



Smithsonian
*National Museum of African American
History and Culture*

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Registers of Letters Sent.....	4
Series 2: Press Copies of Letters Sent.....	5
Series 3: Press Copies of Letters Sent to General Howard and Staff.....	6
Series 4: Letter Sent.....	7
Series 5: Press Copies of Telegrams Sent.....	8
Series 6: Endorsements Sent.....	9
Series 7: Registers of Letters Received.....	10
Series 8: Registered Letters Received.....	11
Series 9: Unregistered Letters Received.....	14
Series 10: Unregistered Telegrams Received.....	15
Series 11: Issuances.....	16
Series 12: Special Orders Received.....	17
Series 13: Unbound Orders, Special Orders and Circulars Received.....	18
Series 14: Reports on Operations and Conditions.....	19
Series 15: Records Relating to the Issue of Supplies to Freedman.....	21
Series 16: Records Relating to Freedmen's Labor.....	22
Series 17: Reports Relating to Bounty Claims and Disbursements.....	24
Series 18: Records Relating to Abandoned Property.....	25
Series 19: Personnel Records.....	28
Series 20: Records Relating to Outrages.....	30
Series 21: Transportation Reports.....	31
Series 22: Miscellaneous Records.....	32

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of African American History and Culture
Title:	Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1869
Identifier:	NMAAHC.FB.M999
Date:	1865–1869
Extent:	34 Reels
Language:	English
Summary:	This collection is comprised of digital surrogates previously available on the 34 rolls of microfilm described in NARA publication M999. These digital surrogates reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–69. The records consist of 32 volumes and nearly 36 feet of unbound documents. The volumes include letters, endorsements sent, and telegrams sent; special orders and circular issued; registers of letters received; registers of abandoned property; and other records. The unbound records consist primarily of letters, telegrams, issuances, reports, and contracts received.
Digital Content:	Image(s): M999-Representative-Image

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Acquired from FamilySearch International in 2015.

Related Materials

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

Preferred Citation

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

Restrictions

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Historical Note

[The following is reproduced from the original NARA descriptive pamphlet for M999.]

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The Freedmen's Bureau, as the Bureau was commonly known, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507), and extended twice by acts of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard was appointed Commissioner by the President in May 1865, and he served in that position until June 30, 1872, when the activities of the Bureau were terminated by an act of June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366). Although the Bureau was part of the War Department, its work was primarily social and economic in nature. The Bureau cooperated with benevolent societies in issuing supplies to the destitute and in maintaining freedmen's schools. Bureau officials supervised labor contracts between black employees and white employers; helped black soldiers and sailors collect bounty claims, pensions, and backpay; and attended to the disposition of confiscated or abandoned lands and property.

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

The organization of the Bureau staff in Tennessee was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters in Washington, D. C. The Assistant Commissioner's staff included at various times the Superintendent of Education, Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Assistant Inspector General, Disbursing Officer, Surgeon in Chief, and Chief Quartermaster. Subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner and his staff were the subassistant commissioners who commanded the subdistricts.

Under direct supervision of the subassistant commissioners were civilian and military superintendents, assistant subassistant commissioners, and agents. General Fisk originally divided Tennessee into three subdistricts with headquarters at Pulaski and Knoxville. The subdistricts were further subdivided into agencies with boundaries that usually coincided with county lines. Among the more significant of these additional local offices were those headquartered at Columbia, Gallatin, Jackson, Kingston, Lebanon, Murfreesboro, Purdy, Springfield, and Trenton.

The Assistant Commissioner corresponded extensively both with his superior, General Howard, in Washington Bureau headquarters and with 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 Tennessee. The Assistant Commissioner also received letters from freedmen, local white citizens, State officials, and others. These letters varied in nature from complaints to applications for jobs in the Bureau. Because the Acting Assistant Adjutant General handled much of the mail for the Assistant Commissioner's office, correspondence was usually addressed to or signed by him.

