



Smithsonian
*National Museum of African American
History and Culture*

Records of the Field Offices for Maryland
and Delaware, Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Freedmen's Bureau Personnel in Maryland and Delaware.....	5
Records Description.....	5
Historical Note.....	2
Names and Subjects	5
Container Listing	7
Series 1: List of Book Records.....	7
Series 2: Office of the Assistant Commissioner.....	8
Series 3: Offices of Staff Officers.....	13
Series 4: Subordinate Offices.....	18
Series 5: Subordinate Field Offices.....	24

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of African American History and Culture
Title:	Records of the Field Offices for Maryland and Delaware, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872
Identifier:	NMAAHC.FB.M1906
Date:	1865-1872
Extent:	36,346 digital files
Language:	English
Summary:	The collection is comprised of digital surrogates previously available on the 42 rolls of microfilm described in the NARA publication M1906. These digital surrogates reproduced the records of the Maryland and Delaware field offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872. These records consist of bound volumes and unbound records, containing materials that include letters and endorsements sent and received, orders and circulars, monthly reports, and other records relating to freedmen's complaints and claims.
Digital Content:	Image(s): M1906-Representative-Image

Administrative Information

Acquisition Note

Acquired from FamilySearch, International in 2015.

Related Archival Materials

See also [Freedmen's Bureau Digital Collection](#)

Citation Note

Courtesy of the U. S. National Archives and Records Administration, FamilySearch International, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Access Note

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Historical Note

[The following is reproduced from the original NARA descriptive pamphlet for M1906.]

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. 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 medical 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 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, 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.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

ORGANIZATION

In June 1865, Comm. Oliver Otis Howard appointed Col. John Eaton as the Assistant Commissioner of the District of Columbia, which included Maryland, the District, the city of Alexandria, and the neighboring Virginia counties of Fairfax and Loudon. On September 27, 1865 (Special Order Number 77), Commissioner Howard appointed Lt. Col. William P. Wilson as acting Assistant Superintendent for Maryland. Wilson served until March 30, 1866, and was then replaced by Bvt. Maj. Gen. George J. Stannard, who became the first Assistant Commissioner for Maryland. Stannard's headquarters was at Baltimore. His command included all of the state, except the counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and St. Marys, which were under the control of the Assistant Commissioner of the District of Columbia. In early summer 1866, six counties in Virginia and two in West Virginia, known as the Shenandoah Division, were added to the Maryland Command (transferred to the Virginia command in the following September). By July 1866, Bvt Maj. Gen. Francis Fessenden replaced Stannard, and served for 1 month before he was replaced by Bvt. Maj. Gen. Edgar M. Gregory. On January 16, 1867 (Special Order Number 7), Maryland's jurisdiction was expanded to include Delaware. Bvt. Brig. Gen. Horace M. Brooks replaced Gregory in January 1868, and by August 1868, Bureau affairs relating to Maryland and Delaware were reassigned to the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia. A subassistant commissioner, Fred C. Von Schirach, remained in Baltimore until December 1868. A claims agent remained in Baltimore until 1872.

ACTIVITIES

Unlike its operations in states of the Deep South where providing relief, supervising labor contracts, and the administration of abandoned property was of primary concern, the Bureau's activities in Maryland and Delaware and other areas under its jurisdiction centered largely on freedmen education, the administration of justice, and veterans' claims.

The Freedmen's Bureau's efforts to provide education for freedmen in Maryland was hampered by a system of illegal apprenticeship of school-age children. In direct conflict with the Civil Rights Act of 1866 (14 Stat. 27), black children were being bound to their former owners for indefinite periods of time with the help of Maryland government officials. An estimated 10,000 black children were bound out as apprentices between 1864 and 1867. The Bureau, however, through writs of habeas corpus and other court actions, fought vigorously to have these children released. By 1868, the intense efforts of the Bureau had largely ended the apprenticeship system in Maryland.¹

Although the illegal apprenticeship system hindered the Bureau's educational activities in Maryland, the agency still managed to provide assistance with the construction and repair of school buildings and protection of and transportation for teachers. To increase its visibility and to gauge the interest of freedmen in establishing schools, Maryland and District of Columbia Bureau officials traveled to various counties, holding meetings on the benefits of education and the agency's intention to provide aid for schools. In addition, the Bureau worked closely with private benevolent societies, such as the Baltimore Association, the American Missionary Association, and the Freedmen's Union Association, to sustain freedmen schools

in spite of intense and often violent opposition from whites. From October 1867 to October 1868, the Bureau provided aid and assistance to some 80 schools in Maryland.²

