmen's Bureau in Florida," p. 228.

initial planting.⁷ By October 1866, in spite of the poor quality of much of the land, the absence of basic necessities, and white opposition, freedmen had made land entry transactions (“entered”) for 32,000 acres of public land. One year later, they had secured more than 2,000 homesteads, totaling 160,960 acres, and by 1868 freedmen entered over 3,000 homesteads, more than in any other Southern public-land state.⁸

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

When Assistant Commissioner Gile became superintendent of education in 1869, he failed to separate completely the records of the new office from those of the old. Consequently, some of his records created in his capacity as superintendent of education are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner.

The volumes reproduced in this microfilm publication were originally arranged by type of record and thereunder by volume number. No numbers were assigned to series consisting of single volumes; later, all volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers by the Adjutant General’s Office (AGO) of the War Department after the records came into its custody. In this microfilm publication, AGO numbers are shown in parentheses to aid in identifying the volumes. The National Archives assigned the volume numbers that do not appear in parentheses.

The volumes consist 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 issued, register of bounty claimants, and monthly reports forwarded to the assistant commissioner. The unbound documents consist of letters and orders received, unregistered letters and narrative reports received, special orders and circulars issued, and general orders and circulars received. The unbound records also contain monthly reports; oaths of office; applications of freedmen for rations; and records relating to claims, court trials, property restoration, and homesteads.

Office of the Assistant Commissioner

LETTERS SENT

The four volumes of letters sent, September 1865–July 1870, are arranged chronologically. The first volume, 1 (4), contains a name index and the fourth volume, 4 (7), has an incomplete index. The volumes contain circular letters and reports to Commissioner Howard. In the first volume there are four letters dated

⁷ Paul A. Cimbala and Randall M. Miller, *The Freedmen’s Bureau and Reconstruction: Reconsiderations* (1999), pp. 67–83.

⁸ Richardson, “An Evaluation of the Freedmen’s Bureau in Florida,” pp. 230–31. In spite of these entries, only 1,073 freedmen are listed on the 1870 Federal census as landowners.

December 1864 sent by George R. Richardson, assistant inspector of artillery, Department and Army of the Tennessee, and by J. W. Powell, chief of artillery, Department and Army of the Tennessee.

PRESS COPIES OF LETTERS SENT

The single volume of press copies of letters sent, October 1869–June 1870, is arranged chronologically, and they are not duplicates of the letters sent. The volume contains a name index. The letters are to Florida school officials, private individuals, and Bureau staff officers at the Washington headquarters.

ENDORSEMENTS SENT

Endorsements sent are characteristic of 19th-century recordkeeping practices. A reply to an incoming letter was frequently written on the letter itself or on a specially prepared wrapper. The reply, known as an endorsement, was then copied into an endorsement book, and the endorsed letter was returned to the sender or forwarded to another office. Endorsement books also usually include a summary of the incoming letter and, on occasion, previous endorsements that were recorded on it.

The two volumes of endorsements sent, October 1866–June 1870, are arranged chronologically and contain a name index. They are not duplicates of the letters sent.

REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED

Registers of letters received are also typical of 19th-century recordkeeping practices. In addition to a summary of the contents of the incoming letter, the registers usually include such identifying information as the name and sometimes the office of the writer, the date of receipt, the date of the communication, the place from which it was written, and the entry number assigned at the time of receipt.

The three volumes of registers of letters received are arranged by time period. The entries in the registers, August 1865–May 1870, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter or surname or office of correspondent and thereunder chronologically. The first two registers contain separate numerical sequences for each year within each alphabetical division. There is only one numerical sequence in the third register for each division.

LETTERS RECEIVED

The letters received consist of both registered and unregistered series. The registered letters received, June 1865–June 1869, are arranged according to their entry in the registers of letters received. The unregistered letters received, August 1865–July 1870, are arranged chronologically. The letters are written by the Assistant Commissioner or his adjutant and received back by endorsement, letters from Bureau officials in Washington, letters from staff officers of the Assistant Commissioner, letters from military department commanders, and letters from private citizens.

ISSUANCES

There are two volumes of special orders and circulars issued and unbound special orders and circulars issued. There is also one series of unbound general orders, special orders, and circular letters received.

The two volumes of special orders and circulars issued, September 1865–June 1870, are arranged chronologically. The first volume, 1 (11), has an incomplete name index. The unbound special orders and circulars issued, March 1866–June 1867, are also arranged chronologically.

The unbound general orders, special orders, and circular letters received, 1865–1870, are arranged by type of issuance and thereunder chronologically.