The volumes reproduced in this publication were arbitrarily assigned numbers by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) of the War Department after the records came into its custody. In the table of contents for this publication the AGO numbers are shown in parentheses to aid in identifying the volumes because these numbers appear on the spines of the volumes. Volumes numbers without parentheses were

assigned by NARAS staff. Some volumes, particularly indexes and registers, contain numbered blank pages. These pages have not been filmed.

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: Registers of Letters Sent

The records of the Assistant Commissioner include 10 volumes of letters sent (eight volumes of press copies and two volumes of fair copies) and one volume of press copies of telegrams sent.

1.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 8), June 29–Dec. 30, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

1.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 12), Dec. 30, 1865–Dec. 29, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Press Copies of Letters Sent

The eight volumes of press copies of letters sent consist of a main series of letters sent (5 vols.) and a separate series of letters sent to General Howard and his staff (3 vols.). Press copies were made by moistened paper. Because of the relative crudeness of this method, many of the press copies are difficult to read and some are virtually illegible. The five volumes of press copies of letters sent, July 1, 1865–December 29, 1866, are arranged chronologically, and each volume has a name index. Two volumes of registers of letters sent accompany press copies as an additional finding aid and have been filmed preceding the volume of letters sent. Entries in the register, June 29, 1865–December 29, 1866, are arranged chronologically, and each volume contains a name index. Volume 1 contains some entries for letters addressed to General Howard and his staff. Volume 1 has a list of contents.

2.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 6), July 1–Sept. 9, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 7), Oct. 2–Dec. 30, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.3: Vol. 3 (AGO Vol. 9), Dec. 30, 1865–Feb. 13, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.4: Vol. 4 (AGO Vol. 10), Feb. 13–Mar. 17, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

2.5: Vol. 5 (AGO Vol. 11), Mar. 17–Dec. 29, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Press Copies of Letters Sent to General Howard and Staff

The eight volumes of press copies of letters sent consist of a main series of letters sent (5 vols.) and a separate series of letters sent to General Howard and his staff (3 vols.). Press copies were made by moistened paper. Because of the relative crudeness of this method, many of the press copies are difficult to read and some are virtually illegible. Volume 1 contains some press copies of letters sent to General Howard and his staff, July 3, 1866–April 30, 1869, are arranged chronologically. Volume 2 and 3 have names indexes, and volume 1 has a list of contents.

3.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 15), July 3–Nov. 8, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 16), Nov. 8, 1866–Aug. 1, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

3.3: Vol. 3 (AGO Vol. 17), July 18, 1868–Apr. 30, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Letter Sent

The first half of each of the two volumes of fair copies of letters sent, January 1, 1867–December 30, 1868, contains copies of letters sent to all correspondents except General Howard and his staff. The letters in each half of both volumes are arranged and numbered in chronological order. There is a name index to volume 2; volume 1 was originally unindexed, but the National Archives and Records Services (NARS) staff has provided a name index that has been films immediately preceding the volume. Fair copies are handwritten duplicates of the originals, usually clear and easy to read. The letters in the first half of the two volumes were sent to the Superintendent of Education, subassistant commissioners, agents, military commanders, teachers, and others. Numbers at the end of the body of each letters probably refer to pages in press copybooks that cannot now be located. Numbers at the end of the letters sent to General Howard and his staff refer to the pages in the volumes of press copies of letters sent to General Howard and staff.

4.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 13), Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

4.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 14), Jan. 3–Dec. 30, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Press Copies of Telegrams Sent

The volume of press copies of telegrams sent, June 25, 1865–December 22, 1866, is arranged chronologically and contains a name index. Included in the volume are telegrams addressed to General Howard, subassistant commissioners, agents, military commanders, Bureau officials, and other correspondents. Some of the telegrams have dollar amounts written in pencil in the margin, presumably showing the cost of sending the telegram.

5.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 18), June 25, 1865–Dec. 22, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Endorsements Sent

Endorsements sent are characteristics of 19th-century record-keeping 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 usually include a summary of the incoming letters and sometimes the texts of previous endorsements that were recorded on it.