Although the black population in Delaware and West Virginia was small, and Bureau operations in these states were limited, the agency still managed to provide noteworthy assistance for freedmen education. In Delaware the Bureau assisted in the construction of several freedmen schools. The agency also provided aid to various civic groups and benevolent societies, especially the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the Colored Race, which maintained some 23 schools in various parts of the state. West Virginia maintained a system of free education. However, whites controlled funds for schools and employment of teachers, and schools for blacks and whites remained separate, as required by law. Bureau officials, nonetheless, worked closely with the West Virginia superintendent of free schools in the establishment of schools for freedmen. As in Maryland, Bureau officials traveled throughout West Virginia counties, advising freedmen of their support and plans for building schools. Similar to other areas under its jurisdiction, the Bureau supplied funds for buildings, and teachers were generally paid from public funds, contributions from blacks, and aid from benevolent societies. By 1868, with cooperation mostly from freedmen themselves, the Bureau was able to establish 9 schools in West Virginia.³

Safeguarding rights and securing justice for freedmen was of paramount concern to the Freedmen's Bureau. 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 on May 30, 1865, Assistant Commissioners were authorized, in places where civil law had been interrupted and blacks' rights to justice were being denied, to adjudicate cases between blacks themselves and between blacks and whites. In the District of Columbia and Maryland, the civil process of law had not been interrupted, and unlike many areas of the South under the Bureau's jurisdiction, no freedmen's or provost courts were in operation. The Bureau did however, provide legal assistance to freedmen in civil and criminal cases in both the District of Columbia and Maryland. This was done especially in instances where freedmen lacked counsel and in cases where Bureau officials felt that freedmen were wrongly convicted or imprisoned. In 1868, the Assistant Commissioner for the District reported that of the nearly 900 cases handled by his office, a large percentage involved incidents in Maryland.⁴

In accordance with a law passed by Congress on March 29, 1867 (15 Stat. 26), making the Freedmen's Bureau the sole agent for payment of claims of black veterans, Bureau disbursing officers assisted veterans and their heirs in the preparation and settlement of claims. To administer claims, the Bureau established a Claims Division. This office was abolished in 1868, and most of the activities of the Maryland Bureau relating to claims were then centered in Baltimore, MD, where two full-time disbursing officers were assigned to settle and pay veterans claims. At the Baltimore office, the Bureau handled claims for Maryland, Delaware, and other areas under its jurisdiction. In 1868 Bureau agents disbursed more than \$10,000 for military claims.⁵ The Bureau maintained registers and files for claimants for payments of bounty, back pay, and pensions. These records often contain the name, rank, company, and regiment of the claimant; the dates the claim was received and filed; the address of the claimant; and remarks.

ENDNOTES

1 Annual Reports of the Assistant Commissioners, District of Columbia, October 10, 1867, [pp. 3 – 9], Records of the Commissioner, Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group (RG) 105, National Archives Building; W. A. Low, "The Freedmen's Bureau in the Border States," in *Radicalism, Racism, and Party Realignment: The Border States during Reconstruction*, ed. Richard O. Curry, (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1869), 247.

2 W. A. Low, "The Freedmen's Bureau in the Border States," pp. 247 – 49. Annual Reports of the Assistant Commissioners, District of Columbia, October 10, 1868 [pp. 11 – 13, 15 – 24].

3 Annual Reports, Assistant Commissioners, District of Columbia, October 10, 1868, [pp. 26 – 30]. See also W. A. Low, "The Freedmen's Bureau in the Border States," 256 – 57.

4 Senate Ex. Doc. No. 6, 39th Cong., 2nd Sess., Serial Vol. 1276, p. 34; Annual Reports, Assistant Commissioners, District of Columbia, October 10, 1867 [p. 3], and October 10, 1868 [pp. 5 – 11].

5 Annual Reports, Assistant Commissioners, District of Columbia, October 10, 1867 [pp. 10 – 11, and October 10, 1868 [pp. 13 – 15].

Records Description

These records consist of volumes and unbound records. 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. Years later, all volumes were 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. In some volumes, particularly in indexes and alphabetical headings of registers, there are blank numbered pages that have not been filmed.