REPORTS

Five series of unbound reports were received by the Assistant Commissioner: unregistered letters and narrative reports received from subordinate officers; monthly reports of abandoned or confiscated lands; monthly reports of rations, clothing, and medicine issued; unregistered monthly reports of homesteads located by Bureau agents; and reports of boards of officers created to establish rental values of buildings and rooms occupied by the Bureau.

Unbound unregistered letters and narrative reports received from subordinate officers, November 1865–December 1868, are arranged alphabetically by name of station of officer and thereunder chronologically. This series includes narrative reports of operations, special reports, and telegrams.

Unbound monthly reports of abandoned or confiscated lands, October 1865–December 1866, are arranged chronologically. These are copies of reports retained by the Assistant Commissioner that were sent to Bureau headquarters.

Unbound monthly reports of rations, clothing, and medicine issued, October 1865–December 1868, are arranged chronologically. These are also reports retained that were sent to the Bureau headquarters in Washington.

Unbound unregistered monthly reports of homesteads located by Bureau agents, March 1867–May 1869, are arranged chronologically. These are reports of “locating agents,” which include the names of freedmen and the land selected for them.

Unbound reports of boards of officers created to establish rental values of buildings and rooms occupied by the Bureau, June 1866 and February 1867–January 1869, are arranged chronologically. The files are primarily reports establishing rental value of rooms occupied by subassistant commissioners.

OTHER RECORDS

Unbound letters from Bureau headquarters revoking appointments, December 1868–June 1869, are arranged chronologically. These are form letters listing the name of the employee, his title and station, and the date appointment was revoked.

Unbound oaths of office, 1867–68, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the individual who took the oath of loyalty to the United States. These oaths were required by an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), for all officeholders, whether elected or appointed.

Unbound records relating to the restoration of property held by the Bureau, 1865–66, are arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically. The records include applications of owners for restoration of their property; Bureau orders to restore the property, October 1865–May 1866; and inventories of property held by the Bureau in the Apalachicola area, June 1865–June 1866.

Unbound applications of freedmen for rations, 1868, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the individual. Most of the applications are on a printed form, which gives the name of the landowner, the name of the freedman, the number of acres of land rented, the location of the land, and the names and ages of the people in the freedman's family.

The unbound miscellaneous papers, 1866–68, are arranged chronologically. Most of the records are freedmen's labor contracts.

Offices of Staff Officers

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Unbound letters received, June 1867–December 1868, are arranged chronologically. Most of the letters are from Bureau officers, members of benevolent societies, and teachers. Letters received by the superintendent of education after 1868 are among the letters received by the Assistant Commissioner.

Unbound monthly statistical school reports sent to Bureau headquarters, November 1866–June 1870, are arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically. Unbound monthly statistical school reports from subordinate officers, January 1868–December 1868, are also arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically.

Unbound teachers' monthly school reports, April 1867–June 1870, are arranged chronologically.

CLAIMS AGENT

Unbound letters received by J. H. Durkee, agent for claims, February 1869–September 1871, are arranged chronologically. These letters are mostly from the chief of the claim division at the Bureau headquarters, Bureau officers, and justices of the peace who were forwarding or writing on behalf of claimants.

The single volume register of bounty claimants, July 1868–March 1872, is arranged chronologically.

DISBURSING OFFICER

The single volume of letters sent, November 1866–November 1867, is arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters received, July 1866–December 1868, are also arranged chronologically.

SURGEON IN CHIEF

The single volume of endorsements sent and received, October 1865–June 1866, is arranged chronologically. This volume also contains a register of heads of families receiving rations at Ocala, May–July 1868.

Subordinate Field Offices

BARANCAS

Unbound letters and orders received, January–August 1866, are arranged chronologically.

FERNANDINA

The single volume of letters sent, February 1866–December 1868, is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains endorsements sent from January to April 1867.

The single volume of letters and orders received, January 1866–December 1868, are arranged chronologically. The volume includes a name index and a few letters sent that have been copied in the series of “letters sent.” The volume also contains endorsements received from January to April 1867.

JACKSONVILLE

The single volume of letters sent, March 1866 and April–May 1867, is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

The single volume register of freedmen issued rations, June–July 1868, is arranged chronologically. The register includes the name of the head of the family, names of wife and children, ages of children, location of land, number of cultivated acres, owner of land, and date rations were issued.

KEY WEST

The single volume of letters and endorsements sent, December 1867–May 1869, is arranged chronologically. The last letter was written at Fort Warren, Mississippi, and sent to the disbursing officer at Washington.

MONTICELLO

Unbound letters received, May 1866–May 1868, are arranged chronologically. At the end of the series there are bills of lading for public property received at Monticello for the period 1866–67.