The four volumes of endorsements sent, May 3, 1865–January 25, 1869, are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 has a name index; volumes 2 – 4 have no indexes. The endorsements are cross-referenced to the registers of letters received by the abbreviation "LR" (letters received) followed by the number of the letter. Endorsements for the period January 1–May 5, 1869, are in volume 5 of the registers of letters received.

6.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 19), May 31, 1865–Jan. 12, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

6.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 20), Jan. 15, 1866–Feb. 25, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

6.3: Vol. 3 (AGO Vol. 21), Jan. 3, 1867–Mar. 21, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

6.4: Vol. 4 (AGO Vol. 22), Jan. 2, 1868–Jan. 25, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Registers of Letters Received

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

The first four volumes of registers of letters received, June 18, 1865–January 25, 1869, are arranged by time periods. The entries in the volume are arranged by initial letter of surname of correspondent and thereunder are arranged and numbered by date of receipt. Entries in the fifth volume, January 1, 1865–May 5, 1869, are arranged and numbered by the date of receipt. There were originally name indexes to all volumes except the fourth. The NARS staff has supplied a name index for volume 4, and the index is filmed immediately preceding the volume. Entries in volumes 1 – 4 include cross-reference to the volumes of endorsements sent. These cross-references consist of the notation "EB" (endorsement book) followed by the number of the page number. Volume 5 contains copies of endorsements sent along with the register for the period January 1, 1865–May 5, 1869.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the volume sometimes proved insufficient, it became necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the volume. The NARS staff has filmed the registers in correct order; therefore, some of the pages do not appear in the original numerical sequence.

A number of documents entered in the registers are no longer among the series of registered letters received. Often communications were forwarded to Bureau headquarters, referred to staff or subordinate officers, or returned with endorsements to the sender. The NARS staff has annotated the registers with a single asterisk to show which letters are still on file among the registered letters received. Entries marked with a double asterisk are on file in other series reproduced in this microfilm publication.

7.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 1), June 18, 1865–Jan. 14, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

7.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 2), Jan. 3, 1866–Jan. 23, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

7.3: Vol. 3 (AGO Vol. 3), Jan. 2–Dec. 31, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

7.4: Vol. 4 (AGO Vol. 4), Jan. 2, 1868–Jan. 25, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

7.5: Vol. 5 (AGO Vol. 5), Jan. 1–May 5, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Registered Letters Received

The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner are in three series: registered letters received, unregistered letters received, and unregistered telegrams received.

Registered letters received, June 18, 1865–May 5, 1869, are arranged according to their entry in the registers. The letters are cross-referenced to the registers of letters received usually by the notation "rec'd ACO KY. + Tenn." followed by the register entry number. Some letters have just the register entry number. Most enclosures to letters were not so marked. Many letters also contains file markings given them by previous offices of receipt. Registered correspondence was received from many sources, including General Howard's staff, Superintendent of Education, subassistant commissioners, agents, military commanders, teachers, and other civil and State officials.

8.1: Entered in Register 1

8.1.1: A – D, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.1.2: E – L, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.1.3: M – T, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.1.4: U – Y, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.2: Entered in Register 1 and 2

8.2.1: A – F, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.2.2: G – M, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.2.3: N – S, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.2.4: T – Z, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.3: Entered in Register 2 and 3

8.3.1: A – C, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.3.2: D – S, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.3.3: T – W, 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.4: Entered in Register 4

8.4.1: A – P, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.4.2: R – W, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

8.5: Entered in Register 4 and 5

8.5.1: ---, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 9: Unregistered Letters Received

The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner are in three series: registered letters received, unregistered letters received, and unregistered telegrams received.

The number of unregistered letters received, July 1865–May 1869, is much smaller than the number of registered letters. These letters are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent. Though originally unindexed, the NARS staff has supplied a name index that has been filmed immediately preceding the letters. Many of the letters bear file numbers from other offices where they had been registered. The letters are similar in content to the registered letters.

