

4-2018

Letters Sent, Letters and Orders Received, Endorsements Sent and Received: 1865-1868

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

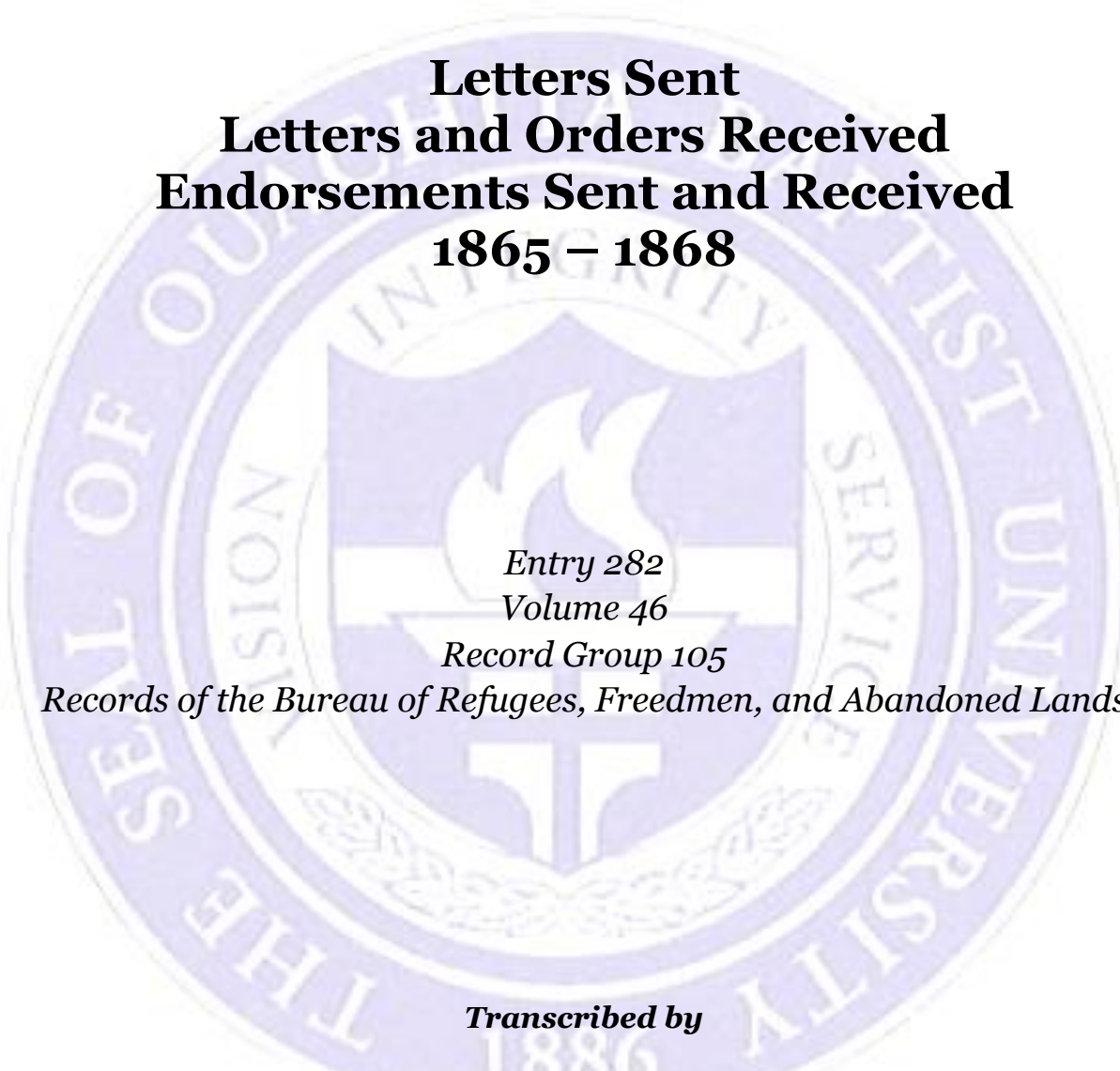
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/freedmen>

 Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Public History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, "Letters Sent, Letters and Orders Received, Endorsements Sent and Received: 1865-1868" (2018). *Freedmen's Bureau: Arkansas Field Office Records*. 4.
<https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/freedmen/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Digital Collections at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Freedmen's Bureau: Arkansas Field Office Records by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

The seal of Our Lady of the Lake University is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a cross and a flame. The shield is surrounded by a wreath. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "THE SEAL OF OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY" and "1886". The inner ring contains the words "MISSION", "INTEGRITY", and "SERVICE".

**Letters Sent
Letters and Orders Received
Endorsements Sent and Received
1865 – 1868**

Entry 282

Volume 46

Record Group 105

Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Transcribed by

Catie Baker

Chris DiGiovanni

Mattison Griffin

Taylor Jones

Wesley Oliver

Wendy Richter

Charlie Thomas

Page 1

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark., July 19th, 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
Assistant Commissioner of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands, State of Arkansas

Major:

I have the honor to make the following statements with regard to my district, viz:

I require the use of eight or ten mounted men to make the office anything near a success. I arrived here at noon on the 15th inst., and since that time, numerous cases have been reported, or irregularities—8, 12, 15, & even 30 miles distant. Among these cases is one of a master (?) whipping his women. Another, where a white man kicked and pounded a colored man and threatened to kill him. Another, where the former owner refuses to give up the child of a colored woman—against the entreaties of both—still another, where a person left this section and & to Princeton, a wife and daughter without the consent of any of the parties, and many similar cases that cannot be reached without mounted men, Consequently, the law is of no effect in those sections, and be assured that the most cruel impositions are being and will be practiced by unprincipled men. So many cases of this kind have come to my knowledge during my short stay, that I am confident it is no freak of imagination. If horses were furnished, part of the company stationed here could be mounted and do the duty well.

I require some rations to issue to destitute freed persons. Very many want to keep their hands, and generally, I have no trouble in disposing of women and children, but there are a few cases where women and children are thrown out and no one to care for them, and provisions are so very scarce it is impossible to secure them homes and food. A large class of the people here, are women and children, who, since breeding slaves is out of date, are quite unprofitable, and no one is under obligations to support them, especially orphans, idiots, blind and

Page 2

lame persons, and feeble women with families of small children. Today, one of the best men of the county brought in a list of 32 names, two-thirds of the healthy young men and women he wants to turn off, and will keep a large ratio of the aged and children. There is no living employment for those persons in this country. A blackbird can but just live and that is by theft. The universal scarcity of food gives the citizen a great advantage over me and the colored man. They have their crops made and it will be some time before labor will be very profitable, so they are quite independant [sic], while I must be dependant [sic]. If I had commissaries to issue to persons while seeking employment, and to the destitute who cannot look to anyone for support, it would be a great advantage. Such propositions as this are frequently made. "I will keep my niggers if I can whip them, and make them mind." I have no alternative but to let them starve in some cases, but still I have positively forbidden whipping.

I want authority to approve contracts for next year for the following reasons, viz: many colored men are able and want to rent land for another reason, and want to commence with the season to sow fall wheat, which I believe is in October. Without this authority many people are going to be cramped and left in an unsettled condition regarding their business transactions for another year.

The form of contract furnished me is nothing more than a bond on the part of employer, and the employee is not bound in any way.

Please state what your understanding of such a bond is, and the practical workings of it, as I believe it has been in use.

I anticipate no great difficulty with the people. They are in Egyptian darkness as to the new policy, and have no confidence in its success whatever. Time, we hope, will bring all right.

Enclosed please find a requisition for horses and equipments, which you will act up to at

Page 3

your discretion. Please return the desired information by the bearer, who returns from Little Rock next Monday.

Revenue stamps are required for these bonds or contracts. They are not here, and I would like to know what is necessary or what has been the custom in this department.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain and Assistant Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. July 31st 1865

Brig. Gen. L. Thomas
Adjutant General, U.S.A.

Sir, I have the honor to report that I am on duty at Arkadelphia, Ark: as assistant Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen, in obedience to Special Orders No. 155, Par. 2, dated Headquarters, Department of Arkansas, July 1st, 1865, signed by command of Maj. Gen. J.J. Reynolds; John Levering, assistant Adjutant General.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. 60th U.S. Colored Infantry
Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. July 31st 1865

Col. L.D. Whipple
Comdg. 113th W.S.C. Infantry

Colonel,

Please find enclosed subscription paper, which I wish circulated among

Page 4

your men. Many of them lived here, and have friends and relatives here now. We need the money, and, no doubt, many will be glad to give, while others would feel better, after spending a small sum in that manner, than to squander it at the sutlers, for useless toys or sweetmeats. The object is to sustain a school for colored children in this place. The colored soldier boys are the most interested in this enterprise. They have the money and will give it if asked for it. Will you be kind enough to place this paper into the hands of someone who will circulate it. The money can be collected on the first pay day, and deposited with Major Sargent, a State Superintendent at Little Rock, who will forward to me.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. 8th 1865

Captain W.S. Bostwick
12th Michigan Infantry Volunteers
Commanding Station, Arkadelphia

Captain,

I have the honor to request that there be assigned to me for use in Freedman's Department, the following described buildings situated within Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Viz:

One brick building, situated on Johnson Street between Trigg and Moore streets, last owned by John M. Ashby, killed in rebel service, for office.

One frame dwelling, for quarters, situated near the center of town, owned by Harris Flanagan, late Governor of State of Arkansas, under the late so called Confederate Government.

Page 5

One brick and one frame building, for quarters and stable for ten cavalry men on duty in Freedmen's Department. The brick building last named is the property of James L. Witherspoon, Major in the rebel army. The frame building was built by Confederate authority.

Hoping this request may be approved,

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain, 60th U.S. Colored Infantry
and Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen
District Arkadelphia

Arkadelphia, Ark., August 9th 1865

Major General M. C. Meigs
Quartermaster General, U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith monthly return, in duplicate, of Quartermaster's Stores, for month ending July 31st 1865, with Abstract E., and two vouchers; Abstract L.

I am Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain, 60th U.S. Colored Infantry &
Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. August 16th 1865

Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands

Page 6

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, a copy of Circular No. 1, from this office, hoping, that in case any of its provisions are disapproved, I will be informed of the same.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. August 18th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen &
Abandoned Lands, State Arkansas

Major:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, Roster of Officers and Civilians on duty in Freedmen's Dept., District Arkadelphia, August 18th 1865. Hoping you may find it correct.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain, 60th U.S. Colored Infantry &
Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. August 19th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen &
Abandoned Lands, State Arkansas

Major:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, Reports, for month of July, in

Page 7

Accordance with circular No. 10, from General Howard, and instructions from General Sprague, just received as follows, viz: Monthly Report of Freedmen and Refugees, Monthly Report of Lands, Roster of Officers and Civilians on duty in the District of Arkadelphia.

Had no school in July. A school of about fifty scholars will commence on the 21st inst. To be taught by a soldier. This school will partially sustain itself.

I was at a loss to know how to fill up the blank sent me, whether to include any or all of August, but, as I have made a report for July, that nearly covered the requirements of Circular No. 10, and not wishing to make any fractional parts of August in my reports, I venture to forward the enclosed Reports, hoping that they may prove satisfactory. If otherwise, you will please inform me.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain, 60th U.S. Colored Infantry &
Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. August 22nd 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen &c.
State Arkansas

Major:

I have the honor to

Page 8

report the following named freedmen as having run away from their contracts to remain during the year, in my district, viz: John Sumpter, age 14 years; Charles Huffman, age 21 years; left about August 15th without cause or provocation. Emily Jones, age 25 years; Lavina Strong, age 49 years; Elizabeth Strong, age 37; left about August 20th without apparent cause.

I desire that these persons, if found, be either punished or sent back for breach of contract. An example should be made. It is becoming quite common, when an individual grows tired of his contract, to run away. This should be stopped, and they should be taught to respect their word and honor.

There was also one Charlotte Harllee, who left this neighborhood about the 1st of August to visit her husband in 57th U.S.C.I. and promised to return soon. She has not been heard from since, and her children are left in destitute circumstances. She should be sent back. Hoping this may receive your immediate attention.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain, 60th U.S. Colored Infantry &
Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. August 22nd 1865

Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, &c.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Circular No. 2 from this office.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain, 60th U.S. Colored Infantry & Supt. and Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Page 9

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 24nd 1865

Major General O. O. Howard

Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, &c.

Sir,

In carrying out instructions contained in Part 7 of Circular No. 5, issued by General Howard, Commissioner Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, I require such Digest of opinions, decisions and cases as have accumulated since the Proclamation of Freedom to guide me in my decisions in similar cases.

Hoping that this may receive your favorable attention.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain & Asst. Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 24nd 1865

Major W. G. Sargent
General Superintendent Refugees, Freedmen &c.
State of Arkansas

Major,

The bearers, Clara and Indiana, state that Captain Montgomery made arrangements for their transportation to Little Rock, that Clara's husband was left sick without her knowledge, this side of Washington. That the second day out from this place these three women were ordered to leave the train and the road, their household goods were carried along, and they were left on the roadside destitute. They also state that some of the teamsters tried to sleep with them the night before they were driven from the train. Also, that it was wagonmaster Pendegrast that drove them off, but this must be a mistake, as I believe him to be too much of a gentleman

Page 10

to take advantage of a poor negro. I send the women forward with subsistence to Little Rock, with request that you aid them in procuring their household goods. I understand that Clara's husband will follow as soon as he is able.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain & Supt. and Pro. Mar. of Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 31st 1865

Major W. G. Sargent
General Superintendent Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
State of Arkansas

Major,

I have the honor, in addition to my regular monthly reports forwarded herewith, to state more fully the condition of affairs in the District, and the result of my efforts.

Having but few destitute persons to provide for, and no rations, clothing or camp equipage, I was compelled to buy a few rations, and seek places among the colored families for such persons, as I thought necessary to feed and care for. Since the 18th inst. Government rations have been drawn on requisition. The clothing has been issued, and none needed, thus far.

There is now a lively demand for labor of all kinds, but owing to the scarcity of money and produce in the country, wages are quite low, yet all who are in health can readily maintain themselves for the present, and we hope for the future also. Nothing like a home farm has been established, as the small number who cannot find remunerative employment will not justify such an enterprise.

In general, all are doing well as could have been hoped for, considering the reluctance with which the white man yields to the negro his newly acquired

Page 11

rights. Time and patience will teach both a good lesson.

The plan of renting land to the freedmen is quite favorably received by many, both white and black.

Having received but limited instructions concerning my duties in relation to abandoned lands, I have done but little in that direction. There are, no doubt, such lands, but they are so widely distributed, that (adding to this the colored man's fear of being molested in their cultivation) there will not probably be many of such lands worked.

On the 21st inst. I opened a school for colored children, taught by Ed. R. Chandler, Private, Co. "E" 12th Mich. Inf. The members soon increased so as to require an asst. teacher. The school now numbers (84) eighty four scholars.

I have written to two teachers of education and experience and hope to secure their services.

The Roster of Officers and Civilians on duty in the District remains unchanged since last report.

A few cases between freedmen have come up for adjudication, and in three instances, guilty parties were fined. Hoping that you may find the reports accompanying this somewhat to your satisfaction.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. Col'd Inf. &
Asst. Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 31st 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent Refugees, Freedmen, &c
State of Arkansas

Major,

I have the honor to transmit

Page 12

herewith for month August 1865 as follows, viz.: Monthly Report of Destitute Freedmen, Monthly Report of Rations Issued, Monthly Report of Lands, Monthly Report of Schools, Monthly Report of Freedmen employed, Monthly Report of Receipts & Expenditures with abstract "C" and vouchers from 1 to 6, Monthly Report of Marriages, Supplementary Report.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain & Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. August 31st 1865

Brigadier General L. Thomas
Adjutant General U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I am on duty at Arkadelphia as Assistant Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen by order of Major General J.J. Reynolds, commanding Department of Arkansas.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain & Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Page 13

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 4th 1865

Major General M.C. Meigs
Quartermaster General U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, Return of Quartermaster's Stores in duplicate with one complete set of vouchers pertaining to Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c, District Arkadelphia, for month ending August 31st 1865, viz.: Monthly Return in duplicate, Abstract E., L.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S.C.I. &
Asst. Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 5th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard
Commander, Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith proceedings in case of charge of larceny against eight freedmen, examined and decided by myself Sept. 5th 1865. Also a copy of the original warrant and a protest by certain persons of that class so lately the ardent supporters of the late so-called cut-throat confederate government. These gentlemen are now horrified and shocked to see civil law trampled underfoot with such contempt, by the military authorities.

I wish to state further that there was a warrant issued by P.M. Carmichael J.P. for the arrest of

Page 14

these freedmen, without my knowledge.

On learning the facts, I requested that he transfer the case to me for adjudication, as I believed the public sentiment was so bitter that justice could scarcely be done.

This was done with no hesitation on the part of Mr. Carmichael whom I believe to be an honest man. But I have since learned that it was a preconcerted plan on the part of a certain class of citizens to make this a test case, and I am safe in adding that in doing so they have no kind feelings for the Freedmen's Bureau or the Government, or even desire for the supremacy of law and justice.