The volumes consist of 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. The unbound documents consist of letters and orders received, unregistered letters received and narrative reports received, special orders and circulars issued, general and special orders and circulars received, and other series.

Freedmen's Bureau Personnel in Maryland and Delaware

This list provides the names and dates of service of known Freedmen's Bureau personnel at selected subordinate field offices for Maryland. 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.

ANNAPOLIS

June 1866–Sept. 1870

Disbursing Officer W. L. Van Derliss

BLADENSBURG

June 1866–Sept. 1867

Superintendent G. E. Henry

ROCKVILLE

June 1866–Oct. 1867

Superintendent R. G. Rutherford

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

American South
Freedmen's Bureau
Reconstruction, U.S. history, 1865-1877
Slaves -- Emancipation

Container Listing

Series 1: List of Book Records

1.1: States of Maryland and Delaware

The single-volume list of book records of officers in Maryland (No Date) is arranged by office, with records of the Assistant Commissioner first, followed alphabetically by locations of the subdistrict office. Included in the list of book records are the type of record in each book or volume, the dates of the volume, and the volume number. In the Table of Contents below, the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) volume number appears in parentheses in the series descriptions.

1.1.1: 1 Volume

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Office of the Assistant Commissioner

2.1: Correspondence

2.1.1: Letters Sent

The two volumes of letters sent, May 1866–December 1868, 1 (3) and 2 (4), are arranged chronologically.

2.1.1.1: Volume 1 (3), May 1866–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.1.2: Volume 2 (4), July–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.2: Name Index to Letters Sent

The single-volume name index (14) is an index to the endorsements sent and received, April 1866–December 1869, listed below.

2.1.2.1: Volume (14)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.3: Endorsements Sent and Received

The single volume of endorsements sent and received, April 1866–December 1869 (13), is arranged chronologically. For a name index, see the single volume name index (14) mentioned above. The endorsements after December 1868 were sent or received by the officer in charge of claims.

2.1.3.1: Volume (13), Apr. 1866–Dec. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.4: Registers of Letters Received

The two volumes of registers of letters received, April 1866–December 1868, (1) and (2), are arranged by time periods. The entries within each time period are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically. For letters received, see the unbound letters received, April 1866–December 1868, listed below. Volume (2) also contains a register of letters received relating to claims, January–August 1868, that are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent.

2.1.4.1: Volume 1 (1), Apr. 1866–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.4.2: Volume 2 (2), Jan.–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.5: Letters Received

Unbound letters received, April 1866–December 1868, are arranged according to their entry in the registers of letters received mentioned above.

2.1.5.1: A – F, 1866–68

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.5.2: G – Z, 1866–68

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.1.6: Unregistered Letters Received, Oct. 1865–Nov. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound unregistered letters received, October 1865–November 1868, are arranged chronologically. Some of the letters appear to be entered in a register, but they are not entered in the two volumes of registers of letters received mentioned above.

2.1.7: Letters Received by Lieutenant Colonel William P. Wilson, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Oct.–Dec. 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound letters received by Lt. Col. William P. Wilson, Acting Assistant Commissioner, October–December 1865, are arranged chronologically.

2.2: Issuances

2.2.1: General Orders Issued

The single volume of general orders issued, June–November 1866 (15), is arranged in chronological order and numbered. The volume includes a name index.

2.2.1.1: Volume (15), June–Nov. 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.2.2: Special Orders Issued

The single volume of special orders issued, May 1866–August 1868 (16), is arranged by year and thereunder numerically. The volume includes a name index.

2.2.2.1: Volume (16), May 1866–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.2.3: General and Special Orders and Circulars Received, Mar. 1866–Apr. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound general and special orders and circulars received, March 1866–April 1867, are arranged chronologically.

2.3: Reports

2.3.1: Narrative Reports from the Assistant Inspector General, the Superintendent of Education, and the Officer in Charge of the Complaint Division, Oct. 1866–June 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound narrative reports from the assistant inspector general, the superintendent of education, and the officer in charge of the complaint division, October 1866–June 1868, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.2: Assistant Commissioner's Quarterly Reports of Operations, Oct. 1866–July 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound Assistant Commissioner's quarterly reports of operations, October 1866–July 1867, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.3: Assistant Commissioner's Monthly Land Reports, July 1866–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound Assistant Commissioner's monthly land reports, July 1866–July 1868, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.4: Teachers' Monthly School Reports, 1866, May 1869–Apr. 1870