9.1: Unregistered Letters Received, July 1865-May 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 10: Unregistered Telegrams Received

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are three volumes of special orders and circulars issued; one volume of special orders received; and a small number of unbound orders, special orders, and circulars received.

Unregistered telegrams received, July 1865–November 1866, are arranged by year. Those for 1865 are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent and thereunder chronologically. The 1866 telegrams are arranged chronologically. Agents, military commanders, and other functionaries of the Bureau sent most of these telegrams.

10.1: Unregistered Telegrams Received, July 1865-Nov. 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 11: Issuances

11.1: Special Orders and Circulars Issued

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are three volumes of special orders and circulars issued.

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

11.1.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 23), June 26–Dec. 30, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

11.1.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 24), Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

11.1.3: Vol. 3 (AGO Vol. 25), Jan. 3, 1867–Dec. 31, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 12: Special Orders Received

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner is one volume of special orders received.

The volume of special orders received, May 19, 1866–March 2, 1869 is arranged chronologically. These issuances originated mainly with General Howard and his staff; the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C.; or Headquarters, Department of the Cumberland. The bound orders contain the entire text of the issuance.

12.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 26), May 19, 1866–Mar. 2, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 13: Unbound Orders, Special Orders and Circulars Received

Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner is a small number of unbound orders, special orders, and circulars received.

The unbound orders, special orders, and circulars received, June 18, 1865–May 30, 1869, is arranged chronologically. The issuance originated mainly with General Howard and his staff; the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C.; or Headquarters, Department of the Cumberland. The unbound orders are mostly extracts.

13.1: Unbound Orders, Special Orders, and Circulars Received, June 18, 1865–May 30, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 14: Reports on Operations and Conditions

The Assistant Commissioner retained copies of certain periodic reports he sent to General Howard at Bureau headquarters in Washington, D. C. These retained copies include narrative annual reports of conditions and operations, October 1866–October 1868, are narrative quarterly reports of conditions and operations, September–December 1866. Both series of reports, which are arranged chronologically, summarize activities for the period they cover, mention problems, and give the Assistant Commissioner's opinions concerning relationships between the freedmen and the white populace. Much statistical data is included concerning Bureau operations.

Another series of retained copies of reports of the Assistant Commissioner, the monthly reports of operations, April 1866–December 1868, is arranged chronologically and is similar to the annual and quarterly narrative reports. Included among the monthly reports are a number of consolidated monthly reports, similar in content and format to those submitted by the subordinate officials to the Assistant Commissioner and probably compiled from them.

The Assistant Commissioner received two series of reports from his field officers. Narrative reports of operations and conditions in the subdistricts, February 1866–April 1869, which are arranged chronologically, were sent periodically to the Assistant Commissioner in accordance with his circular order of January 21, 1866. These reports contains information relating to school matters, the administration of relief, agricultural and labor conditions, the operations of laws, and the relationships between the races. Statistical reports on the number and kinds of persons receiving rations and the value of the rations issued are interfiled with the narrative reports. Some of the reports are entered in the registers of letters received.

The Assistant Commissioner also received inspection reports, September 6, 1865–March 12, 1869, which are arranged chronologically, from his field officers. These reports were normally prepared in response to special orders asking for a report on operations and conditions in a designated area. The area could be a district, a camp, or an area not covered by a formal Bureau field office. These inspections reports usually contain information similar to that in other kinds of reports, but with additional statements as to the fitness of the officer in charge of the area or the condition of the facility inspected. Some inspection reports were requested by the Assistant Commissioner after receiving complaints from other field officers or from people living in a particular area.