I have acted out my convictions of duty in this case, and if in error I hope to be set right by my superiors.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. Col. Inft. &
Asst. Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 15th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, &c.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit a copy of a case of the "Office Supt. and Pro. Mar. Freedmen versus Thomas Ewing" as follows: Vide, Casebook, page 23, Case No. 7.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. Col. Inft. &
Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Page 15

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 16th 1865

Captain I.N. Buck
A.Q.M. Bureau R.F. & A.L.
State of Arkansas

Captain,

I have the honor to report that I have taken possession of a steam engine of about 8 or 10 horsepower, abandoned by the authorities of the late so-called Confederate Government.

It is much damaged, but can, I think be readily sold. I await your instructions.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. B.R.F. & A.L.

Office Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen
District of Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Ark. September 18th 1865

Major General M.C. Meigs
Q.M. General U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Invoice of Quartermaster Stores transferred to Captain I.N. Buck, A.Q.M., Bureau R.F. & A.L.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. Col. Inf. &
Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Page 16

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 18th 1865

Captain I.N. Buck
A.Q.M., Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following papers, viz.: Invoices of Q.M. Stores in duplicate, Receipts for Q.M. Stores in duplicate, Vouchers for services of medical officer in month of August in duplicate, Vouchers for mechanical services in duplicate.

You will please sign receipts & return by first mail. The vouchers I request to be paid at your earliest convenience.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. Col. Inf.
Asst. Supt. & Pro. Mar. Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 21st 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, &c.

Major,

I respectfully request that a lookout be kept for one Lewis Young, col'd, who left here about the 19th inst. And is probably at Little Rock. He is under the charge of stealing a horse, and left between two days, while I am his security for appearance at court. He is medium size, quite black, active and well made, and wore a soldier's jacket. I request that he be arrested and detained for trial. The case has since been transferred to me for action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. C. I. & Asst. Supt. & P.M. Freedmen

Page 17

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas September 25th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, R.F. & A.L.
State of Arkansas

Major,

I have the honor to transmit reports for month ending September 30th 1865 as follows, viz.: Report of Schools, Report of Freedmen employed, Report of Officers, civilians, & soldiers on duty in District Arkadelphia. Other reports will be forwarded soon as possible.

Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt., R.F. & A.L.

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas September 25th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent, R.F. & A.L. Respectfully forwarded to.

Endorsement on application of Mrs. M.A. Ashby for restoration of property

Was seized as that of a rebel soldier killed in action. The shoemaker occupying a small part of the house withdrew at my request, not asserting any claims to house other than occupancy. Near four weeks afterward I learned that the widow of deceased owner lived in this town. She now applies for restoration of property. She makes no claims to past loyalty, and after careful enquiry I cannot urge such claims for her, and yet I deem it improper to punish a poor widow for disloyalty when the arch traitors of Arkansas live here in the enjoyment of their possessions. The house is used and needed for office Supt. R.F. & A.L. District Arkadelphia.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S. C. I. & Supt. & P.M. Freedmen

Page 18

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 26th 1865

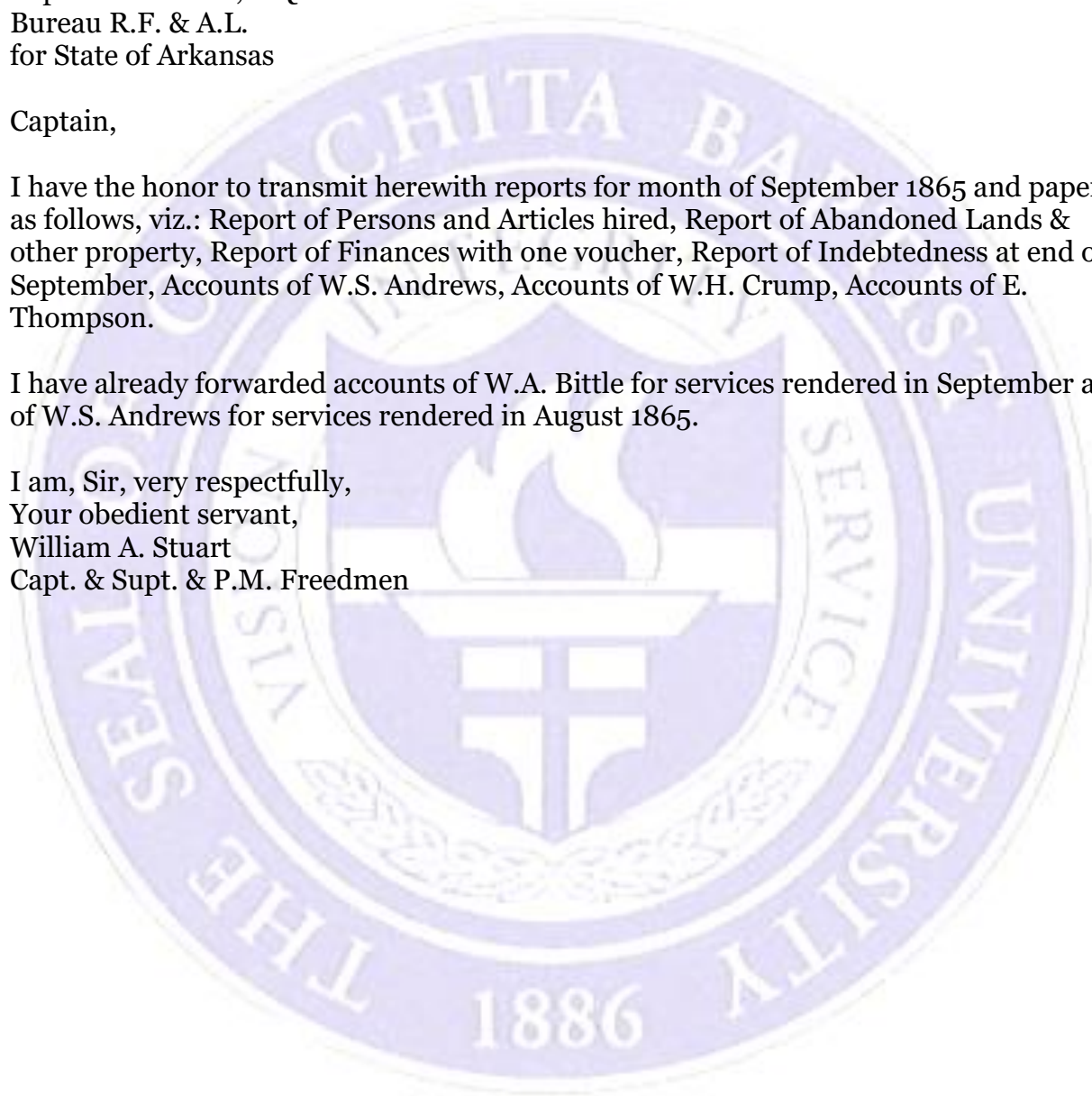
Captain I.N. Buck, A.Q.M.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
for State of Arkansas

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit herewith reports for month of September 1865 and papers as follows, viz.: Report of Persons and Articles hired, Report of Abandoned Lands & other property, Report of Finances with one voucher, Report of Indebtedness at end of September, Accounts of W.S. Andrews, Accounts of W.H. Crump, Accounts of E. Thompson.

I have already forwarded accounts of W.A. Bittle for services rendered in September and of W.S. Andrews for services rendered in August 1865.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. & P.M. Freedmen



Page 19

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 9th 1865

Major General M.C. Meigs
Q.M. General, U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Return of Q.M. Stores for month of September 1865, with abstracts T.N. & L., appertaining to Bureau Refugees F. & A.L. District Arkadelphia, Ark.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S.C.I. &
Supt. R.F. & A.L.

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 10th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent R.F. & A.L.

Major,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, copies of the following returns of September for file in your office, viz.: Report of Finances, Report of Abandoned Lands, Report of Indebtedness at end of month.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. & P.M. Freedmen

Page 20

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas October 11th 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent R.F. & A.L.
State of Arkansas

Major,

According to your instructions I forward herewith, on government wagon, destitute Freedmen, as follows, viz.: Andy Walker, age 22, one leg amputated; Ben Heaston, age 45, fever sore on leg; Jacob Hargrove, age 7, orphan, citizen parents; Elizabeth Hargrove, age 5, orphan, citizen parents; Lewis Shackelford, age 5, orphan, citizen's; Ann Sparks and her six children, family of Corporal Jordan Sparks, Co. 113th U.S.C.I., late slaves of the widow Sparks; Martha Murdock, age 8 years and Isom Murdock, age 6 years, no father & mother lying at point of death and when well is too trifling and senseless to care for her children.

I respectfully request that Ann Sparks and family be forwarded to her husband at Duvall's Bluff, whom I know to be able to provide for his family. Direct them in care of Col. Whipple, 113th U.S.C.I.

I send these people in charge of Private John Pillmer, 9th Iowa Cavalry, who will report to you for any orders or instructions you may have for me.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. R.F.& A.L.

Page 21

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas October 23rd 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent R.F. & A.L.

Major,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Report of Destitute Freedmen & Refugees for month of October 1865.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. R.F. & A.L.

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas October 31st 1865

Major W.G. Sargent
General Superintendent R.F. & A.L.

Major,

I have the honor to transmit herewith reports pertaining to Bureau of R.F. & A.L. for month of October 1865, as follows, viz.: Report of Indebtedness, Report of Persons & Articles employed, Report of Lands, Report of Schools, Report of Freedmen employed, Report of Changes in Roster of officers &c and Remarks on tone & sentiments of people &c (in one).

The financial report cannot be made yet, as I have no order to expend the money.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. R.F. & A.L.

Page 22

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas October 31st 1865

Captain H. Skinner, A.Q.M.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
States of Missouri and Arkansas

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit herewith reports for month of October 1865, as follows,
viz.: Report of Indebtedness, Report of Persons & Articles employed, Report of Lands.

The report of finances will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. R.F. & A.L.

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas November 15th 1865

George E. Dayton
A.A.A. General

Captain,

I have the honor to report that the Deputy U.S. Marshal at this place has received instructions to take charge of certain lands, recently confiscated, and hold them to be sold on the 27th inst. I have reported the lands, & as I have interpreted orders, the Bureau has charge of all such property until formally surrendered by the commissioner. I ask for instructions. There is no need of collision, therefore I await orders.

The lands referred to are described as follows, viz.: 30 feet off west side of Lot 7 and Lots 5 & 6 in Block 34 in City of Arkadelphia. And 3 32/100 acres one mile from town known as the powder mill property.

I am, Sir,

Page 23

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Capt. & Supt. R.F. & A.L

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas November 23rd 1865

Captain D.H. Williams
Assistant Adjutant General

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Reports and Papers, viz.: Report of Refugees for month of November, Report of Freedmen for month of November, Report of Persons and Articles employed, Estimate of Funds required in December 1865, Circular Number 3 from this office. Other Reports will be forwarded soon.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain and Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen

Office Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas November 30th 1865

Captain D.H. Williams
Assistant Adjutant General Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit herewith reports for month ending on the 30th day of November 1865, as follows, viz.: Report of Lands; Report of Indebtedness; Marriages of Freedmen; Report of Freedmen employed; Schools; Roster of Officers and Civilians with general remarks.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain and Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen

Page 24

Office Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas November 30th 1865

Captain H. Skinner, U.S. Volunteers
Assistant Quarter Master Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit herewith reports for month ending November 30th 1865, as follows, viz.: Report of Lands, Report of Indebtedness, Report of Persons and Articles Employed.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain and Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen

Office Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, November 30th 1865

Major General M.C. Meigs
Quartermaster General U.S.A
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Report of Quartermaster Stores in duplicate for month ending November 30th 1865, with one voucher.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S.C. Infantry
Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen

Page 25

Office Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, November 30th 1865

Brigadier General L. Thomas
A.G., U.S. A., Washington D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I am still on duty at Arkadelphia, Arkansas, as Assistant Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen, by order of Major General J.J. Reynolds, commanding Department of Arkansas.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S.C. Infantry, Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen

Copy forwarded to Lieutenant S. Hildebrand, A.A.A. General

Office Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, December 7th 1865

Brigadier General J.W. Sprague
Assistant Commander, States of Missouri and Arkansas

General,

I have the honor to request that the following described property be turned over to the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for use of freedmen, as church and school house, viz.: One frame building 40 by 20 feet more or less, located on land known as Confederate States of America salt works, government property, one mile from Arkadelphia in Dallas County, Arkansas. The building is not in use, nor is it required by the U.S. government.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
William A. Stuart
Captain 60th U.S.C. Infantry
Superintendent and Provost Marshal Freedmen

Page 26

Office Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, December 18th 1865

Honorable E.W. Gantt
General Superintendent. Southwest District of Arkansas

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have been appointed Superintendent of Refugees and Freedmen for Clark County, Arkansas as per Special Orders Number 49 (Extract) Par II, dated Little Rock, Arkansas, December 7th 1865, signed J.W. Sprague, Brigadier General Assistant Commander, States Missouri and Arkansas.

I am anxious to receive instructions upon many question of policy connected with the office, prominent among which are the following:

What mode of punishment is to be adopted in cases of stealing by freedmen? There are now 3 or 4 cases of hog stealing at present in this office, and I am somewhat at a loss to punish the offenders in such a manner as will put a stop to this frequent crime. You will see, by the enclosed, Circular Number 3, that they have been deprived of the privilege of carrying fire arms.

A charge being preferred against a black man for killing and stealing a hog. The owner, a white man, demands justice, justice demands punishment. If he is fined, he has no money to pay. If he is imprisoned, his family may suffer and have to be furnished with rations, whilst he is also living at the expense of the Government. If corporal punishment is inflicted, the policy of practicing what is forbidden to the community, may well be questioned. I am not aware of any positive orders to inflict corporal punishment upon Freedmen in such cases, at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Page 27

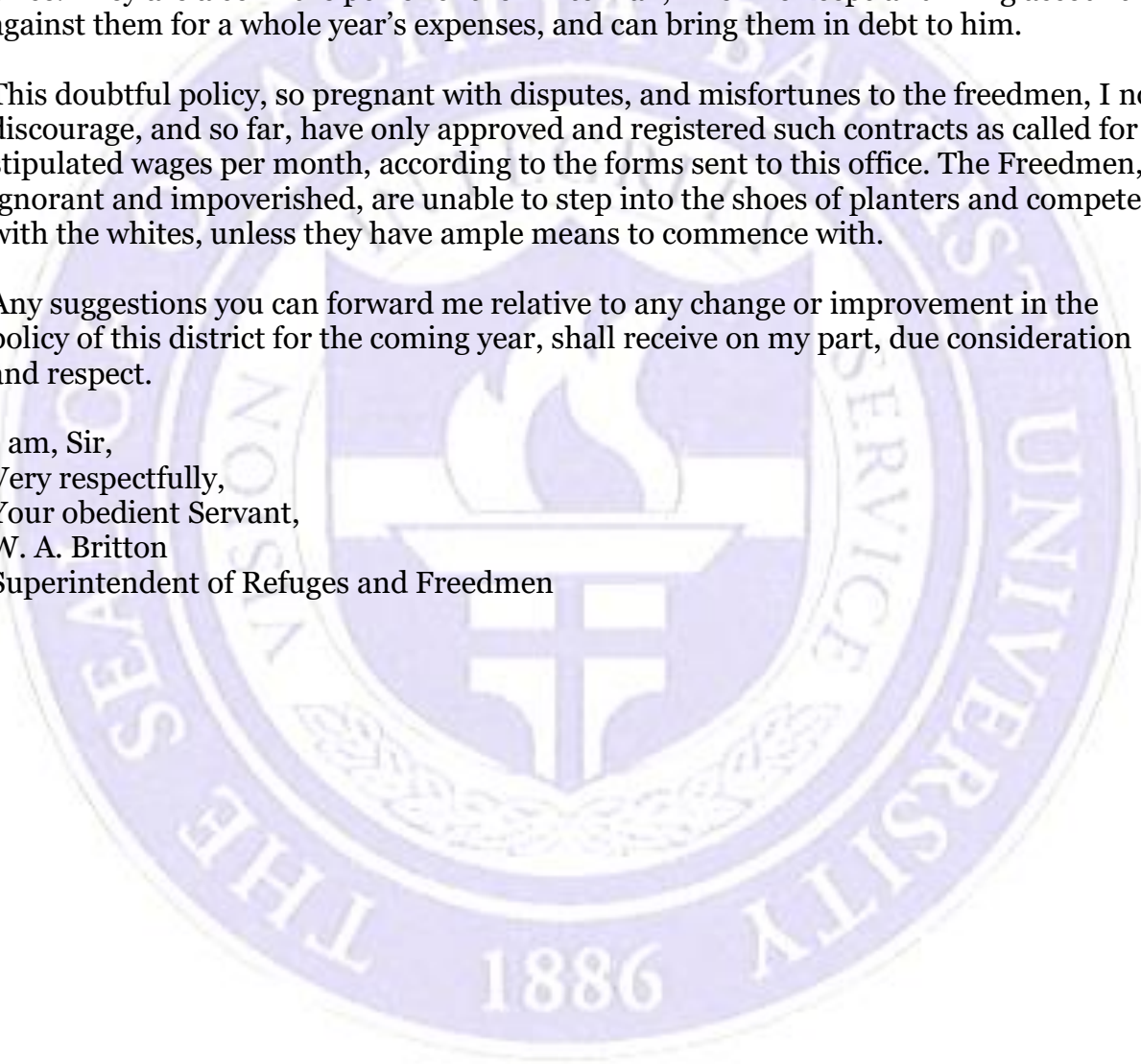
I should be glad to be advised as to the best course to be pursued, to compel employees to faithfully perform their contracts when they are delinquent.