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound teachers' monthly school reports, 1866 and May 1869–April 1870, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.5: Assistant Commissioner's and Superintendent of Education's Monthly Statistical School Reports, June 1866–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound Assistant Commissioner's and superintendent of education's monthly statistical school reports, June 1866–July 1868, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.6: Assistant Commissioner's Monthly Reports of Rations Issued, June 1866–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound Assistant Commissioner's monthly reports of rations issued, June 1866–July 1868, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.7: Assistant Commissioner's Reports of Officers on Duty and Monthly Reports of Changes in Personnel, June 1866–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound Assistant Commissioner's reports of officers on duty and monthly reports of changes in personnel, June 1866–July 1868, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.8: Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, Quartermaster Stores Used by the Bureau in Maryland, and Trimonthly Returns of Public Animals, June 1866–Apr. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound reports of persons and articles hired, quartermaster stores used by the Bureau in Maryland, and trimonthly returns of public animals, June 1866–April 1869, are arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically. The series includes reports made by the disbursing officer that were forwarded to Washington, DC.

2.3.9: Assistant Commissioner's Reports of Transportation Ordered, June 1867–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound Assistant Commissioner's reports of transportation ordered, June 1867–July 1868, are arranged chronologically.

2.3.10: Reports Received from the Shenandoah Division, June–Aug. 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound reports received from the Shenandoah Division, June–August 1866, are arranged chronologically. The series includes reports of operations, rations issued, land reports, reports of persons and articles hired, and quartermaster returns.

2.4: Other Records

2.4.1: Letters of Recommendation and Appointment and Oaths of Office of Clerks and Agents, Apr. 1867–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound letters of recommendation and appointment and oaths of office of clerks and agents, April 1867–August 1868, are arranged by type of record.

2.4.2: Register of Complaints of Illegal Apprenticeships

The single-volume register of complaints of illegal apprenticeships (21) is dated ca. 1868. The complaints appear to be the result of an investigation or report of Edward Petheridge, agent in Baltimore. The volume has a name index.

2.4.2.1: Volume (21), circa 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.4.3: Miscellaneous Records Relating to Construction of School Buildings,
Oct. 1866–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound miscellaneous records relating to construction of school buildings, October 1866–July 1868, are arranged by town. The series consists of school plans, contracts, and bills for construction or repair of buildings.

2.4.4: Miscellaneous Reports and Papers, July 1866–Oct. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound miscellaneous reports and papers, July 1866–October 1868, are arranged chronologically. The series includes a copy of the apprenticeship law of Delaware, a report by the disbursing officer of moneys received and disbursed in December 1866, and a report in the case of a Dr. Somers.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Offices of Staff Officers

3.1: Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer

3.1.1: Letters Sent

The two volumes of letters sent, November 1866–June 1867, 1 (28) and 2 (29), are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 (28) has a name index. Volume 2 (29) also contains a register of orders for transportation (January 1867).

3.1.1.1: Volume 1 (28), Nov. 1866–May 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.1.2: Volume 2 (29), May 1867–June 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2: Press Copies of Letters Sent

The ten volumes of press copies of letters sent, July 1867–June 1872, 1 (30), 2 (31), 3 (32), 4 (33), 5 (34), 6 (35), 7 (36), 8 (37), 9 (38), and 10 (39), are arranged chronologically, and there are indexes in every volume except 10 (39).

3.1.2.1: Volume 1 (30), July–Nov. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.2: Volume 2 (31), Nov. 1867–Feb. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.3: Volume 3 (32), Feb.–June 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.4: Volume 4 (33), June–Sept. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.5: Volume 5 (34), Sept.–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.6: Volume 6 (35), Dec. 1868–Apr. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.7: Volume 7 (36), Apr. 1869–Feb. 1870

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.8: Volume 8 (37), Feb. 1870–Feb. 1871

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.9: Volume 9 (38), Feb. 1871–May 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.2.10: Volume 10 (39), May–June 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.3: Registers of Letters Received

The two volumes of registers of letters received, November 1866–August 1868, 1 (26) and 2 (27), are arranged in chronological order by date received and numbered. There are name indexes in both volumes. For the actual letters received, see the series of letters received, November 1866–February 1868, mentioned below.