14.1: Narrative Annual Reports of Conditions and Operations, Oct. 1866–Oct. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

14.2: Narrative Quarterly Reports of Conditions and Operations, Sept.–Dec. 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

14.3: Monthly Reports of Operations, Apr. 1866–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

14.4: Narrative Reports of Operations and Conditions

14.4.1: Narrative Reports of Operations and Conditions, Feb.–Sept. 1866

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

14.4.2: Narrative Reports of Operations and Conditions, Oct. 11, 1866–Apr. 30, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

14.5: Inspection Reports, Sept. 6, 1865–Mar. 12, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 15: Records Relating to the Issue of Supplies to Freedman

Reports of numbers of persons who were issued rations, clothing, and medicines are in two series, each of which is arranged chronologically. The first series consists of retained copies of monthly reports, June 1866–October 1868, sent by the Assistant Commissioner to General Howard. The second series consists of reports received by the Assistant Commissioner from the subdistrict, November 1865–September 1868, from which the reports in the former series were compiled. Both the Assistant Commissioner's reports and the reports from the subdistricts contain extensive statistical data and information regarding the number of men, women, and children receiving rations and the condition of their health; the number and total value of rations issued; and the increase or decrease in the number of freedmen receiving aid due to births and deaths.

Reports of freedmen's homes and institutions, August–October 1865, June–October 1867, and June–October 1868 are arranged chronologically. These weekly and trimonthly reports document the issuance of rations at freedmen's homes, refugee's and freedmen's hospitals, and orphan's asylums. These reports also contain information regarding the activities and general status of the institutions, many of which were located on abandoned land or on property controlled by the Bureau.

15.1: Reports of Numbers of Persons Issued Rations, Clothing, and Medicines, Nov. 1865–Oct. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

15.2: Reports of Freedman's Homes, (bulk Aug.–Oct. 1865, June–Oct. 1867 and June–Oct. 1868)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 16: Records Relating to Freedmen's Labor

There are two series of records relating to freedmen's labor. Indentures of apprenticeship, December 1865–February 1868, arranged chronologically, are preprinted or handwritten forms given pertinent data concerning the contracted parties, dates of apprenticeship, and including a statement of the obligations and responsibilities of each party. The second series consists of labor contracts, January 1, 1865–January 1, 1868, arranged in two subseries. The first subseries contains contracts in which both contracting parties were from Tennessee and is arranged alphabetically by county and thereunder chronologically. The contracts state the obligations and responsibilities of the contracting parties and give dates and other terms of employment. All work situations are represented, including sharecropping, factory labor, and domestic help. Included also in this subseries are contracts between landowners and the Federal Government by which landowners agreed to hire a certain number of freedmen in lieu of repaying a Government debt. The second subseries consists of contracts similar to those in the first subseries except that they are between freedmen from Tennessee and employers from other States. This subseries is arranged alphabetically by State, thereunder alphabetically by county, and thereunder chronologically. Some of the contracts also include the transportation arrangements provided for the freedmen. Included at the end of this subseries are four contracts between Tennessee employers and freedmen from other States, arranged alphabetically by employer.

16.1: Indentures of Apprenticeship, Dec. 1865–Feb. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

16.2: Contracts

16.2.1: Dyer County, Jan. 1, 1865–Jan. 1, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

16.2.2: Fayette – Hardman Counties, Jan. 1, 1865–Jan. 1, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

16.2.3: Hardman – Madison Counties, Jan. 1, 1865–Jan. 1, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

16.2.4: Robertson – Shelby Counties, Jan. 1, 1865–Jan. 1, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

16.2.5: Shelby – Wilson Counties, Jan. 1, 1865–Jan. 1, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

16.2.6: Arkansas County, Ark. – Bolivar County, Miss., Jan. 1, 1865–Jan. 1,
1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 17: Reports Relating to Bounty Claims and Disbursements

These narrative reports and statistical charts, May 18, 1867–April 30, 1869, were forwarded from the subdistricts to the Assistant Commissioner and contain information about the number and value of claims processed and settled. Some of the reports are entered in the registers of letters received. The disbursements relate to payments of backpay to black soldiers and sailors.