A general disposition is prevalent among the Freedmen to become planters by renting land or making crops on shares, even when they have no means of subsistence, buying their provisions of the land-owner at the present exorbitant prices, and paying for them when the future crop shall be gathered, at which time the same provisions may be low in price. They are also in the power of the white man, when he keeps a running account against them for a whole year's expenses, and can bring them in debt to him.

This doubtful policy, so pregnant with disputes, and misfortunes to the freedmen, I now discourage, and so far, have only approved and registered such contracts as called for stipulated wages per month, according to the forms sent to this office. The Freedmen, ignorant and impoverished, are unable to step into the shoes of planters and compete with the whites, unless they have ample means to commence with.

Any suggestions you can forward me relative to any change or improvement in the policy of this district for the coming year, shall receive on my part, due consideration and respect.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
W. A. Britton
Superintendent of Refuges and Freedmen



Page 28

Office Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia December 19th 1865

Honorable E.W. Gantt
General Superintendent Southwest District of Arkansas

Sir,

I respectfully call your attention to the following extract from a letter written by Captain William A. Stuart, and directed to Captain D.H. Williams, Assistant Adjutant General, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, States of Missouri and Arkansas, from this office dated November 30th 1865, viz.: "We do not need infantry troops here now. A non-commissioned officer and ten men, all mounted, would be a sufficient force and much more effective than infantry. Many dishonest parties take advantage of the office, and indeed, complaints of robbery are becoming quite frequent at a distance. Mounted men can only reach them." I fully endorse Captain Stuart's opinions, and sir, if you should think, as I do, that it is the interest of the U.S. Government and the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands as well as of the citizens of the state in this district, that the company of infantry now at this station be relieved, I hope, Sir, that you will take such steps, as in your judgment, may best tend to carry out this change.

The wagonmaster of a government train come to this station with supplies, reported on the 17th instant at this office, that he saw a negro man tied to a tree, dead, having been shot through the head, one mile south of Saline River in Saline bottom.

A supply of blank forms of contracts will be necessary at this office.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. A. Britton
Superintendent of Refuges and Freedmen

Page 29

Office Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Dec 31st 1865
Gantt, Honorable E.W.
General Superintendent Southwest District of Arkansas

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following reports for month ending on the 31st day of December 1865, viz.: Report of Lands, Report of Freedmen, Report of Persons and Articles Employed, Report of Indebtedness, and Reports of Marriages.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
W. A. Britton
Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen

Office Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, January 31st 1866
Honorable E.W. Gantt
General Superintendent, Southwest District of Arkansas

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following reports for month ending on the 31st of January 1866, viz.: Report of Lands, Report of Freedmen, Report of Persons and Articles Employed, and Report of All Indebtedness. Estimate of funds required for February and March.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
W.A. Britton
Superintendent Refugees and Freedmen

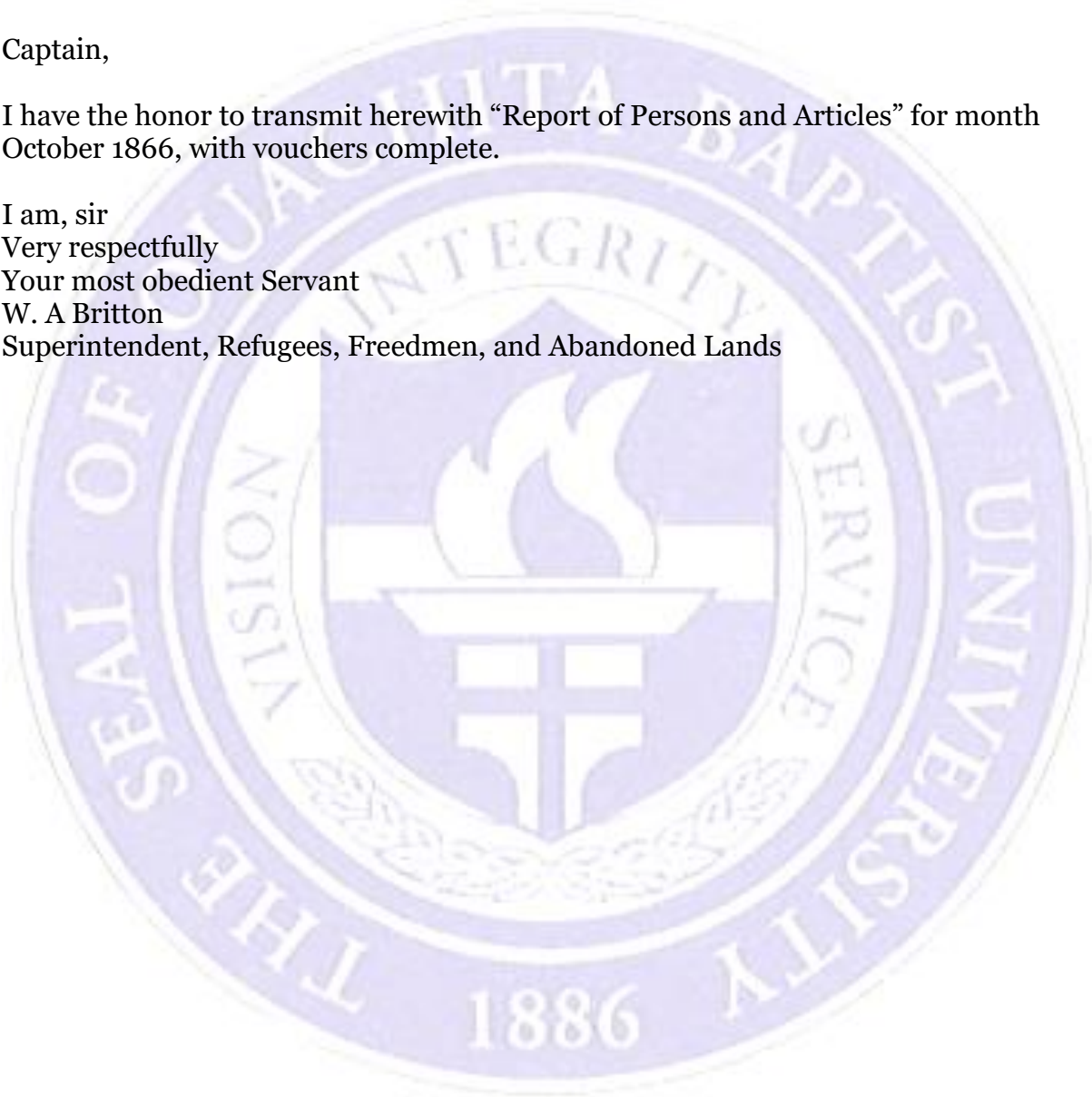
Page 30

Office Superintendent, Arkadelphia, Arkansas
October 27th 1866
Captain H. Skinner, Assistant Quartermaster
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
States of Missouri and Arkansas

Captain,

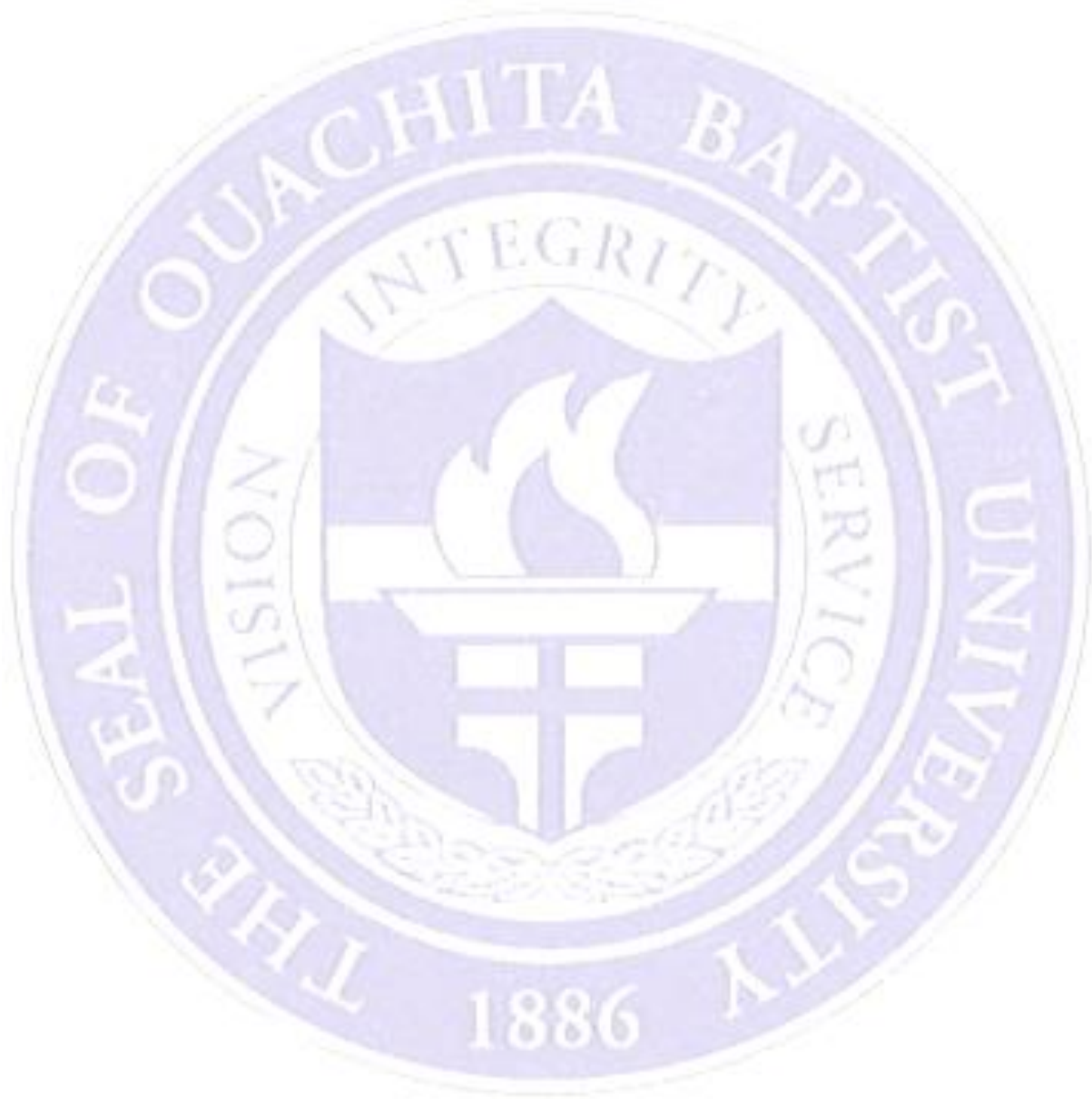
I have the honor to transmit herewith "Report of Persons and Articles" for month
October 1866, with vouchers complete.

I am, sir
Very respectfully
Your most obedient Servant
W. A Britton
Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands



Page 31

Blank



Page 32

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
For Arkansas and Indian Territory
Office Assistant Commissioner
Little Rock, Arkansas, October 29 1866

Special Orders No. 90

4. On the recommendation of Battalion Major T.A. Thibault, General Superintendent South West Arkansas, Anthony E. Habicht is hereby appointed Superintendent Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County, Arkansas, with office in Arkadelphia in that county.

W.A. Britton, late Superintendent, will turn over to Mr. Habicht all the books, papers, and records pertaining to his office.

By Command of
Battalion Major General E. A. C. Ord
(Signed) John Tyler
Brevet Major, United States and
Acting Assistant to the Adjutant General

Anthony E. Habicht
Superintendent, &c
Arkadelphia Arkansas

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, November 18, 1866
Brevet Major John Tyler, Acting Assistant to the Adjutant General
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Major Tyler,

I have the honor herewith to transmit my oath and acceptance of the office as Superintendent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County.

I find the circulars and orders of the Bureau and War Department have not been retained. Should there be any to spare, I should like a full set.

I have the honor, etc.
A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

Page 33

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas. November 17th, 1866
Brevet Major General E. A. C. Ord, U.S.A.
Assistant Commander
Little Rock

General,

In obedience to Circular Number 24 dated Little Rock, Arkansas, October 26, 1866, I have the honor to report that by Special Orders Number 90 dated Little Rock, October 29, 1866, I am acting as Superintendent Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County Arkansas. Owing to the sort time which I have been at this point, I am unable to give as full and complete a report of the working of the Bureau in this district. As yet, no trouble of any magnitude has come to my knowledge. Minor complaints, though, are numerous, but in all cases thus far have been amicably settled and parties returned to the fulfilment of their contracts. Hoping to be able to make a full and satisfactory report shortly.

I have the honor to remain,
A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, November 20th, 1866
Lieutenant Colonel Holly Skinner, Assistant Quartermaster
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

I have the honor to request a supply of stationery and blanks for this office; on assuming charge of this office, I found but one and one half quires of paper, and that in bad order, about 100 official envelopes, and no letter envelopes. No stationery can be found here except at an exorbitant price, should

Page 34

you be able to send me some. If no opportunity offers itself, please forward by Davis and Company line of stages' office at the Anthony House, and I will pay the charges here.

I respectfully solicit the following articles, viz.: letter paper, foolscap paper, letter envelopes, official envelopes, marriage certificates, pens and pen holders, black ink, red ink, blank vouchers no. 22, blank books--I find only one in this office that can be used the others are all filled, and blank contracts, about 600, as there are none on hand.

Hoping to receive the supply shortly
I have the honor to remain
Etc.
A.E. Habicht, Superintendent

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, November 20 1866
Br Major F. W. Thibault
General Superintendent Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Washington, Arkansas

Major,

I have the honor herewith to forward the report (as near as I was able to compile it from the records) of the Report of Freedmen in this district in compliance with circular dated Little Rock, October 31, 1866, which I hope you will find satisfactory. Also a request that stationery and blanks be furnished this office.

I have the honor to remain
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

Page 35

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, November 20th, 1866
Bt Major F. W. Thibault
General Superintendent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Southwest District, Arkansas

Major,

I have honor herewith to send a report in compliance with circular letter dated Little Rock, October 31st, 1866.

By examining the records of Captain A. W. Britton late superintendent of the district, I find the names of 2000 freedmen 902 of which are children under 14 years of age. Of the former number, I find 87 marked cancelled, no other remarks annexed. 10 names are erased with no remarks whatever, and 7 names are marked cancelled and settled. 231 names I find under the head of self-employed or in other words, freedmen who are working for a share of the crop or renting lands, or at some trade where they make their own agreements for getting work and day labor where no contracts are filed. This is about all the information I am able to give during the absence of Mr. B. Hoping this report may prove satisfactory.

I have the honor to remain
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
A.E. Habicht, Superintendent

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia November 22nd, 1866

Henry at Mr. Bozeman

Ordered to appear on 23rd to answer for his wife.

Page 36

Office, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia November 22nd 1866

G. T. Williams, Esq.

Sir,

Nelson Williams (freedman) enters complaint saying you told him to pick up his clothes and leave your place for being absent from his place of employment, cause, as he states, for being [---].

If you have any charges to prefer against your freedman and before you can discharge them it becomes your duty to report the facts to this office that they may be settled. To save yourself further trouble I should advise you to return Nelson to work for the balance of the year. If you refuse so to do you will report to this office Wednesday next the 26th instant with accounts against him and your contract, that the same may be settled and cancelled.

I remain, etc.

A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, November 22nd 1866

Milton Davis,
Justice of the Peace.
Hot Spring County, Arkansas

Sir,

You will please take cognizance of the case existing between J. Jones and freedman Humphrey Jones, from complaints brought to this office by H. Jones. It appears that J. Jones is guilty of an assault upon the person of Easter Jones (freedwoman) by striking said Easter over the head with a chair and throwing her in a lake. All cases between parties themselves

Page 37

where the authorities cannot take cognizance of will come before the superintendent of the counties or districts but where offences are committed against the peace and quiet of the county or state as the foregoing, it will be necessary for the civil authorities to take the matter in charge or the parties guilty will be arrested and confined in the military prison at Little Rock until such time as the civil authorities are prepared to try such cases.

Hoping that the matter may receive justice at your hands.

A.E. Habicht, Superintendent

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia November 22nd 1866

Brevet Major General. E.O.C. Ord
Assistant Commissioner . . .etc.

General,

I have the honor to herewith enclose my bond for the sum of five hundred dollars for the faithful performance as Superintendent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County.

The Oath requisite has been forwarded several days.

I have the honor etc.

A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

November 24th 1866.

Richard Harvey

Ordered to report to charges brought by Sarah Wheeler for refusing to pay for three barrels corn.