3.1.3.1: Volume 1 (26), Nov. 1866–Oct. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.3.2: Volume 2 (27), Oct. 1867–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.4: Letters Received

Unbound letters received, November 1866–February 1868, are arranged according to their entry in the two volumes of registers of letters received, 1 (26) and 2 (27), mentioned above.

3.1.4.1: 1 – 434, Nov. 1866–Oct. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.4.2: 435 – 799, Oct. 1867–Feb. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.5: Unregistered Letters Received, Oct. 1868–July 1870

Unbound unregistered letters received, October 1868–July 1870, are arranged chronologically.

3.1.5.1: Unregistered Letters Received, Oct. 1868–Feb. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.5.2: Unregistered Letters Received, Mar.–Aug. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.5.3: Unregistered Letters Received, Sept. 1869–July 1870

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.6: Special Orders and Circulars Received, Jan. 1867–Apr. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound special orders and circulars received, January 1867–April 1869, are arranged chronologically.

3.1.7: Register of Claimants

The single-volume register of claimants, January–April 1872 (44), is arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname of the claimant. The entries give the name of the claimant, the date the vouchers were received, and the date the funds were received. There are very few entries in the register.

3.1.7.1: Volume (44), Jan.–Apr. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.8: Registers of Cash Received and Disbursed

The three volumes of registers of cash received and disbursed, November 1866–June 1872, 1 (41), 2 (42), and 3 (43), are arranged chronologically. Each volume has a name index. The entries give the date and amount of money received, from whom it was received and to whom it was paid, the name of the claimant, the signature of the recipient, and the name of the witness. Volume 1 (41) contains receipts of papers by claimants and others dated November 1866–August 1868.

3.1.8.1: Volume 1 (41), Nov. 1866–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.8.2: Volume 2 (42), May 1868–May 1871

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.8.3: Volume 3 (43), May 1871–June 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.9: Register of Disbursements

The single-volume register of disbursements, March 1868–October 1871 (44 ½), is arranged chronologically. The entries give the name of the person, date, and amount paid.

3.1.9.1: Volume (44 ½), Mar. 1868–Oct. 1871

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.10: Receipts for Pay, Bounty, and Pension Certificates

Unbound receipts for pay, bounty, and pension certificates, dated 1866–70, are arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname of the claimant.

3.1.10.1: A – R, 1866–70

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.10.2: R – Z, 1866–70

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.11: Bills Paid, 1867–68

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound bills paid, 1867–68, are arranged chronologically.

3.1.12: Check Stubs

The five volumes of check stubs, July 1866–December 1867, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, are arranged in chronological order and numbered.

3.1.12.1: Volume 1, July 1866–Feb. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.12.2: Volume 2, Feb.–June 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.12.3: Volume 3, June–Aug. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.12.4: Volume 4, Aug.–Oct. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.1.12.5: Volume 5, Oct.–Dec. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Subordinate Offices

4.1: Claim Division

The Claim Division was originally a division of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner. After the abolishment of that Office in 1868, a claims agent remained in Baltimore until 1872. Many of the letters in these series were addressed to the Assistant Commissioner but all of them relate to claims.

4.1.1: Letters Sent

The two volumes of letters sent, September 1866–September 1867, 1 (5) and 2 (6), are arranged chronologically, and both volumes have name indexes.

4.1.1.1: Volume 1 (5), Sept.–Dec. 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.1.2: Volume 2 (6), Jan.–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.2: Press Copies of Letters Sent

The six volumes of press copies of letters sent, July 1867–June 1872, 1 (7), 2 (8), 3 (9), 4 (10), 5 (11), and 6 (12), are arranged chronologically, and each volume has a name index.

4.1.2.1: Volume 1 (7), July 1867–Mar. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.2.2: Volume 2 (8), Mar.–Oct. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.2.3: Volume 3 (9), Oct. 1868–Mar. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.2.4: Volume 4 (10), Mar. 1869–Nov. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.2.5: Volume 5 (11), Nov. 1869–May 1871

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.2.6: Volume 6 (12), May 1871–June 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.3: Letters Received, Jan.–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound letters received, January–August 1868, are arranged according to their entry in Volume (2) of the registers of letters received among the records of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner mentioned above.

4.1.4: Unregistered Letters Received

Unbound unregistered letters received, May 1866–May 1872, are arranged chronologically. Some of these letters appear to be entered in a register, but the register has not been located.