OCALA

The single volume of letters sent and received, endorsements sent, and copies of monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, June 1866–November 1868, are arranged chronologically. There is a name index in the back of the volume. As previously mentioned, a register dated May through July of heads of families receiving rations at Ocala appears in the volume of “endorsements sent and received” by the surgeon in chief.

PENSACOLA

Unbound letters and orders received, February 1866–January 1867, are arranged chronologically.

QUINCY

The single volume register of freedmen issued rations, May–June 1868, is arranged chronologically. Information in the register includes the name of the freedman, location of the land, owner of land, and the number of adults and children in the family. The volume also contains two reports sent to the Assistant Commissioner and the superintendent of education, dated September 1 and 18, respectively.

TALLAHASSEE

The single volume of letters sent, June–December 1868, is arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters received, April 1866–February 1868 (four items), are arranged chronologically. Included is an undated inspection report by Capt. George F. Thompson.

Unbound records relating to court trials, 1866, are arranged by case. These are the cases of *Charles Bell and Jupiter Randolph v. William A. Carr* and *Florida v. Tom Clark*.

The two volumes of registers of freedmen issued rations, May–July 1868, are arranged chronologically by date of issuance of ration. The first volume, 1 (22), has a name index. The registers give the name and address of the freedman, the number in the family, and the number of rations issued.

RELATED RECORDS

In the same record group, RG 105, and related to records of the Assistant Commissioner for Florida, are those of the Bureau headquarters in Washington, DC, and the Assistant Commissioner for South Carolina. Several of these records series are available in the following National Archives microfilm publications:

M742, Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872, which includes the letters, endorsements, and issuances sent.

M752, Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872

M803, Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1871

M869, Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1870

Records in other record groups supplement those of the Assistant Commissioner. In Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821–1920, RG 393, are records of the military district that included Florida. Records relating to employment and welfare of freedmen and abandoned property before the establishment of the Bureau are among Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department, RG 366. The records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865–1874, in Records of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, RG 101, contain information relating to former slaves who maintained accounts with the bank branches at Florida.

There have been numerous books, articles, and dissertations published about the Freedmen's Bureau and its operations. For general background, see Paul S. Pierce, *The Freedmen's Bureau, A Chapter in the History of Reconstruction* (Iowa City, IA, 1904), and George R. Bentley, *A History of the Freedmen's Bureau* (Philadelphia, PA., 1955).

Several books written about Commissioner Oliver Otis Howard include *Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard* (New York, NY, 1907); John Alcott Carpenter, *Sword and Oliver Branch: Oliver O. Howard* (Pittsburgh, PA, 1964); and William S. McFeely, *Yankee Stepfather: O. O. Howard and the Freedmen* (New Haven, CT, 1968). For a history of Reconstruction in Florida, see William Watson Davis, *The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida* (New York, 1913), especially pages 377–407.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared for filming by the Civil War Conservation Corps (CWCC) at the National Archives Building, Washington, DC, under the direction of Russ and Budge Weidman. Reginald Washington wrote the introductory remarks.

This microfilm publication was produced through a cooperative arrangement between the National Archives and Records Administration and the Department of Special Collections, Smathers Library, University of Florida at Gainesville.

CONTENTS

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
1	OFFICE OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER	
	<i>Correspondence</i>	
	Letters Sent	
	Volume 1 (4) *	Sept. 15, 1865–Sept. 21, 1866
	Volume 2 (5)	Sept. 24, 1866–Aug. 21, 1868
	Volume 3 (6)	Sept. 21, 1868–Dec. 29, 1868
	Volume 4 (7)	Jan. 1, 1869–July 6, 1870
2	Press Copies of Letters Sent	
	Volume 1 (8)	Oct. 7, 1869–June 18, 1870
	Endorsements Sent	
	Volume 1 (9)	Oct. 3, 1866–Jan. 18, 1869
	Volume 2 (10)	Jan. 1, 1869–June 11, 1870
	Registers of Letters Received	
	Volume 1	Aug. 1865–Oct. 1866
	Volume 2	Oct. 1866–Jan. 1869
	Volume 3	Jan. 1869– May 1870
	Letters Received	
	Entered in Volume 1	
	A–C	1865–1866
3	Entered in Volume 1	
	D–J	1865–1866
4	Entered in Volume 1	
	K–R	1865–1866
5	Entered in Volume 1	
	S–Z	1865–1866
	Entered in Volume 2	
	A–F	1865–1868
6	Entered in Volume 2	
	G–S	1866–1868
7	Entered in Volume 2	
	T–W	1866–1868
	Entered in Volume 3	
	A–W	1869
	Unregistered Letters Received	Aug. 1865–July 1870

* Volume numbers assigned by the Adjutant General’s Office (AGO) are shown in parentheses to assist in identifying the volumes.