Page 38

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, November 22nd 1866

Brev. Major T.W. Thibault
General Supt., etc.

Major,

I most respectfully ask that a few troops be stationed at this place. Since I've been here I have been compelled to allow two prisoners to escape, one for maliciously killing hogs and one charged with whipping his wife so severely the she was unable to appear to testify against him.

There are also two cases before this office which should have prompt attention and it will be necessary to have an orderly or soldier to deliver the summons. One is for stabbing a freedman last summer and one where a person named Pillen drove a freedman off of his place and followed him two miles with a gun and threatened to kill him in sight.

As you see it is absolutely necessary for a small force, if you can spare one or more mounted men they would be a great addition and have a great effect in this county.

I have the honor, etc.
A. E. Habicht
Superintendent

Office, etc. November 27th 1866

H. C. Hull

Sir,

There seems to be some misunderstanding between yourself and Allen Magregor in dividing the crop as per contract in this office.

You have failed, it appears, to supply

Page 39

Allen with a sufficient amount of rations. You also want to charge for his wife's board, she having done your house work. Such changes cannot be allowed.

Should you be able to settle this matter by referees you will call upon Mr. [?] and Mr. Madison Badger whom Allen has chosen for his part. Any agreement that they will approve will be satisfactory to this office.

Should you fail to come to an understanding satisfactory to all parties you will report to this office with Allen or his representative that the matter may be settled without additional trouble and cost to yourself.

Referred to Supt. Dallas Co.

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia November 27th 1866

Bret. Major John Tyler
A.A.A.G, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel

I have the honor to herewith return my official oath with the necessary stamp.

I remain, etc.
A. E. Habicht

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, November 30th 1866

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Bret. Lt. Col. Holley Skinner, A.Q.M.,
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

I have the honor to forward herewith my report of Persons & Articles for November 1866; one set voucher in favor of myself for \$100; one set voucher in favor of W.H. Coxump for \$100; one set voucher in favor of T.J. Moreland for \$20; one set voucher in favor of I. Peebles for \$40.

Supt., etc., Arkadelphia

Page 40

Office Superintendent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Arkadelphia, December 1st 1866

Brev. Major F.W. Thibault

General Superintendent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Southwest District Arkansas

Major,

It is absolutely necessary for me to have about ten men—two or three mounted if possible. If I have to do without them much longer, advantage will be taken of my weakness and my orders treated with contempt, especially at a distance from the office. All is quiet at present and I wish to keep it so. There are a few isolated cases, which cases I am now powerless to attend to, and which, if neglected, will prove the incapacity of this office to enforce the regulations of the Bureau, and as precedents, they will compromise my authority in the district. Whatever trouble may be taken, nothing can be accomplished without the means of enforcing necessary orders, thus preventing an institution intended by the government to preserve law and order, from becoming in the eyes of some, a mere force. I need, especially, an orderly in the office to serve various writs, &c. Settlement time has come, and business in the office is brisk. If the men are sent, they will require tents until buildings can be procured.

There is great demand for hands at good rates of wages, say from \$150 to \$250 per year.

I am, Major,

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. Habicht

Superintendent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Page 41

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 15th 1866

Brev. Major F. W. Thibault

Major,

I herewith return my official bond of \$500.00 for the faithful performance as Superintendent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, with the necessary stamp, it having been overlooked in the bustle of business.

I remain, etc.

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 17th 1866

Mr. Sam Cox

Sir,

You are responsible to the freedmen in every sense of the word for their wages and the U. S. government has secured the payment of their wages by a lien. Therein no other bills for rent or anything else can be settled out of the crop until the freedmen have been paid.

You will please notify the civil authorities of this to save themselves further trouble. You are fully authorized and you are hereby empowered to pay the freedmen by giving them such a portion of the crop they have made as will settle their just claims.

Very respectfully,
A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

Page 42

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 18 1866

W. T. Massey

Sir,

You will report to this office on Saturday next the 22nd instant with Milley Massy and Mily Davis colored in your employ to answer the charge of abusing Mily Davis and her children. By giving this your prompt attention you will save yourself trouble and expense.

By order of ----

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 20th 1866

Brev. Major T. W. Thibault
General Superintendent Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Southwest District, Arkansas

Major,

In compliance with Circular No. 28 dated December 6th '66, I have the honor to state that there is no school for freedmen in this district, nor has there been a general one since early last spring.

Mr. Britton, late Superintendent, informs me that a building had been offered the freedmen situated four miles from this place but that they neglected to resume it. Since then the building have been sold by the U.S. Marshal and now there is no building about here vacant suitable for a school room.

Immediately upon my arrival here I used all my influence to establish a school for the freedmen, tried to enlist the sympathies of the citizens of this place to contribute and erect a school house but without success. I also wrote a communication to be read

at the church of the freedmen setting forth the benefits of education, and asking the freedmen to do something toward establishing a school. Several meetings have also been held which I attended, and they are preparing to raise sufficient funds to build, but thus far, I have learned, very few have contributed. I have used all my influence and still press them and tell them it will promote their own interest to educate themselves and their families. All are anxious to go to school but they have not the means to do anything. As soon as they are paid I have no doubt sufficient funds can be collected to build.

Two private colored schools have been working about this town this fall, taught by colored teachers. But owing to the children's parents not being willing or able to pay the teachers, both have closed.

Etc.

December 20th 66

Brevet Major T. W. Thibault

In reply to paragraph II, Circular No. 28 dated Little Rock, December 6th 66, I would respectfully state that in most instances planters and employers are fairly settling with their hands with a great deal of complaint however against the freemen to the effect that they have failed to do even fair or moderate work. Some cases have been brought to my knowledge by sworn affidavits setting forth that by the neglect of duty through carelessness and idleness of the freedmen the crops have been so neglected as to have been a great loss to the employer. I have not allowed any deduction to be made on that account yet, but would

Page 44

like to be informed how to treat such cases in the future.

There is a case now before this office where a Mr. Sam Cox employed a family of freedmen for wages. The crops have been attached by the sheriff of this county. Mr. Cox is willing and anxious that the freedmen should be paid with the crop as he has nothing else to pay with, but owing to the attachment, he cannot dispose of the crop, neither can he give the freedmen any of the produce. I informed Mr. Cox to notify the sheriff that the crops cannot be sold or disposed until the freedmen are paid. Please inform me how to proceed in this matter.

Etc., etc.



Page 45

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 27th 1866

Mr. Husban

Sir,

Harriet Gilmore (colored) says she worked for you for one month for which you never paid her. She also states you hold in your possession a riding habit of hers.

To save yourself further trouble and expense you will pay her the amount due and return to her her property you hold.

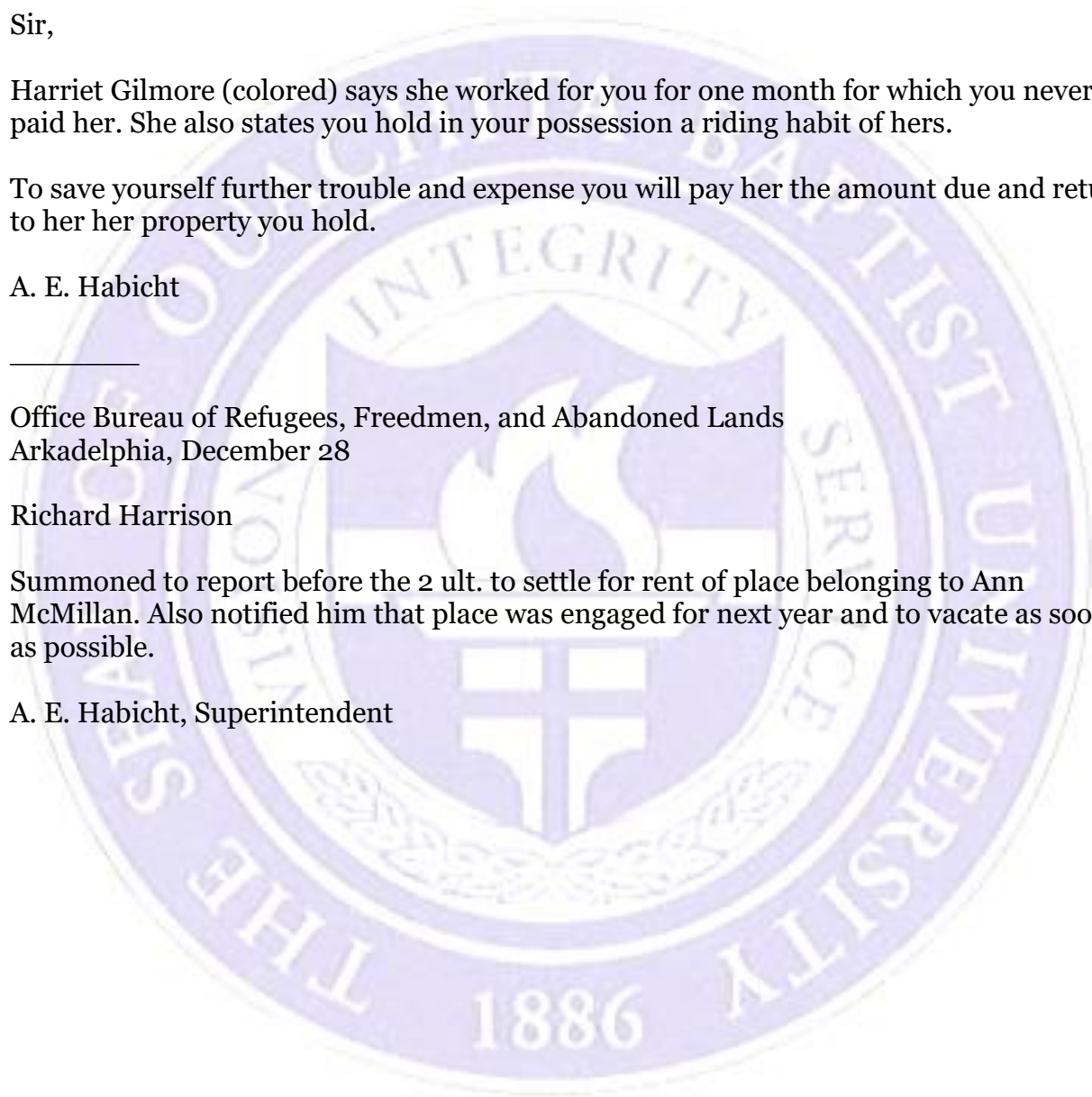
A. E. Habicht

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 28

Richard Harrison

Summoned to report before the 2 ult. to settle for rent of place belonging to Ann McMillan. Also notified him that place was engaged for next year and to vacate as soon as possible.

A. E. Habicht, Superintendent



Page 46

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 1st 1867

Bret. Colonel Henry Page, Inf. A.Q.M.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

I herewith return the vouchers signed as per your order for the month of November, also vouchers for the month of December in the same form as the others.

Is it necessary for citizen agents to make our copies and forward of No. 2 and No. 10? I have seven dollars and sixty cents in hand collected for making contracts. Shall I forward to you for December or hold to the end of this month, and how shall I send monies?

The following is a list of vouchers sent viz.: A.E. Habicht, 2 months, 195; W.H. Crump, 2 months, 195; T.T. Moreland, 2 months rent, 40; Jordan Peebles, wood, 4; T.R. Tennison, 8.

Hoping, etc.
A. E. Habicht

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 1st 1867

Mr. Richard Harrison

Sir,

A Mrs. McMillan has rented the place you are on to Miles Bell and Milton Burton. You will please turn over the place in good order on or before the 10th instant.

The lease has been signed and recorded and is ready for delivery.

Page 47

You will report to this office as soon as in review to settle the last year's rent and save yourself further time and trouble.

A. E. Habicht
Superintendent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 2nd 1867

Brev. Major Thibault
General Superintendent
Southwest District Arkansas
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Major,

Enclosed please find communication from me and endorsement of General Ord's in reference to a double murder committed in Saline County. Paragraph II of Circular No. 30, authorizes me to call upon the nearest post for troops as there are none here. I am compelled to do so. Washington is the nearest post to this place but Little Rock is nearest to Benton, where the murders were committed. Please inform me what I must do in the premises. Am very busy now and cannot leave the office myself.

Office, etc. January 4th 1867

Mr. J. Logan,

Peter Skinner (freedman) says he has been living on the place he now is since the surrender by consent and order of Martha White, to remain on it until her return or her order. If you have any claims on the place you will report the facts to this office: as the case now stands in this office Peter will remain until further orders.

A. E. Habicht

Page 48

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 6th 1867

Brev. Major T. W. Thibault

Major,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of two (2) quires Caps. Paper, seventy five letter envelopes, and forty (40) blank marriage certificates.

Very respectfully, etc.
A. E. Habicht

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 6th 1867

Quincy H. Lewis

Sir,

There has a deed been filed in this office whereby Major Lewis deeded to Phereby Lewis a certain tract of land in Pike County which it appears you as executor intend to contest.

You have also driven the said Phereby Lewis from her home and refuse to let her have her own personal property.

You are hereby notified not to dispose of in any manner of a single article of her clothing, bed clothing, furniture, or other property which she claims until the rights of property has been decided and it may save you considerable trouble and expense by calling on this office.

Very etc.
A. E. Habicht

Page 49

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 2nd 1867

Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner, Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Washington, D.C.

General,

In compliance with Circular No. 12 dated War Department, Washington, D.C., December 1st, 1866, I have the honor to report that by Special Order No. 90, dated Little Rock, Arkansas, October 29th, 1866, I was appointed Superintendent, Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County.

The duties of this office now and for several weeks past have required unremitting attention and exertion, closing contracts and making settlement for the past year, making and registering contracts for the next year, etc. A considerable port of Dallas and Hot Spring counties transact their business at this office by direction of General Sprague in compliance with a petition from citizens.

Good hands are now contracting to receive from \$15 to \$25 per month. The demand for them is great, partly caused by a seeming tendency among them to move in the direction of Mississippi River, which threatened a scarcity of hands in all frontier and inland counties, but which subsides as their wages increased.

The majority of farming contracts are for a portion of the crop. If seasons prove favorable and good crops are made this year, their dependence on the whites will be materially lessened in our district. They learn to rely upon their own management. They will be able to obtain comfortable homes of their own, educate their children, &c.

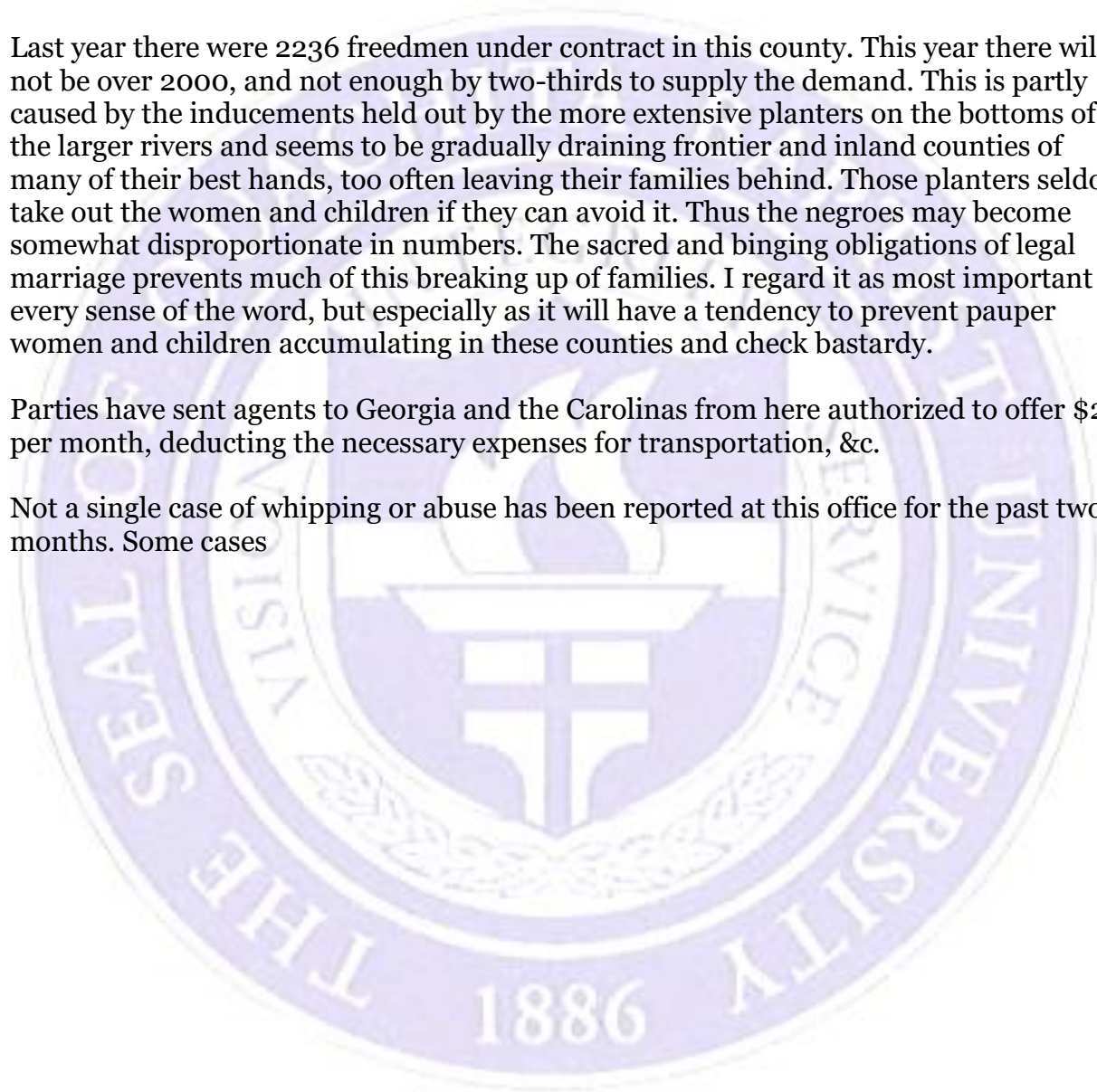
Page 50

Many small farms are now leased or rented to them in this county and the freedmen generally are doing very well. The reluctance of the white men to yield to the negro his newly acquired rights is passing away. The people seem to be willing to pay the freedmen promptly for their services and to conform to law and order. They are beginning to learn their true interest.