17.1: Reports Relating to Bounty Claims and Disbursements, May 18, 1867–Apr. 30, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 18: Records Relating to Abandoned Property

There are five series of records relating to abandoned lands that include such information as the name of the former owner of the abandoned land and often a statement of his political leanings; the property's location; the size, number, and type of buildings on it; the name of the person or persons to whom the land was leased; and often the terms of the lease. Before the establishment of the Bureau, special agents of the Treasury Department were responsible for abandoned land and property. As the Freedmen's Bureau began operations in the States, the special agents transferred their responsibilities to officials of the Bureau. The five series are as follows below in their own series.

18.1: Registers of Abandoned Property

Three volumes of registers of abandoned property, each volume for February 1861–May 1868. Entries in volume 1 are arranged alphabetically by county; those in volume 3 are arranged alphabetically by name of former owner. Volume 1 contains a table of contents listing counties; volume 2 contains a name index to lessees that also includes the names of former owners; and volume 3 contains a name index to former owners that shows the date the property was restored and the order authorizing the restoration. Monthly lists of destitute whites, May–September 1866, reveal the destitute whites in each district and the amount of rations needed to sustain them.

18.1.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 29), Feb. 1861–May 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.1.2: Vol. 2 (AGO Vol. 30), Feb. 1861–May 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.1.3: Vol. 3 (AGO Vol. 31), Feb. 1861–May 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.2: Descriptions of Abandoned Property and its Former Owners

A volume of descriptions of abandoned property and its former owners, 1865–66, divided into four sections. The first three sections are arranged according to the name of the agent who seized the property and thereunder by name of property owner. One of these three sections contains information about land in Alabama. The information in the three sections is similar to that in the registers of abandoned property described above but includes more details. The fourth section contains a listing of leases made by Special Treasury Agent E. Hotchkiss from February through June 1865.

18.2.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 32), 1865–66

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.3: Lists, Reports, and Correspondence Pertaining to Land and Property, Jan. 23, 1864–Sept. 30, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Lists, reports, and correspondence pertaining to land and property, arranged by type of record. There are three kinds of lists: lists of abandoned land, October 1865–January 1868, arranged in two alphabetical sequences (first by county and then by general geographical area); consolidated lists of abandoned land and property, September 30, 1865–September 30, 1868, arranged chronologically; and a list of

personal property (debts) held by the Bureau, November 15, 1866. Reports relating to land and property include reports relating to restoration of abandoned land, February 14–December 19, 1867, arranged chronologically; a report on abandoned land and property leased in Memphis, October 1865. The correspondent relating to the restoration of property, January 23, 1864–January 23, 1868, is arranged alphabetically by surname of correspondent.

18.4: Leases of Abandoned Property

Leases of abandoned property let out by the Bureau, September 1864–February 1867, are arranged alphabetically by county in which the property is located and thereunder chronologically.

18.4.1: Anderson – Blount Counties, Sept. 1864–Feb. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.4.2: Blount – Knox Counties, Sept. 1864–Feb. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.4.3: Knox – Shelby Counties, Sept. 1864–Feb. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.4.4: Shelby – Wilson Counties, Sept. 1864–Feb. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.5: Applications for Restoration of Property

Applications for restoration of property, August 1865–January 1868, are arranged by initial letter of the surname of the applicant. File notations on many of the documents are from offices that handled the correspondence before it reached the Assistant Commissioner's office. Many of the applications included the applicant's loyalty oath or copies of his pardon to attest his loyalty to the Union, a pre-requisite for restoration of land. Some of the applications are entered in the registers of letters received.

18.5.1: A – B, Aug. 1865–Jan. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.5.2: C – H, Aug. 1865–Jan. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.5.3: J – O, Aug. 1865–Jan. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

18.5.4: P – Y, Aug. 1865–Jan. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 19: Personnel Records

Seven series of records relating to personnel of the Bureau for the State of Tennessee are reproduced on this microfilm publication: correspondence relating to appointments; letters of appointment; oaths of office; personal reports of officers and agents; station books of officers and agents; monthly reports of changes of officers and agents on duty; and letters revoking appointments.