4.1.4.1: Unregistered Letters Received, May 1866–Dec. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.4.2: Unregistered Letters Received, Jan. 1868–Mar. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.4.3: Unregistered Letters Received, Apr.–Dec. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.4.4: Unregistered Letters Received, Jan.–Sept. 1870

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.4.5: Unregistered Letters Received, Oct. 1870–Apr. 1871

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.4.6: Unregistered Letters Received, May 1871–May 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.5: Letters Received Relating to the Claims of Loyal Slaveowners, Dec. 1866–Mar. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound letters received relating to the claims of loyal slaveowners, December 1866–March 1867, are arranged chronologically.

4.1.6: Register of Claimants for Bounties and Pay Arrearages

The single-volume register of claimants for bounties and pay arrearages, June 1866–March 1872 (23), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the claimant. The entries give the name, rank, company, and regiment of the claimant; the dates the claim was received and filed; the address of the claimant; the type of claim; and "Remarks." For case files of many of the claimants entered in the register, see the series of case files for claims for bounty and pay arrearages (1867–72) mentioned below.

4.1.6.1: Volume (23), June 1866–Mar. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.7: Case Files for Claims for Bounty and Pay Arrearages

Unbound case files for claims for bounty and pay arrearages, 1867–72, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the claimant. The case files consist of jackets giving the name, rank, company, regiment, and address of claimant and the dates when the claim was forwarded and returned. The jackets often contain correspondence relating to the claim.

4.1.7.1: A – F, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.7.2: G – L, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.7.3: M – S, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.7.4: T – Y, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.8: Register of Claimants for Pensions

The single-volume register of claimants for pensions, June 1866–March 1872 (25), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the claimant. The entries give the name, rank, company, regiment, and address of claimant; the dates the claim was received and filed; the type or nature of the claim; and "Remarks." For case files of some of the claimants entered in this register, see the series of case files of pension claims (1867–72) mentioned below.

4.1.8.1: Volume (25), June 1866–Mar. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.9: Case Files of Pension Claims

Unbound case files of pension claims, 1867–72, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of claimant. The files consist of a jacket giving the name, company, rank, and regiment of claimant; the address of claimant; and the dates the claim was received and filed. The jackets often contain correspondence relating to the claim.

4.1.9.1: A – G, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.9.2: H – R, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.9.3: S – Y, 1867–72

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.10: Register of Maryland Bounty Claims Filed through Hugh L. Bond

The single-volume register of Maryland bounty claims filed through Hugh L. Bond, May–November 1868 (24), is arranged numerically by regiment. The entries give the name, company, and regiment of claimant; the dates the papers were forwarded; the amount of the claim; and the date it was paid.

4.1.10.1: Volume (24), May–Nov. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.11: Register of Claims Not Originally Filed through the Baltimore Office

The single-volume register of claims not originally filed through the Baltimore office, March 1867–January 1872 (22), is arranged chronologically. The entries give the name, rank, company, regiment, and address of the claimant; when

and from whom the claim was received; the action required; and the date and to whom returned.

4.1.11.1: Volume (22), Mar. 1867–Jan. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.12: Register of Loyal Slaveowners, Maryland and West Virginia

The single-volume register of loyal slaveowners in Maryland and West Virginia (24) is undated and arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname of the slaveowner. The entries also give the name of the slave.

4.1.12.1: Volume (24), Undated

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.13: Names and Addresses of Claimants

The two volumes of names and addresses of claimants, 1 and 2, are undated, and each is arranged alphabetically, A – Y.

4.1.13.1: Volume 1, Undated

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.1.13.2: Volume 2, Undated

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2: Complaint Division

The Complaint Division of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner was apparently mainly responsible for complaints relating to the filing and processing of claims, although it also dealt with complaints arising from illegal apprenticeship of children. After the abolishment of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner in August 1868, correspondence relating to complaints of claimants was continued in these series.

4.2.1: Press Copies of Letters Sent

The two volumes of press copies of letters sent, April 1868–April 1872, 1 (19) and 2 (20), are arranged chronologically and each volume has a name index.

4.2.1.1: Volume 1 (19), Apr. 1868–Dec. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2.1.2: Volume 2 (20), Jan. 1870–Apr. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2.2: Registers of Complaints

The two volumes of registers of complaints, 1 (17) and 2 (18), cover the period July 1866–March 1872. Vol. 1 (17) is arranged chronologically and thereunder by page number. Volume 2 (18) is arranged in chronological order and numbered. Each volume has a name index. The entries give the name

of the complainant, an abstract of the nature of the complaint, and notations relating to actions taken in the case.