Last year there were 2236 freedmen under contract in this county. This year there will not be over 2000, and not enough by two-thirds to supply the demand. This is partly caused by the inducements held out by the more extensive planters on the bottoms of the larger rivers and seems to be gradually draining frontier and inland counties of many of their best hands, too often leaving their families behind. Those planters seldom take out the women and children if they can avoid it. Thus the negroes may become somewhat disproportionate in numbers. The sacred and binding obligations of legal marriage prevents much of this breaking up of families. I regard it as most important in every sense of the word, but especially as it will have a tendency to prevent pauper women and children accumulating in these counties and check bastardy.

Parties have sent agents to Georgia and the Carolinas from here authorized to offer \$20 per month, deducting the necessary expenses for transportation, &c.

Not a single case of whipping or abuse has been reported at this office for the past two months. Some cases



Where employers are apparently trying to defraud the freedmen of their wages are before the office but they are persons of no responsibility, not regular residents, and have little or no property from which their debts can be made good. I have refused to register the contract of such persons with freedmen for this year until they settle with them for the last year services, which seems to produce the desired effect.

I have the honor to remain,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht
Superintendent, etc.

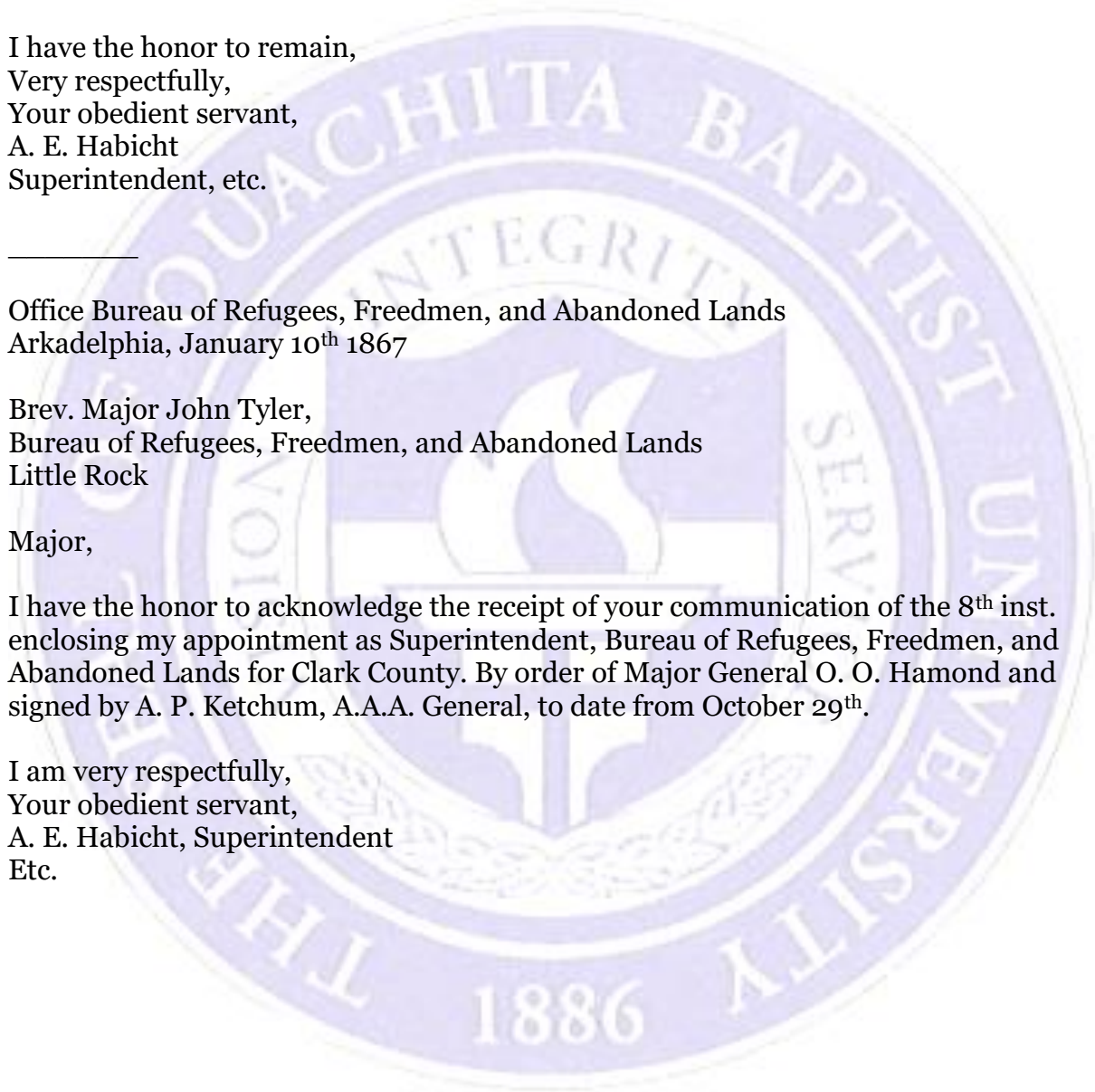
Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 10th 1867

Brev. Major John Tyler,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Major,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th inst. enclosing my appointment as Superintendent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County. By order of Major General O. O. Hamond and signed by A. P. Ketchum, A.A.A. General, to date from October 29th.

I am very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht, Superintendent
Etc.



Page 52

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 14th 1867

W. T. Lamb

Sir,

You will allow the colored boy Dave Smith late in your employ to have and take with him all his personal effects.

The girl having also made a contract will come to her employer and bring all her personal effects.

You will report yourself to this office forthwith to answer to the charge of attempting and threatening to shoot Dave Smith, also to settle accounts with freedmen in your employ for past year.

A. E. H.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 14th 1867

Brevet Colonel Holley Skinner, A.Q.M.
Little Rock

Colonel,

Enclosed please find duplicate copies of account current for month of December 1866 and seven 60/100 dollars, being the amount collected during the month.

I have the honor, etc.

A. E. Habicht

Page 53

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 14th 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page, Chief A.Q.M.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

I have the honor herewith to enclose requisitions for wood furnished for the months of December 1866 and January 1867.

One cord of wood is not sufficient for this office. I therefore made requisition for January for two cords which will barely last.

I am broke and have been dunned for my rent until ashamed to meet my landlord. If my accounts are correct, please send my funds or authorize me to pay the rent out of the funds I may collect for the government this month and I will send you the amount used that it may be deducted when you forward me the funds.

I remain, etc.
A. E. H. (personal)

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 14th 1867

Sir,

On Saturday the 22nd December 1866 there were two freedmen (named respectively Peter Brinkley and Thomas Brinkley) shot some six miles from Benton. The case has caused some considerable excitement and most assuredly has reached your ears.

You will please let me know by return mail what action the civil authorities of your county have taken in the matter, whether the

Page 54

guilty party has been brought to justice, arrested, or left the county, or where they can be found.

The person who committed the deed is well known, and the name of the murderer could not have escape your knowledge.

You will please let me know what you know of the case, for which is enclosed a stamp for the pre-payment of postage.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht, Superintendent
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

To the Sheriff of Saline County, Arkansas
Benton

January 19th 1867

Elijah T. May

To report to settle accounts with freedmen in his employ last year.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 22 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page A.Q.M.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check on National Bank Little Rock for four hundred and forty-two 20/100 dollars, also receipts in duplicate for seven 60/100 dollars, funds of Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

I remain, etc.
A. E. Habicht

Page 55

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 22/1867

Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Washington, D.C.

General,

I have the honor herewith to transmit receipt of funds transferred to Brev. Col. Henry Page, A.Q.M. and chief disbursing officer Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for the state of Arkansas and Indian Territory for seven 60/100 dollars, being the amount collected during the month of December 1866.

I remain . . . etc.

A. E. Habicht

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, February 2, 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page, A.Q.M.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

I herewith transmit one copy of account current for month of January and vouchers as follows: One set in favor of myself for 100; one set in favor of W.H. Crump for 100; one set in favor of T.F. Moreland for 20.

I have in hand one hundred and four 30/100 dollars government funds. As it is unsafe to send the amount by mail you will please deduct the amount from the amount due in the vouchers.

I have the . . . etc.

A. E. Habicht

Page 56

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, February 2nd 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page

Colonel,

I have the honor to report that I have discharged Mr. W.H. Crump, late clerk in this office, and have engaged the services of Mr. J.G. Townsend. Mr. T. has served in the armies of the United States and is every way qualified for the position.

I have been notified to remove my office as the building is required for other purposes and am now occupying an office in the building of W.C. Adams for which I pay twenty-five dollars per month.

Mr. Townsend's salary is the same as Mr. Crump was, viz.: one hundred dollars per month, and commenced in office on February 1st, 1867.

I remain . . . etc.

A. E. Habicht . . . etc.

Office . . . etc.

February 1st 1867

Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner, Washington, D.C.

General,

I have the honor to report that by Special Order No. 90, dated Little Rock, October 29th 1866, I am acting as Superintendent Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County, Arkansas, with headquarters at Arkadelphia.

I remain . . . etc.

A. E. Habicht

Page 57

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
February 18th 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Colonel,

In reply to circular letter dated office of Assistant Commissioner, Little Rock, January 31st, 1867, I would respectfully state, no office room charged against the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands is used at this post as sleeping apartments.

I have the . . . etc.

Very . . .

A. E. Habicht

Superintendent . . . etc.

Office . . . etc., February 20th 1867

General,

Enclosed please find receipt of funds transferred to Brev. Colonel Henry Page, A.Q.M. and district officer Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Arkansas and Indian Territory, for the sum of \$104 30/100, being the amount of funds collected at this office during the month of January 1867.

I have . . . etc.

A. E. Habicht, Superintendent

To Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Washington, D.C.

Page 58

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, February 20th 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

Enclosed please find vouchers of W. H. Crump for 97 00/100. The reason for not signing and sending the set forwarded by you was that Mr. C. had left Arkadelphia before receiving them. As he is still absent and not certain of his return, it becomes necessary to return the set signed by him.

I have the . . . etc.
A. E. H.

February 20th 1867

Colonel,

I herewith acknowledge the receipt of duplicate copies of funds transferred for one hundred and four 30/100 dollars and the receipt of check for (\$13 20/100) in payment of vouchers for myself and T. F. Moreland.

Very res. . . etc.
A. E. H.

Page 59

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 4th 1867

Colonel,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to hand you certified vouchers: A.E. Habicht, 97
50/100; J.P. Adams, 25; J. Peeples, 7.

Vouchers on account of services rendered by J.G. Townsend, a clerk, has not been
received. Shall those vouchers be made out here and forwarded? Or shall I wait their
transmittal from your office?

I remain . . . etc.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 9th 1867

Sir,

The house you examined for a school while here, I am sorry to say, has by the late heavy
rains, snow, and winds, blown down and now is not fit for repairs as the timbers were
old and now mostly broken.

The freedmen therefore determined to rent a house situated at the edge of town, a large
airy room, and would be well adapted for the purpose. They have contributed some
(\$50) which with the allowance by the Assistant Commissioner (\$91) and they doing the
labor will very near put up a new, good house.

The freedmen are very anxious that the school be started and have requested me to have the teacher (male if

Page 60

possible) here as soon as possible. The building they propose to rent will hold and seat some 60 or 70 scholars and all that is required are seats and desks which can be made and put in in three days.

Please let me know your opinion about building or whether they shall rent the building and how long it will be before they can expect a teacher.

I remain . . . etc.
A. E. Habicht

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 12th 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page, A.Q.M.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Colonel,

Enclosed please find voucher of Jacob G. Townsend duly signed for services for month of February, per \$100.

A.E.H.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 12th 1867

Colonel,

The following is the number of books required for this office, viz.: one—letters received;
one—letters sent; one—cases tried; one—endorsement & memo; two—contract & blotter.

A. E. H.

To: Brev. Colonel Henry Page

Page 61

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 16th 1867

Colonel,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check on Merchants National Bank of
Little Rock (No. 250) for one hundred and twenty two 50/100 dollars in payment of
vouchers for myself and J.P. Adams for month of February 1867.

I remain very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht
Superintendent, etc.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
March 23, 1867

Sir,

There seems to be an apprehension among the freedmen in your employ that you will not be able to comply with the requirements of the contract on file in this office. It appears that you have failed to furnish a sufficient supply of meat, and have not advanced them their wages as required.

To save further trouble you will please call at this office on Thursday next the 28th instant, to give satisfactory proof of being able to furnish provisions and feed and enter into a bond with food and sufficient sureties for the faithful payment of the wages stipulated in the contract. John Hill and Marvin Scott will be allowed time and permission to meet you here.

A. E. Habicht, Superintendent, etc.
To W. P. Donnell

Page 62

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 25th 1867

Major,

I enclose herewith accounts in duplicate for advertising Circular No. 7 as per instructions of Circular Section No. 14, dated March 12th, 1867 (and forward paper by same mail).

I have the etc.
A. E. Habicht

To Brev. Major John Tyler, A.A.A.Q.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, March 27, 1867

Sir,

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the payment of the freedmen in the employ of Sam Cox for the year 1866.

The assistant commissioner directs that all crops worked by freedmen are responsible for their pay and cannot be disposed of until the freedmen have their pay or good and sufficient surety for the same.

You will therefore pay the freedmen the amount due in the notes in the hands of Colonel McMillan (their attorney) with interest or it will devolve upon me to attach the crop and dispose of the same to satisfy their claims.

A. E. H.

To the Sheriff of Clark County, Arkansas

Page 63

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, April 12, 1867

Colonel,

Enclosed please find vouchers receipt for the following, viz.: A.E. Habicht for 99; J.G. Townsend for 99; J.P. Adams for 25; Cyrus Smith for 91.

The voucher for C. Smith for repairs of school house could not be forwarded last month in of the work not having been done and could not ascertain what the cost would be. The

freedmen since purchased the building and the sessions in the same and desks and lights cost one hundred and fourteen 50/100 \$114 50/100.

Hoping . . .
A. E. Habicht

To Brev. Colonel Henry Page

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
April 26, 1867

Colonel,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check for \$91 in favor of C. Smith for repairs on school house, also check in favor of J.G. Townsend and J.P. Adams for month of March 1867.

Very . . . etc.
A. E. H.

To Brev. Colonel H. Page
Little Rock

Page 64

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, May 4th, 1867

Sir,

Your communication of 2nd instant enclosing a copy of order dated Little Rock April 25th, 1867 has been received and reply would most respectfully recommend for the position as Register under the Act of Congress passed March 2nd, 1867, Mr. Jacob G. Townsend.

Mr. Townsend has served in the United States Army some 18 months, was honorably discharged and is every way well qualified to fill the position. He respectfully refers to Brev. Colonel Henry Page, with whom he served in the companies of the

I have the honor . . .
A. E. H.

To G. L. Thorpe
Camden, Arkansas

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
May 18, 1867

Colonel,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to forward vouchers for ferriage of troops and supplies for the attachment at this place. The account was sent to Camden for payment; they referred me to you. I can certify that the charges were correct and just and all crossing was on government official business.

Very respectfully,
A. E. H.

To Brev. Colonel L. H. Pierce, A. Q. M.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Page 65

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, June 1st, 1867

Major General O. O. Howard
Monthly Report

J. E. Bennett, A.A.G.
Monthly narrative report

W. M. Colby
School report

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, June 14th, 1867

Sir,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to return voucher in favor of myself for 99.17; J.P. Adams for 25 for services, and rent for month of May 1867.

I remain . . . etc.
A. E. H.

To Colonel Page
Little Rock

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, June 18th, 1867

General,

I have the honor . . . etc. . . . Your communication of the 14th instant in relation to the condition of the troops at this place, and in reply would say, that at present there is a detachment of eight men under command of Sergeant C. C. Young, 28th Infantry. Two of the men are mounted, they are all well clothed and equipped. One of the horses is unserviceable.