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
8	Issuances Special Orders and Circulars Issued Volume 1 (11) Volume 2 (12) Special Orders and Circulars Issued General Orders, Special Orders, and Circular Letters Received	Sept. 13, 1865–Dec. 30, 1868 Jan. 1, 1869–June 23, 1870 Mar. 1866–June 1867 1865–1870
	Reports Unregistered Letters and Narrative Reports Received Apalachicola–Magnolia	Nov. 1865–Oct. 1867
9	Marianna–Tampa Monthly Reports of Abandoned or Confiscated Lands Monthly Reports of Rations, Clothing, and Medicine Issued	May 1866–Aug. 1867 Oct. 1865–Dec. 1866 Oct. 1865–Dec. 1868
10	Unregistered Monthly Reports of Homesteads Located by Bureau Agents Reports of Boards of Officers Created to Establish Rental Values	Mar. 1867–May 1869 June 1866 and Feb. 1867–Jan. 1869
	Other Records Letters Revoking Appointments Oaths of Office of Bureau Officers Records Relating to Restoration of Property	Dec. 1868–Apr. 1869 1867–1868 1865–1866
11	Applications of Freedmen for Rations Acre–Owens	1868
12	Page–Young Miscellaneous Records	1868 1866–1868

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
OFFICES OF STAFF OFFICERS		
12 (cont.)	<i>Superintendent of Education</i> Letters Received Monthly Statistical School Reports Sent to Bureau Headquarters	June 1867–Dec. 1868 Nov. 1866–June 1870
13	Monthly Statistical School Reports from Subordinate Officers Monthly School Reports from Teachers	Jan. 1868–Dec. 1868 Apr. 1867–June 1870
14	<i>Claims Agent</i> Letters Received by J. H. Durkee Register of Bounty Claimants 1 Volume (17)	Feb. 1869–Sept. 1871 July 1868–Mar. 1872
	<i>Disbursing Officer</i> Letters Sent 1 Volume (25) Letters Received	Nov. 1866–Nov. 1867 July 1866–Dec. 1868
	<i>Surgeon in Chief</i> Endorsements Sent and Received 1 Volume (13)	Oct. 1865–June 1866
SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES		
	<i>Barancas</i> Letters and Orders Received	Jan.–Aug. 1866
	<i>Fernandina</i> Letters Sent 1 Volume (15) Letters and Orders Received 1 Volume (14)	Feb. 1866–Dec. 1868 Jan. 1866–Dec. 1868
	<i>Jacksonville</i> Letters Sent 1 Volume (16) Register of Freedmen Issued Rations 1 Volume (24)	Mar. 1866 and Apr.–May 1867 June–July 1868
	<i>Key West</i> Letters and Endorsements Sent 1 Volume (18)	Dec. 1867–May 1869
15	<i>Monticello</i> Letters Received	May 1866–May 1868

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
15 (cont.)	Ocala Letters Sent and Received, Endorsements Sent, and Copies of Monthly Reports 1 Volume (19)	June 1866–Nov. 1868
	Pensacola Letters and Orders Received	Feb. 1866–Jan. 1867
	Quincy Register of Freedmen Issued Rations 1 Volume (20)	May–June 1868
	Tallahassee Letters Sent 1 Volume (21)	June–Dec. 1868
	Letters Received	Apr. 1866–Feb. 1868
	Records Relating to Court Trials	1866
	Register of Freedmen Issued Rations Volume 1 (22)	May–June 1868
	Volume 2 (23)	May–July 1868

APPENDIX

This list provides the names and dates of service of known Freedmen's Bureau personnel at selected subordinate field offices in Florida. Additional information regarding persons assigned to various field offices might be found among the Bureau's Washington headquarters station books and rosters of military officers and civilians on duty in the states and other appointment-related records.

Barancas

Subassistant Commissioner: L. L. Zalousky

Fernandina

Subassistant Commissioners: Thomas Leddy, January–August 1866
A. A. Cole, August 1866–July 1867
D. A. Hammond (subassistant commissioner and post commander), July 1867–December 1868.

Key West

Subassistant Commissioner: J. B. Rawles, December 1867–January 1869

Monticello

Subassistant Commissioner: A. B. Grumwell, May 1866–May 1868

Ocala

Subassistant Commissioner: J. A. Remley, June 1866–November 1868

Pensacola

Subassistant Commissioners: F. M. Cole, February–August 1866
J. R. Brinckle, October 1866–January 1867