19.1: Correspondence Relating to Appointments, (bulk July 19, 1865–Nov. 6, 1868 and Nov. 10 – 23, 1868)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Correspondence relating to appointments, July 19, 1865–November 6, 1866, and November 10 – 23, 1868, is arranged chronologically and consists of letters of introductions or recommendations for persons seeking positions as Bureau agents or teachers.

19.2: Letters to Appointments, Mar.–Dec. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Letters of appointments, March–December 1867, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of appointee and are form letters used to notify applicants of their appointments. They contain such information as date of appointment, job title, salary, and location of position.

19.3: Oaths of Office, Apr.–Nov. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Oaths of office, April–November 1867, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the person taking the path. These oaths were required by an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), for all officeholders whether elected or appointed.

19.4: Personnel Reports of Officers and Agents, Jan. 1867–Jan. 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

The personal reports of officers and agents, January 1867–January 1869, are arranged by date of receipts. They consist of notifications sent to the Assistant Commissioner by officers and agents informing him that they were on duty.

19.5: Station Book of Officers and Agents

The station book of officers and agents, January 1867–December 1868, is arranged by year, thereunder by district, and thereunder in two parts by type of office—those on the Assistant Commissioner's staff and the agents. For the individual listed, the volume indicates his duty, rank, date of employment, and title.

19.5.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 27), Jan. 1867–Dec. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

19.6: Monthly Reports of Changes of Officers and Agents on Duty, Feb. 1, 1866–Mar. 1, 1869

[Image\(s\)](#)

The monthly reports of changes of officers and agents on duty, February 1, 1866–March 1, 1869, are arranged chronologically and indicate names, ranks, stations, and duties of officers and civilians; numbers, sources, and dates of orders assigning officers; and other pertinent remarks. The reports include rosters of personnel on duty.

19.7: Letters Revoking Appointments, July–Nov. 1867

[Image\(s\)](#)

Letter revoking appointments, July–November 1867, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of appointee. In addition to the effective discharge date, the letters also include such information as title, date of original appointment, and duty station.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 20: Records Relating to Outrages

Records relating to outrages consist of a register of outrages; a series of reports of outrages, riots, and murders; and a series of affidavits relating to outrages. The term outrage meant any offense, though it usually referred to violent crimes against persons.

20.1: Register of Outrages

Entries in the register of outrages, October 1865–July 1868, are unarranged. Entries include names of the accused and of the injured parties; the date and nature of crime; the course of action taken, if any, by the authorities; and the outcome.

20.1.1: Vol. 1 (AGO Vol. 28), Oct. 1865–July 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

20.2: Reports of Outrages, Riots, and Murders Affidavits Relating to Outrages, Jan. 15, 1866–Aug. 12, 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Reports of outrages, riots, and murders, January 15, 1866–August 12, 1868, are arranged chronologically. These reports often include statements revealing the attitudes of the races toward each other, and some pertain to a particular event. Many of these reports were submitted on a monthly basis from the field offices to the Assistant Commissioner.

20.3: Affidavits Relating to Outrages, Mar. 1866–Aug. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

Affidavits relating to outrages, March 1866–August 1868, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of person submitting the affidavit. The affidavits consist of sworn eyewitness accounts of outrages, often given by the injured parties. Included in this series is a report with affidavits concerning the Memphis riot of May 1866.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 21: Transportation Reports

Monthly transportation reports, January 1867–November 1868, are arranged chronologically. Submitted by the field offices to the Assistant Commissioner, these reports give the date and order number authorizing the transportation; route, including origin and destination; and indicate whether people or supplies were being transported and, if people, whether they were military officers or freedmen.

21.1: Transportation Reports, Jan. 1867–Nov. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 22: Miscellaneous Records

These records include correspondence, June 1865–October 1868, concerning the requisitioning of supplies, petitions, and instructions to districts officials relating to such matters as burials. In addition, there are reports relating to the conduct of agents and officers, and a report of buildings constructed by the Bureau.

22.1: Miscellaneous Records, June 1865–Oct. 1868

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)