The attachment has been on duty here since May 1st, 1867, and their labors have been simply minimal, but five arrests

Page 66

have been made during the entire period, two being of freedmen who forfeited their contract by getting into debt and leaving their employer; the others, employers who had refused to pay their laborers. The arrest having the desired effect of saving the time and trouble of a civil suit.

A portion of the troops could be easily spared. The people generally willingly acquiesce in all orders promulgated by the district headquarters, and there is no absolute necessity of more than four men mounted, as all the trouble experienced here is from the remote parts of the district from 12 to 40 miles from the office and infantry being of but little use.

I remain . . . etc.
A. E. H.

To John E. Bennett, A.A.A.G.
Little Rock

July 23rd, 1867

Brev. Colonel Henry Page

I have the honor to herewith return duly signed vouchers as follows: J.G. Townsend, 99; J.P. Adams, 25; Myself, 99; for services and rent for month of June 1867.

Very respectfully,
A. E. H.

Page 67

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, September 24, 1867

Henry Page, D. C.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

Sir,

Enclosed herewith please find vouchers in favor of Mrs. W.H. Crump for desk, 15.00; in favor of myself for postage, 8.50; in favor of myself for transportation, 35.00. \$58.50, all duly signed and my numbered receipt for said desk.

I have the . . . etc.
A. E. Habicht

November 21st 1867

M. Bozeman

Sir,

I enclose you herewith a copy of General Order No. 19 which I think suits your case exactly as I am inclined to believe that you are trying to defraud Dickins of his crop.

I will allow you until Saturday next to make a settlement with your hands. You will make out your accounts against him as the prices 35 cents will not be allowed for pork as it could have been purchased for 20 or 25 cents all the year.

If you fail to call at this office ready to settle by the time specified I will be compelled to attach and take charge of all the crop made on your place this season and recommend your arrest and trial by military commission.

A. E. H.

Page 68

November 23rd 1867

Joseph Doby
Justice of the Peace

Sir,

A report comes to this office that last night some 6 or 7 men (blacked) called at the house of Peter Skinner and a Mr. Fowler who was staying there teaching school. Skinner appears was knocked down and badly hurt and Fowler taken away by the men.

You will investigate the matter at once. Try and find who the parties were and arrest them and immediately report the facts to this office or to the nearest military commander.

The case of Bird Duke and Skinner was referred to you and had you taken action all this might have been avoided. I shall report the facts to headquarters. Will expect to what action has been taken by you early in the week.

Very respectfully . . . etc.

November 24th, 1967

Brev. Brigadier General J. E. Bennett

General,

I have the honor to report another outrage committed in the county last week. On Friday night last some 6 or 7 men with their faces blacked called at the house of Peter Skinner (colored) where a young man named Fowler was staying (who is teaching a freedmen's school). One of the men knocked at the door and called for Mr. Fowler, said he had stolen a horse and that he wanted him. Fowler refused to go unless the party promised to take him to Mr. Doby, Justice of the Peace, and allowed

Page 69

Skinner to go with them. As Skinner stepped over the bars out of his yard he was knocked senseless and the party started in a run with their prisoner.

Peter Skinner, I learn, is in a critical condition and nothing has since been heard of Fowler.

As soon as I heard of the case I referred it to J. C. Doby, Justice of the Peace for investigation, have heard nothing of it since.

Peter Skinner is the same person to whence I referred some weeks ago that Bird Duke was trying to drive from his place, and it is presumed that Duke was one of the party concerned in this case, but as none of the party was recognized it will be hard to trace the matter.



Page 70

October 6th, 1867

Nathaniel May

Sir,

Albert Thomas comes to this office and states that since last June he, at your request, went to work for you at tending to the crop started by William Lothridge (deceased) and that now you claim the entire crop for the amount due you by the said William. Such a course cannot be allowed. If you permitted William to run into debt to you, you will have to resort to some other mode of receiving your pay besides taking the earnings of Albert. You will therefore allow Albert one-half of the share of the crop that would have come to William or it will be my duty to collect full wages for Albert for the time he was in your employ.

Should you fail to come to some mutual settlement you will please call to this office that the matter may be settled without further trouble and delay.

Very respectfully,
A. E. H.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, December 24th, 1867

J. E. Bennett, A.A. A. General
Little Rock

Forward report and that R. E. Reames has failed to settle with his farmers and turned crops over to W. P. McLure

Page 71

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
January 7, 1867 [1868]

W. P. McLure

Sir,

Notified that crops raised by Reames would be sold by auction if the freedmen were not paid this week.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, January 11th, 1868

Brevt. Brigadier General J. E. Bennett
A.A.A. General, Little Rock

General,

I have the honor to again report the case of R.E. Reames and the freedmen in his employ last year. The amount due the hands is \$335 20/100. Mr. Reames says there was left on the place about 700 bushels corn. As soon as I learned the corn was being remained I notified Mr. McLure not to remove any more until the freedmen had been settled with. Since the return of the order from you to hold Mr. T.A. Heard responsible for the freedmen's pay I notified Mr. McLure that if he would pay the freedmen the amount due them he might take all the crops left on the place together with the bales of cotton in my possession.

Mr. McLure refused to do so and has called in two lawyers to defend him in the cause. They demand a board of arbitration, but have not made the complaint under oath that Mr. Reames has fraudulently assigned to the laborer an undo share of the crops as per cases in Circular No. 24.

The freedmen have worked for

Page 72

stated wages. Mr. Reames has rendered them their accounts and is willing to swear that the accounts are correct. In this case shall I submit to a board? If not, how shall I dispose of the crop to secure the payment of the laborer.

Mr. T.A. Heard has paid the proceeds of the 6 bales of cotton to McLure and as nothing can be made out of him (T.A. Heard) by law, he having nothing, and the cotton having been attached while in his possession, there will be but little chance of securing anything there.

Respectfully . . . etc.
A. E. H.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, January 11, 1868

William M. Colby, Esq.
Superintendent, Education, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the building lately occupied by the freedmen school at this place owing to the extreme cold weather and no way of manning it had to be given up and another rented for which the trustees need to pay \$18 per month.

The hard times men are now living, nothing made last year and very little chance for the freedmen to get employment this year will make them curtail their expenses and determine they cannot pay the rent of the building. I would therefore respectfully request that our appropriation be made to pay the rent

until such time as they again can assume it.

There have been but few scholars attended school lately but having made agreement to send the children of parents who are unable to pay by the 15th of next month, there will be 50 or 60 scholars attending.

Hoping thus the Assistant Commissioner make the appropriation to commence from the 1st of the previous month.

I remain . . . etc.
A. E. H.

January 18th 1868

Henry Page
D. B. C.

Forwarded vouchers, viz." H. Runyan, wood, 7; J.P. Adams, rent, 25; Myself, services, 100; postage, 8.45; \$138.45.

January 25th 1868

W. P. McLure

Sir,

By command of R. B. General P.H. Smith, I am ordered to have the freedmen late in the employ of Mr. Reames to dispose or hold what crops there is left on the place for their pay. You will therefore let them remove or dispose of them to their best economy.

Respectfully,

A. E. Habicht

Page 74

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, January 29th 1868

B. B. General J. E. Bennett
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

General,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to forward the application of J.D. McCabe, administrator of the estate of J.E.M. Barkman, with copy of amnesty oath and affidavit for the release of a frame shed now in possession of Bureau.

A. E. H.

March 21st 1868

B.B. J. E. Bennett, A.A. General
Little Rock

General,

Circumstances of a very grave character compel me to again call your official notice to the dangerous and unguarded position occupied by the Union citizens in this county, and more especially to the insults and threats which daily greet the officers of the government stationed at this point in the discharge of their official duties.

The result of the late election has so encouraged these rebels in whose breast now exists a far more better spirit of hostility to the laws of the land than in the dark days of . . .

Today I was openly assaulted at my office by one of these open foul mouthed rebels and obliged to listen to his gross insults and threats until he forced me to resort to the vindication

Page 75

of my personal honor and the reputation of my family by introducing the eloquent phrase of a Yankee son of a b—ch.

Fortunately for him the bullet spared him for its victim. After the melee I entered the office when this same party proposed with the assistance of three or four kindred spirits to charge the office and s--late the nigger agent.

I was arrested by the civil authorities and fined for costs some \$10 for the personal vindication of my honor, notwithstanding the party attacking was noted as a vagabond and loafer and made his threats previous to the trouble that he intended to come down and curse out the den of Yankees, as he termed the government office.

I trust you will see by the above the necessity of at once sending about 25 men under command of a commissioned officer to this place for the protection of the Union men and government officers.

I have the honor . . . etc.
A. E. H.

March 25th 1868

William M. Colby, Esq.
Superintendent, Education, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir,

I have the honor to report that at the late session of our Circuit Court a decree was rendered in favor of Mrs. Eliza Peak relating to the piece of land bought by the freedmen for church purposes and that the commissioners were instructed to issue deeds to the parties having bought property from the estate.

The board having charge of the ground bought by the African Church are now prepared

Page 76

To deed to the school board one-half acre of their land for school purposes and as soon as the commissioners execute the deeds, I should have a deed given to the school board. In the meantime please inform me whether to make application through your or direct to the Assistant Commissioner for direction for building purposes and about the amount there would be allowed.

I have received copy of work on school houses and cottages.

A. E. H.

Gus A. Orsborn owes Sarah Monroe for work for year 1867. Balance due \$104.25

April 9th 1868

Henry Page

Sir,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to return vouchers duly signed as follows: J.R. Adams, 25; Miles Bell, 8; J. Peeples, 4; Myself, services March, 99.17.

April 15th 1868

Br. Brig. General John E. Bennett

I have the honor to report the case of a destitute freedwoman named Emily Steward, aged 56 years, who has not been able to walk for some years. She has no relations in this

state that she is aware of, her only son having volunteered in the army at Little Rock during the war, and she heard he was killed

Page 77

in battle. She formerly belonged to J.D. Stewart, Sr. of Rome in this county, some 30 miles from this office, who she says has a mule belonging to her son which he refuses to give up, and not having any assistance and it being all folly to refer such cases to the civil authorities (of persons to power to give bonds), I have been unable to do anything for her.

The clerk of the Circuit Court of this county made up a purse to keep her one month which would bring it to the meeting of the County Court, which met here last Monday. The freedman who her in charge (over the time paid for) refused to keep her any longer as \$10 per month would not pay for her food and a servant to wait on her, and lodging, carried her to the courthouse and gave her in charge of the County Clerk as the County Court (composed of Goodin Deaton, judge, Joseph Hardrige and W.T. Crawley, assistant justices) refused to make any provisions for her.

I referred the matter to Thomas B. Sloan, sheriff of this county, and requested him to see that she was taken care of which he refused to do. I then told him I would refer the matter to headquarters, when he said that General Smith might go to ---- as he had nothing to do with it.

Since the last election it is impossible for freedmen to get anything, like justice of be treated like humans. I have now two cases where freedmen have been turned off after working three months without pay. The main reason being that they voted for the Constitution and unless some aid is sent to this place there will be no use of government offices being here as no attention whatever is paid to any request or summons I may send to parties to report to this office for settlement of contracts or other reasons, and the freedmen know there is no use for them

The seal of Ouachita Baptist University is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "SEAL OF OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY" at the top and "1886" at the bottom. Inside this ring, the words "MISSION" and "SERVICE" are written vertically on the left and right sides, respectively. The center of the seal features a shield with a banner across the top that reads "INTEGRITY". Below the banner is a stylized flame or torch. The shield is set against a background of a cross.

Page 78

to enter into lawsuits as they have not the time to spare nor the means to pay damages or fees, without a shadow of a chance for justice with the present party in power.

Hoping . . . etc.

A. E. H.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, April 23rd 1868

W.M. Colby, Esq.

Superintendent, Education, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit copy of deed of land conveyed to trustees of Arkadelphia African School.

The acknowledgement of mark of Caroline Sloan has not been made proper by the Justice of the Peace and has been returned to him to make complete. With that exception I think everything is in proper shape.

Lumber can be delivered here for \$17 50/100, labor rates from \$3 to \$5 per day, shingles about 5.50, and nails, 15 cents per pound. The lumber is not seasoned and none can be got about here, therefore it would be better to try and secure it in time that it can be seasoned.

Hoping . . . etc.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. E. H.

Page 79

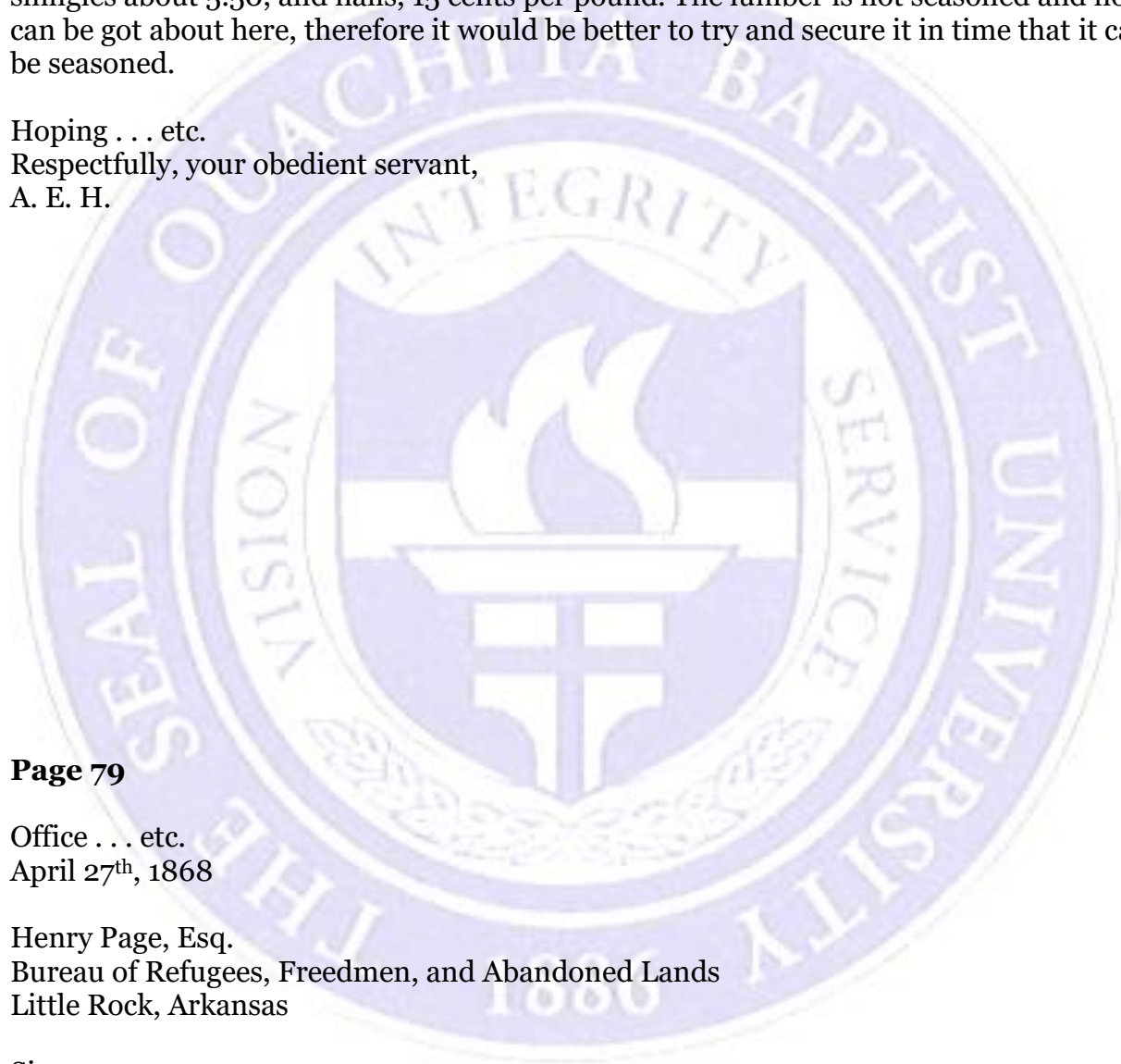
Office . . . etc.
April 27th, 1868

Henry Page, Esq.
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir,

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit receipt, roll of clothing issued to destitute freedmen during the present month. February and March have been forwarded.

Very respectfully,



Your obedient servant,
A. E. H.

May 21st 1868

Lieutenant J. A. Payne
Washington, Arkansas

Lieutenant,

In reply to yours of 19th instant, I have the honor to suggest the names of Nacy N. Locke as associate judge in place of W.T. Crowley, and W.M. Marbury as sheriff in place of T.B. Sloan.

Messrs. Locke and Marbury were the nominees for the respective office for which they are herein mentioned and elected to the union ticket during the late election and no doubt will make competent officers should it be necessary to remove the [?].

Very respectfully, etc.
A. E. Habicht

Page 80

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, June 15th 1868

Brev. Brig. General John E. Bennett
A.A.A. General Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock

General,

In reply to Circular dated Little Rock, Arkansas, June 3rd 1868, I have the honor to report that no such persons as William Jones, Montell Irons, or Robert Currty, who had been soldiers, are in this or Dallas County as far as this district extends. There are two William Jones, but neither have been in the army.

Respectfully . . . etc.