4.2.2.1: Volume 1 (17), July 1866–Feb. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2.2.2: Volume 2 (18), Jan. 1868–Mar. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2.3: Letters Received

Unbound letters received, July 1866–March 1872, are arranged according to their entry in the registers of complaints 1 (17) and 2 (18) mentioned above.

4.2.3.1: Entered in Volume 1 (17), Pages 2 – 97, July 1866–Feb. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2.3.2: Entered in Volume 2 (18), Numbers 2 – 417, Jan.–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2.3.3: Entered in Volume 2 (18), Numbers 3 – 180, Jan. 1869–Mar. 1872

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Subordinate Field Offices

The records of the offices described below were not subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner for Maryland, but because they are listed in the "List of Book Records for Maryland," they appear here as the "Subordinate" offices in Maryland. The offices in Annapolis, Bladensburg, and Rockville were subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia. The officer in Wilmington was a claims agent.

5.1: Annapolis (Disbursing Officer)

5.1.1: Letters Sent

The single volume of letters sent, June 1866–March 1868 (48), is arranged chronologically.

5.1.1.1: Volume (48), June 1866–Mar. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.1.2: Press Copies of Letters Sent

The single volume of press copies of letters sent, March 1868–September 1870, (49), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

5.1.2.1: Volume (49), Mar. 1868–Sept. 1870

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.1.3: Endorsements Sent

The single volume of endorsements sent, July 1866–September 1868 (47), is arranged chronologically.

5.1.3.1: Volume (47), July 1866–Sept. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.1.4: Letters Received

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

5.1.4.1: Letters Received, June 1866–Dec. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.1.4.2: Letters Received, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.2: Bladensburg (Superintendent)

5.2.1: Letters Sent

The single volume of letters sent, June 1866–September 1867 (50), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

5.2.1.1: Volume (50), June 1866–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.2.2: Letters Received, May 1866–Dec. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound letters received, May 1866–December 1867, are arranged chronologically.

5.2.3: Register of Complaints

The single–volume register of complaints, June 1866–September 1867 (51), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

5.2.3.1: Volume (51), June 1866–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.3: Rockville (Superintendent)

5.3.1: Letters Sent

The single volume of letters sent, June 1866–October 1867 (53), is arranged chronologically.

5.3.1.1: Volume (53), June 1866–Oct. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.3.2: Endorsements Sent and Received

The single volume of endorsements sent and received, July 1866–September 1867 (54), is arranged chronologically. The volume is cross–referenced to the register of letters received (52) mentioned below.

5.3.2.1: Volume (54), July 1866–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.3.3: Register of Letters Received

The single–volume register of letters received, March 1866–September 1867 (52), is arranged in chronological order and numbered.

5.3.3.1: Volume (52), Mar. 1866–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.3.4: Registered Letters Received, May 1866–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound registered letters received, May 1866–September 1867, are arranged in chronological order and numbered. The letters are registered in the register of letters received (52) mentioned above.

5.3.5: Register of Complaints

The single–volume register of complaints, June 1866–September 1867 (55), is arranged chronologically.

5.3.5.1: Volume (55), June 1866–Sept. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.4: Wilmington, Delaware

5.4.1: Letters Received, May 1867–July 1870

[Image\(s\)](#)

Unbound letters received, May 1867–July 1870, are arranged chronologically.

5.4.2: Register of Claimants for Bounties

The single–volume register of claimants for bounties, November 1867–July 1869 (56), is arranged chronologically. The entries give the name and address of claimant, information about the time of filing of claim, and the service of claimant.

5.4.2.1: Volume (56), Nov. 1867–July 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.4.3: Register of Claims for Pensions

The single–volume register of claims for pensions, March 1867–March 1868 (57), arranged chronologically by the date of the application. The register gives the date of the application, name of pensioner, residence, number of certificate, and date and amount of payment.

5.4.3.1: Volume (57), Mar. 1867–Mar. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

5.4.4: Register of Payments

The single–volume register of payments, January 1867–December 1868 (58), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the claimant. The entries give the name, rank, regiment, and company of the claimant; the date payment was received; the number of the Treasury certificate; and the amount of payment.

5.4.4.1: Volume (58), Jan. 1867–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Return to Table of Contents