To same

General,

I have the honor to report in reply to communications of 11th instant that the title to ground on which the school building is being built is good. Forty (40) acres of land was willed by Dr. John H. Peak to Eliza, his slave by which he had two children, his (Dr. Peak's) title having been examined and found perfectly good.

Wesley Sloan purchased one acre for African Church but before deeding to church trustees, one-half acre was deeded by him to school trustees.

By decree for partition in chancery, the court ordered deeds to be given to purchasers by commissioners.

Very respectfully . . . etc.

Page 81

Office
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Arkadelphia, July 10th 1868

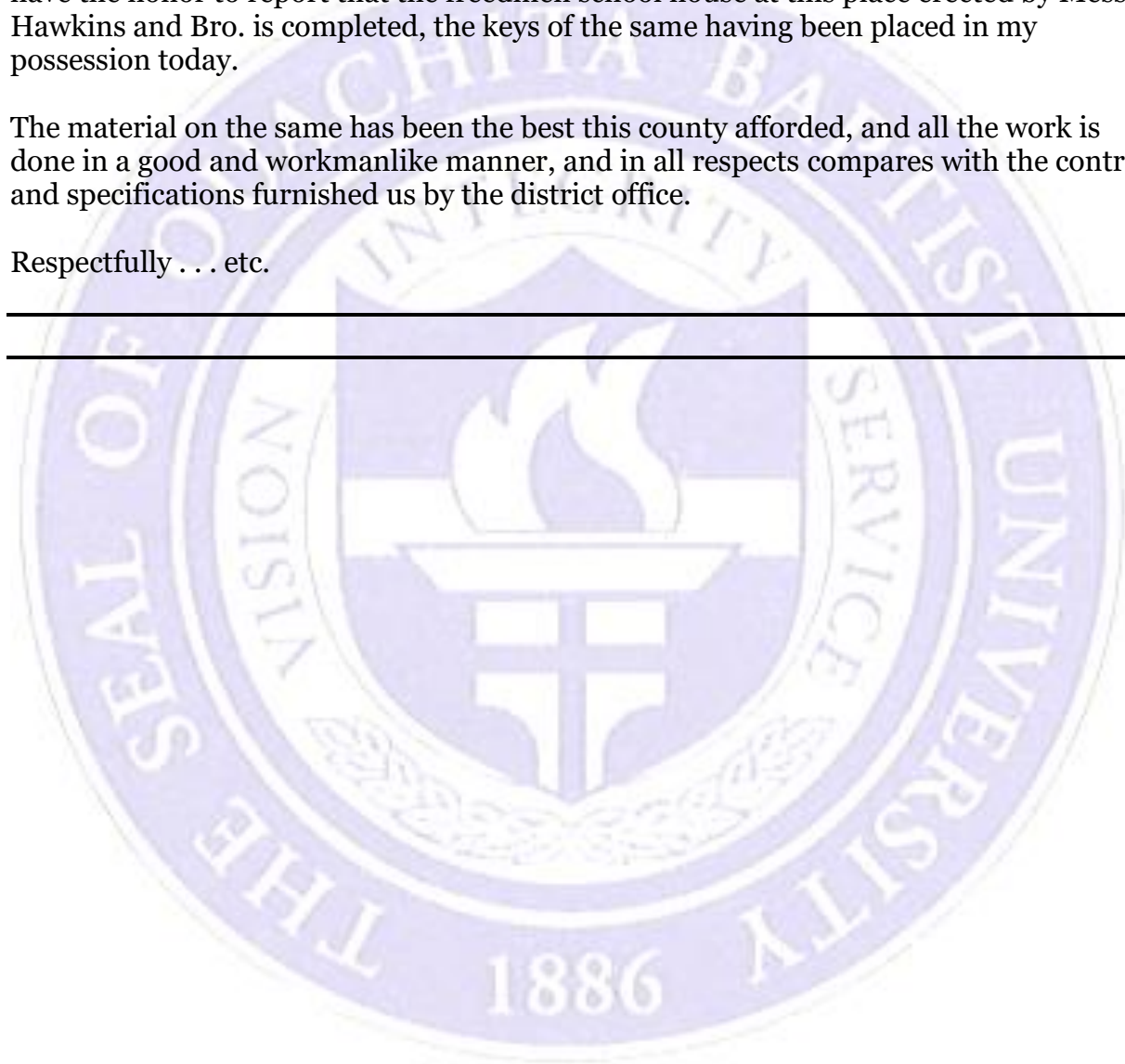
Brevt. Brig. General J. E. Bennett
Little Rock

General,

In obedience with Special Order No. 21 dated Little Rock, Arkansas, June 10th 1868, I have the honor to report that the freedmen school house at this place erected by Messrs. Hawkins and Bro. is completed, the keys of the same having been placed in my possession today.

The material on the same has been the best this county afforded, and all the work is done in a good and workmanlike manner, and in all respects compares with the contract and specifications furnished us by the district office.

Respectfully . . . etc.



Page 164

War Department
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Washington, December 29th 1866

Mr. Anthony E. Habicht having taken the oath prescribed by law, is hereby appointed an agent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in the state of Arkansas, at a salary of twelve hundred (1200) dollars per annum.

This appointment to take effect October 29th, 1866, and to remain in force until revoked by orders from this office.

By order of
Major General O. O. Howard
/Signed A. P. Ketchum
Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
For Arkansas and Indian Territory
Little Rock, January 8th 1866

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith your appointment by General Howard, Commissioner as an agent of this Bureau, the receipt of which you will please acknowledge.

I am very respectfully
Your obedient servant
(signed) John Tyler
Captain Brev. Major, Vol.
A. A. A. General

To
Anthony E. Habicht
Superintendent
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Page 165

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
For Arkansas and Indian Territory
Little Rock, Arkansas, March 1st 1867

Mr. A. E. Habicht
Agent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia

Sir,

I am directed by the assistant commissioner to inform you that the following estimate for repairs upon the school house at Arkadelphia in approved by him.

You will cause the repairs to be made under the direction of the Chief Quartermaster.
Door, door frame butts and locks \$10.00; Windows and frames \$15.00; 400 feet lumber for floor \$8.00; 600 feet lumber for gable and ceiling \$12.00; 300 feet lumber for seats and desks \$6.00; Nails \$5.00; Blackboards \$5.00; Labor \$30.00; Total \$91.00.

I am very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Signed, John Tyler
1st Lieutenant 43rd U.S. Infantry
A.A.A.G.

Page 166

Mayor's Office, City of Arkadelphia
June 4th 1867

Captain,

Thomas O'Brien, a soldier in the detachment of U.S. troops stationed at this point under your orders as agent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in this place has been guilty of a violation of one of the ordinances of this city. To wit: on Sunday the 2nd instant by drunkenness and fighting. The said soldier has refused to be arrested or tried before me for the offense and the sergeant in charge has also refused to give him up for trial. Will you please inform me at your earliest convenience what are the orders of Major General Ord in regard to such cases and oblige.

Yours respectfully,

(signed) James L. Witherspoon
Mayor

Captain A. E. Habicht
Agent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia

P. S. Please return this letter with your response.

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Rocky Comfort, Arkansas
May 31st 1867

Brev. Brig. General John E. Bennett
1st Lieutenant 21st U.S. Infantry, A.A.A. General

General,

The freedmen on the Carr Plan have not yet been paid their wages for last year, amounting to 1531.75. Mr. Carr ran away without paying them a cent.

Page 167

I ordered about the month of February Mr. Carr not to ship 25 bales of cotton then on his place till the freedmen were paid. But during the very high water, advantage was taken of my absence and the 25 bales were stolen by a party of men in connection with Mr. Carr and the cotton shipped, Mr. Carr leaving at the same time with the proceeds. He has sold out all interest in this county and gone to Hot Springs where he may be arrested. He has plenty of money from all accounts and I earnestly request that he be arrested and held till \$1531.75 be paid by him for the benefit of the freedmen. His full name is James M. Carr, rather an old man, but bears the name in this county as being the most foxy rascal in the county. If I had him here I am pretty sure I could get the \$1531.75 out of him for the freedmen.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
(signed) Hiram F. Willis
2nd Lieutenant, 22nd V.R.C.
Agent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Official copy
(signed) John E. Bennett
1st Lieutenant, 28th U.S. Infantry
Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
For Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas
June 24th 1867

Respectfully referred to A.E. Habicht, agent at Arkadelphia, for investigation. He will ascertain and report whether James M. Carr is now living at Hot Springs, what his circumstances are pecuniarily, and whether the amount 1531.75 can be collected from him.

By command of
Br. Brig. General C. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner

(signed) J. E. Bennett
1st Lieutenant 28th U.S. Infantry
Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Page 168

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Office Sub Assistant Commissioner and District Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia, June 20th 1867

Colonel C. C. Sibley
Assistant Commissioner for Georgia

Colonel,

I have the honor to state that Betsey Peeples, a freedwoman, makes application for her two sons, John Thomas and Charles Stephen, to be restored to her. She says they were carried away from this place to Arkadelphia, Arkansas, about 8 years ago. They formerly belonged to Ben Peeples. The last account she had of them they were living with Austin Peeples, the son of the said Ben Peeples in the above named state.

I would respectfully request that inquiries be made concerning these children and if consistent, they be returned to their mother.

I am very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(signed) Fred Mosebach
Brevt. Major U.S.C. and Sub Assistant Commissioner
Sub District of Atlanta, Georgia

Office Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Macon, Georgia, June 22 1867

Respectfully referred to Major General C. C. Ord, Assistant Commissioner Bureau of
Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, state of Arkansas, Little Rock

Signed, C. C. Sibley

Colonel, 16 U. S. Infantry and Assistant Commissioner

Headquarters, 4th Military District

Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 12, 1867

Respectfully referred to Bvt. Brig. General H. H. Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau
of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for the state of Arkansas.

By command of

Brvt. Major General E. O. C. Ord

(Signed) A. D. Greene, A. A. General

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Arkansas

Little Rock, July 19, 1867

Respectfully referred to Mr. A.E. Habicht, agent at Arkadelphia, for investigation and
report. This is to be returned with report endorsed.

By command of

Brvt. Brig. General C. H. Smith

Assistant Commissioner

John E. Bennett, A.A.A. General

Page 169

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
For Arkansas
Little Rock, July 24th 1867

Special Order No. 31

Extract

1 – Leave of absence for thirty (30) days is hereby granted A.E. Habicht, agent of this
Bureau at Arkadelphia, Arkansas, to take effect from the date of his leaving the District.

By command of

Brst. Brigadier General C. H. Smith, U.S.A.

Assistant Commissioner

(signed) John E. Bennett

1st Lieutenant, 28th U.S. Infantry

Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Page 170

Dobyville, November 24th 1867

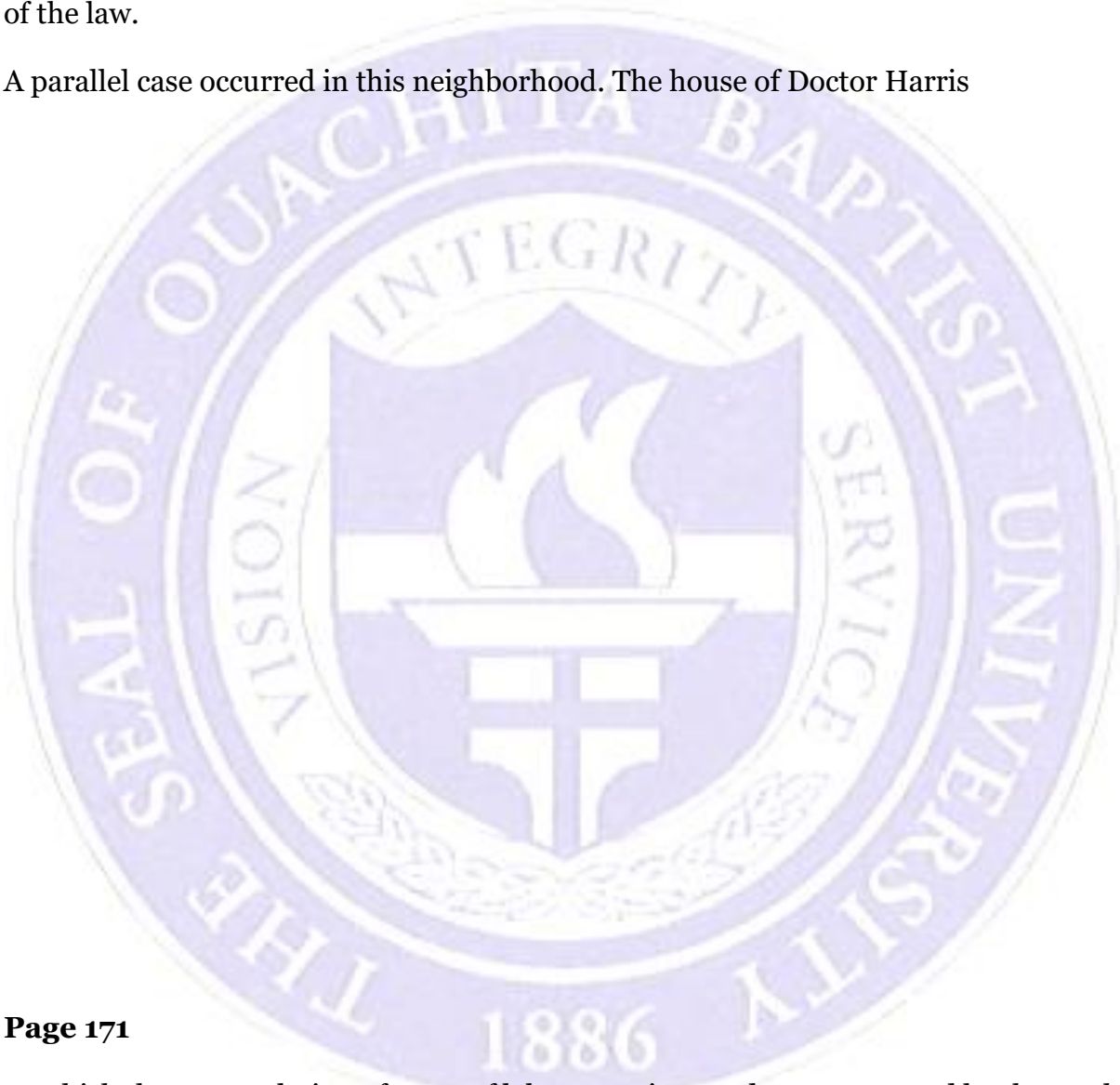
Captain A. E. Habicht
Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Sir,

In accordance with your suggestion in your letter of yesterday, I went down to the house of Peter Skinner last evening and again this morning, having previously requested the presence and advice of Judge Coleman (an old lawyer) to investigate the matter or to commence the proper proceedings. It appears that a serious offense had been committed. Skinner himself had been subjected to an assault and battery, and Fowler had been the victim of an abduction that would come within the purview of the statute against kidnapping. But the difficulty was to identify the individuals guilty of the offense. The solitary witness, Skinner, says that he did not recognize any one individual

among them, but he heard one voice that he knew, and that voice uttered but a single word and that word he had forgotten. Whereupon Judge C. wrote out an affidavit which when written was read to Skinner, but Skinner absolutely denied and refused to take the affidavit necessary to the issuance of the warrant for arrest. I am advised that this is all I can do and that under the law I cannot in any case, unless I have an eyewitness of the infraction of the law, issue a warrant for the arrest of anyone unless some individual will assume the responsibility of pointing out on oath the person charged with the violation of the law.

A parallel case occurred in this neighborhood. The house of Doctor Harris



Page 171

In which the accumulation of years of labor were invested was consumed by the torch of the incendiary. No one would undertake to designate the offender. Until this is done, he, like the other, must go --- of justice. In the close of your letter, you say that the case of Bird Duke and Peter Skinner was referred to me and had I taken action at that time all this might have been avoided. You must have written this under a misapprehension of the true facts of the case.

Office, Assistant Commissioner
Little Rock, Arkansas, June 10th 1868

Special Order No. 21

Extract

A. E. Habicht, Agent, is hereby appointed Special Inspector for the purpose of inspecting the freedmen's school house now in process of erection at Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

The Inspector will make careful examination of the material and work as it progresses, and see that it in all respects conforms to the conditions of the contract. A copy of the contract will be furnished the Special Inspector by the Disbursing Officer.

Before any partial payment is made, a certificate of the Special Inspector must be filed in this office showing the amount of building material delivered upon the ground and the amount of work accomplished.

Upon the completion of the work and before the final acceptance and payment, the Inspector will make a full report of his inspection to this office.

By command of
Brevt. Brig. General C. H. Smith
John E. Bennett, First Lieutenant . . . etc.

A. E. Habicht, Agent
Special Inspector
Arkadelphia

Page 172

Register of Abandoned Lands in Clark County, Arkansas in possession of the Bureau
November 22nd 1867

Maddox, widow

Arkadelphia

skeleton frame

Patten, Otis	Lots 27-3?, Trigg's addition, Arkadelphia	2 houses
Reed, G.M. & R.C.	W ^{1/2} , NE ^{1/4} , Sec 17, T 7,R 20	80 acres
Unknown	1/2 lot 4, Blk 49, new survey, Arkadelphia	

Office, Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Little Rock, December 6th 1867

Bret. Brig. General John E. Bennett
1st Lieutenant, 28th U.S. Infantry
Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

General,

I have the honor to inform you that Anna Brooks, a colored woman, states that she voluntary left her first husband Henry Keenan, colored, about 4 years ago in Clark County, Arkansas, about 25 miles from Arkadelphia in a plantation called William Ross Plantation. The complainant further states that she left a son named Austin Keenan with his father, Henry Keenan, that the boy is now about 7 years old. She further states that from reports of various parties she has learned that this little son Austin is not well treated by his father and stepmother and she therefore respectfully asks that the boy Austin be sent here by government expense by the agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands at Arkadelphia. She, Anna Brooks, the complainant, is quite heartbroken and entirely within means to send for the child. She begs that the Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands intercede in her behalf as the father wants the boy to come to him.

Signed, A. S. Dyer

Referred to A.E. Habicht for investigation and report as to the treatment of the boy Austin by his father and whether he has a good home.

Signed, J.E. Bennett

Page 173

Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 4th 1868

Captain Babbitt, Freedmen's Bureau

I am guardian for the following persons: Peggy Mulhollen, John, Hannah, George, Ann, Ned Mulhollen. They have come here destitute to me after having worked for one year for Mr. William Ross. They have received but little or nothing for their labor. I have not had any settlement with their employer. They say they made the contract before you, to labor for the sum of \$300.00 for the eldest and clothes and board for the rest, the other three. I would be pleased for a full account of the contract, what they were to receive, etc., as made in your office by you with Mr. William Ross, also that Mr. Ross should settle them before you as the law directs.

Please let me know what course to pursue. We will wait for an answer.

Yours respectfully,
Edward Johnston

Office, Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
January 11th 1868

Respectfully referred to Charles Trickett, he being the principal of the contract who will bring the account of the within mentioned parties to this office for a full and final settlement and save further trouble and expense.

Return to this office.

Respectfully,
A. E. Habicht, Agent

Page 174

Office, Superintendent of Education
Little Rock, Arkansas, June 27, 1868
Lieutenant J. E. Bennett
Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir,

The erection of a school house at Arkadelphia renders useless eight desks, two seats, two blackboards, and one set window sash used in the old school room, which I recommend be sold for the benefit of the school fund.

I have the honor to remain,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(signed) W. M. Colby
Superintendent, Education

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Office, Sub Assistant Commissioner
Atlanta, Georgia, October 21st 1868

Colonel J. R. Lewis
Assistant Commissioner
State of Georgia

Colonel,

I have the honor to request that inquiries be made about the sons of Betsy Peeples, colored, of this city: John Thomas, about 16 years of age, and Charlie Stinen, about 14 years old. Both boys were with their former master last year, a Mr. O. A. Peeples of Arkadelphia, Clark County, Arkansas, but whether they are there still the mother has been unable to find out although she has repeatedly made inquiries to that effect.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Fred Mosebach

Sub Assistant Commissioner

Page 175

Office, Assistant Commissioner
Atlanta, Georgia, October 22 1868

Respectfully referred to Br. Brig. General O. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner for State of Arkansas

O. R. Lewis
Br. Colonel, U.S.A.
Assistant Commissioner

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas, October 27 1868

Respectfully referred to A.E. Habicht, agent, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, for investigation
and report of such information as he may be able to obtain. Report to be made as
speedily as practicable.

By command of
Brevt. Major General C. H. Smith
S. M. Wells
1st Lieutenant, 28th U.S. Infantry
A.A.A. General

Page 186

Office, Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
February 1st 1868

Respectfully forwarded to Henry Page, district officer, the building referred to belongs to Miles Bell, freedman. The contract to begin January 1st 1868.

Respectfully,
A. E. Habicht, agent

Little Rock, Arkansas
June 19th 1868
W. M. Colby
Superintendent, Education

States that the erection of school house at Arkadelphia renders useless 8 desks, 2 seats, 2 blackboards, and 1 set window sash, used in old school room which he recommends be saved for benefit of school fund.

June 20th 1868

Respectfully referred to Henry Page, District Officer
By command of
Br. Brig. General, C. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner

J. E. Bennett

A.A.A. General

Quartermaster and District Office
June 29th 1868

Respectfully returned to Lieutenant J. E. Bennett, A.A.A. General, suggesting that the articles be sold as recommended, provided they are of no further use.

Henry Page,
Special Agent, District Office

Page 186 (continued)

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas
July 6th 1868

Respectfully returned to the disbursing officer who will ---- the property to be disposed of to the best advantages and place the proceeds to the credit of the school fund.

By command of
Brt. Brig. General C. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner
John E. Bennett
A.A.A. General

Disbursing Officer, July 8th 1868

Respectfully referred to A. E. Habicht, who will sell the articles within mentioned as being no longer required on the most advantageous terms possible and transmit his receipt for the amount of funds realized, which amount will be withheld from his July salary to avoid transmission by mail.

These papers to be returned.

Henry Page
Special Agent and Disbursing Officer

Office, Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
November 7th 1868

Respectfully returned to Brevt. Major. General C. H. Smith, Assistant Commissioner,
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The boy John Thomas is employed by me as messenger in this office as messenger. His brother Charles Stinson is working on the farm of Mr. J.T. Hart, about 8 miles from Arkadelphia. Neither of them have saved anything from their wages, but both are anxious to return to their mother.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht, Agent

Page 187

Office, Agent Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
January 15th 1868

Respectfully returned to Edward Johnston.

The Mulhollen family have been paid in full as per enclosed account. The contract specified that the rations for the children should be paid for at the customary market prices.

Respectfully,
A. E. Habicht
Agent, Clark County

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 16, 1868

Respectfully returned to A.E. Habicht, Agent, who will effect a settlement between the freedmen and the party to whom they are under contract and ascertain what is thus due.

If they have enough of the crop in their possession to pay them, let them keep it, but if either party makes affidavit as provided by Circular No. 24 (enclosed) the case will be settled by arbitrators as provided by said circular. If there is not enough of the crop available to pay the freedmen, Mr. Tucker of this city pledges himself to pay the difference.

By command of
Bvt. Brig. General, C. H. Smith

John E. Bennett
Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Office, Superintendent Education
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 17th 1868

Respectfully forwarded to Brevt. Brig. General C.H. Smith, Assistant Commissioner, with recommendation that the request of Mr. Habicht be granted on condition that none but approved teachers be employed.

William M. Colby
Superintendent, Education

Page 187 (continued)

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock, January 27 1868

Respectfully returned to W.M. Colby (thru Henry Page, District Office). The rental of the within mentioned building at 8 per month is authorized subject to the condition set forth in the endorsement of the Superintendent of Education hereon.

Bvt. Brig. General C. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner

John E. Bennett
Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Arkansas
Quartermaster & District Office
Little Rock, January 29th 1868

Respectfully forwarded to William M. Colby with request that the name of party from whom the building is rented and date of contract be furnished this office as early as practicable.

Henry Page
Disbursing Officer
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Little Rock
January 29 1868

Respectfully forwarded to A.E. Habicht. Agent at Arkadelphia, who will please comply with the preceding request of the Disbursing Officer.

William M. Colby
Superintendent, Education

Page 188

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas
December 30th 1867

Respectfully referred to Lieutenant A.S. Dyer, agent at Little Rock, who will ascertain whether the cotton referred to is in Little Rock and in whose hands and report for further instructions.

By command of
Assistant Commissioner
J. E. Bennett

A.A.A. General

S. H. Tucker, Esq.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir,

I have the honor to request information concerning six (6) bales of cotton consigned to you from Arkadelphia by Mr. McLure. The cotton was shipped by T.A. Heard, agent for Bostick & Company. Said cotton is marked W.P.M., weighs 2150 #s, and tagged with cotton tags series K, numbers from 6026 to 60631.

You will please inform this office whether you have received the cotton and also furnish all other information that you may possess concerning the same.

I am Sir,
Very respectfully . . . etc.
A. S. Dyer
First Lieutenant and Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for
Arkansas

Lieutenant A. S. Dyer

Dear Sir,

I have no knowledge whatever of the six bales of cotton alluded to within communication. I think it likely Messrs. C.G. Scott and Company can give you the information desired as they are the agents for Mr. Heard at Arkadelphia.

Very respectfully,
S. H. Tucker
December 30 1867

Page 188 (continued)

Respectfully referred to Messrs. C.G. Scott & Company, Little Rock, for information and early reply.

Return the within paper to this office with endorsement.

Very respectfully,
Alvin S. Dyer
First Lieutenant . . . etc.

Little Rock, December 31 1867

Lieutenant A. S. Dyer

Dear Sir,

We have received and disposed of for account of Mr. Heard six (6) bales of cotton marked W.A.M. and at his request have appropriated the proceeds to the payment of his debts in Louisville, Kentucky.

We may say that Mr. Heard will give justice to all parties concerned in regard to the cotton.

Very respectfully,
C. G. Scott & Company

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
District Little Rock, December 31 1867

Respectfully returned to Brevt. Brigadier General J.E. Bennett, A.A.A. General, including attention to the endorsement of S.H. Tucker and C.G. Scott & Company, merchants of this city.

Your obedient servant,
A. S. Dyer
Agent, etc.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 2 1868

Respectfully returned to A.E. Habicht, agent, who will hold T.A. Heard strictly accountable for the amount due the freedmen if the said Heard is at Arkadelphia.

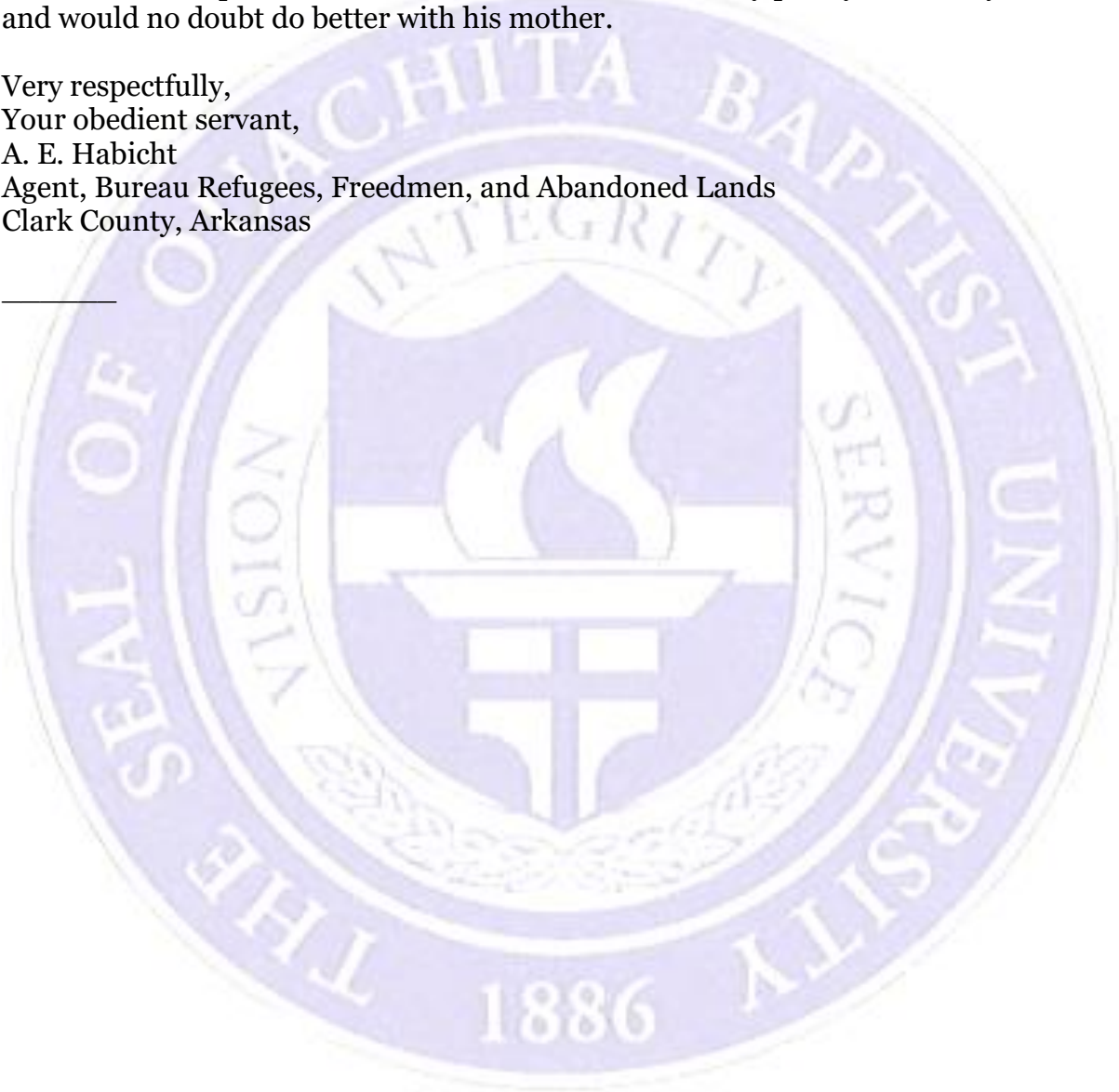
By command of
Brevt. Brigadier General C. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner
J. E. Bennett
Acting Assistant Adjutant General
Page 188 (continued)

Arkadelphia, Arkansas
January 6th 1868

Respectfully returned to Brevt. Brig. General John E. Bennett.

The boy Austin is living with his father on the plantation of Michael Bozeman six miles south of Arkadelphia. He is not well taken care of and very poorly clothed by his father and would no doubt do better with his mother.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht
Agent, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Clark County, Arkansas



Page 189

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Clark County
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
July 6th 1867

Respectfully returned to Brvt. Brigadier General J. E. Bennett with the information that there is no such person as James M. Carr at Hot Springs at the present time or that I could learn in said county, or have I been able to hear of his being there this season, as I looked over every register and made inquiries of the parties there.

There is a family named Carr at Hot Springs from St. Louis, Missouri, and they may have been mistaken for the said James M. Carr.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht, agent

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Clark County
Arkadelphia, Arkansas
July 27th 1867

Respectfully returned to Brvt. Brig. General C.H. Smith with information that John Thomas and Charles Steven (who have assumed the name of Peeples) mentioned within are now living and farming on the plantation of Mr. Oscar Peeples some 8 miles from this place. They are doing well and request that information be given their mother that it is their intention of returning to Georgia when they have their crops gathered. In the meantime would like to learn the address of their mother through the office of the agent at Arkadelphia.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully,
A. E. Habicht
Agent, etc.

Page 189 (continued)

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Arkansas
Little Rock, September 19 1867

Respectfully returned. It is the duty of the civil authorities to provide for their own poor. Mr. Habicht will call the attention of the proper civil officers to the enclosed General Orders No. 25, Paragraph 3, from District Headquarters, and inform them that if they do not comply with this order their removal will be recommended and others appointed who will.

By command of
Brig. General C. H. Smith
Assistant Commissioner
John E. Bennett
A.A. Adjutant General

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for Clark County
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 11 1867

Respectfully referred to the Honorable County Court of Clark County with the request that the court may make some provision to pay the account as Mr. Andrews gave the patient all the attention in his power and should be remunerated for his services.

Very respectfully,
A. E. Habicht, agent

Page 190

Headquarters, Southwest District, Arkansas
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Washington, December 26 1866

Respectfully returned to A.E. Habicht, Superintendent Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Clark County, Arkansas. No charges for neglect of duty or idleness are allowed except when property reported as lost time every month or when it is clearly stipulated in the contract and such failure should be decided by referees and yourself. See also Paragraph III, Circular No. 17, dated Office, Assistant Commissioner, June 5 1866.

No attachments can be enforced on a lien for labor even though civil courts will not permit the same. You better notify the sheriff of the same in case he should not acknowledge the same.

Forward at once a statement and the sheriff's objections and I shall forward the same to the next court for action.

F. W. Thibaut

Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
Arkadelphia, June 4th 1867

Respectfully returned to J. A. Witherspoon, Mayor, City of Arkadelphia, with the information that I have no orders from General Ord in regard to the matter referred to.

The detachment of troops sent to this office were ordered to report to me (by Bvt. Colonel Gilbert, commanding sub District Arkansas headquarters at Camden) to assist this office in enforcing the orders of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

I remain, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. Habicht
Agent, Clark County

Page 190 (continued)

Headquarters, Sub District Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas, June 8 1867

Respectfully returned to the mayor of Arkadelphia through agent of Freedmen's Bureau, under the present military government of Arkansas, the civil authorities will not be allowed to arrest and try soldiers of the United States for offenses. The agent of the Bureau at Arkadelphia is responsible for the conduct of the troops stationed there to assist and will promptly report all misdemeanors to the Post Commander at Camden, that the ----- may be tried by court martial.

By command of
Brig. General C. H. Smith
Signed, S. M. Mills
Lieutenant 28th U.S. Infantry
A.A.A. General



Page 191

See J.P. Hart about medical bill of George Miller of 25 for services of 1866