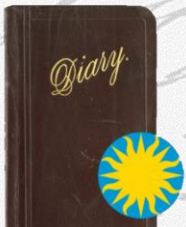


The following is a sample of a class of case among the Freedmen in Wilmington, North Carolina.

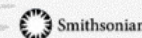
Jeff James was a slave of a Mr. Bettington. By his intelligence and industry, he acquired his freedom, paying \$1400. He also bought land of his former master, for which he paid \$150. On the death of Bettington, the heirs seized Jeff & sold him and his property. On the entrance of the Union forces into Wilmington, Gen. Abbot inquired into this case, and restored his property to Jeff. Recently, as the impression has prevailed that the Bureau & the military power, were about withdrawn, Jeff has been again driven out of possession of his property. He appealed to the Bureau & the case was referred to Gen. Rugeley, who said there was no reason for any interference with this civil courts, which had the jurisdiction.

Freedmen's Bureau Transcribe-a-thon

Smithsonian Transcription Center



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HISTORY &
CULTURE



Freedmen's Bureau History

Congress established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands in 1865 to:

- Aid newly freed African Americans in their transition to freedom and citizenship
- Provide food, clothing, and temporary shelter to freedmen & destitute white refugees
- Supervise and manage abandoned lands

Operated in all 15 southern & border states



Bureau Records

- Census returns
- Ration reports
- Education reports
- Freedmen's Court
- Hospital reports
- Indentures
- Labor contracts
- Letters
- Marriages
- Ration Reports
- Claims for military service

- Registers of Complaints
- Freedman's Bank records (when agents worked for the Bank and the Bureau)

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands

SEMI-MONTHLY REPORT of Outrages by Whites for the fifteen days ending August 15, 1865

No.	DATE	PLACE	BY WHOM	AGAINST WHOM
1	July 1	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
2	July 25	Belmont Co.	Coke	John B. ...
3	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
4	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
5	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
6	Aug 1	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
7	July 6	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
8	July 13	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
9	July 13	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
10	July 13	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
11	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
12	Aug 1	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
13	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
14	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
15	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...
16	July 27	Belmont Co.	John B. ...	John B. ...

Station: Raleigh, N.C.
Date: August 15, 1865

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

This is to Certify that John Pointer and Emily Pointer have this day, appeared before me and under oath acknowledged that they have been living together as man and wife since the 28th day of May One thousand eight hundred and Forty Four, and that the following named children are the legitimate issue thereof.

Nellie Ann Pointer
Robert Amos Pointer
Melinda Pointer
Eliza Jane Pointer
John Pointer
Richard Pointer
Robert Pointer

The above named John Pointer are therefore declared to be legally married at Orange of October One thousand eight hundred and Forty Four

Done at Orange, Va.,
 the 1 day of October, 1864

Lucas S. Blair
 Bel. Lt. Col. and A. A. A. G.
 District of Virginia

W. H. Humphrey, of the County of Spangne, North Carolina, of the first part, and the said laborers, of the second part, witnesseth: that the said laborers, on his farm in Belmont County, North Carolina, have agreed to work for the said W. H. Humphrey, on his farm, from the first day of January 1866 to the first day of January 1867, for an amount of money which stands as follows: to wit, to do all the usual and ordinary work of the farm, to be paid in their respective amounts of wages at the time that they shall not be paid, and he has agreed to pay each of them their respective wages at the end of the month, and to encourage their children.

Raleigh, N. C.,
 July 30, 1866.

I have the honor to inform you that there have been issued in this District, during the ten days ending July 30, 1866, 145 full rations to white refugees, 227 full rations to destitute whites, and 9147 full rations to destitute freedmen, being an aggregate of 9497 full rations.

I am, Sir,
 Very Respectfully,
 Your Obedient Servant,
Charles A. Talley
 Assistant Adjutant General,
 Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
 Raleigh, N. C.

Year	Book of wages for
1860	\$ 3.50
1861	\$ 1.50
1862	\$ 2.50
1863	\$ 2.50
1864	\$ 2.50
1865	\$ 2.50
1866	\$ 2.50
1867	\$ 2.50
1868	\$ 2.50

Freedmen's Bureau Transcription Project

Aims to transcribe all 1.7 million Bureau records

- Launched in 2016
- Largest crowdsourced project ever sponsored by the Smithsonian
- Over 300,000 records transcribed to date
- More than 34,000 volunteers
- Will allow full text searches once completed
- Will increase our understanding of the Reconstruction era and of post-Emancipation life



Lonnie G. Bunch III @SmithsonianSec · Aug 25

For many African Americans, including myself, tracing family history before the 1870s is very challenging. An important resource is being transcribed and just reached 100,000 pages—the Freedmen's Bureau Records, which reveal facets of daily life in the South after the Civil War.

Smithsonian Transcription Center @TranscribeSI · Aug

Thanks to the incredible efforts of #volunteers we have officially transcribed over 100,000 pages of Freedmen's Bureau records for @NMAAHC!

Join us all week as we explore the impact of this tremendous mission on historical and genealogical research with #DiscoverTCFreedmen

[Show this thread](#)



2 replies 123 retweets 310 likes



Susan Ann Blakley @SusanAnnBlakley

Thank You, Jesus!

I discovered that my Great Grandfather Isaac BLAKER was listed on the MS indexed. He was living in Natchez, MS in 1869. I haven't located him or his family on the 1870 censuses in MO or MS. #FamilyConnections

Smithsonian Transcription Center @TranscribeSI · Aug 17

Now, 5 years later, the names are fully indexed @ discoverfreedmen.org, and more than 100K pages of Freedmen's Bureau records from GA, MS, NC, and DC are fully transcribed and keyword searchable in the Transcription Center.

#DiscoverTCFreedmen --> s.si.edu/311hW3Y.

[Show this thread](#)



12:15 PM · Aug 17, 2020 · Twitter Web App

The following is a sample of a class of case among the Freedmen in Wilmington, North Carolina.

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@TranscribeSI

@NMAAHC

#FreedmensBureau

#DiscoverTCFreedmen

Smithsonian Transcription Center

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FEATURED

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS

[VIEW PROJECTS](#)

the honor to forward two complete files of all Circulars issued from these Hqs. &c.

No General Orders have been published. A large number of Special Orders have been made; but most of them relate to the restoration of Abandoned Lands and copies of all such have been forwarded to Genl. Howard.

The affairs of the Bureau which are of greatest public interest, have been conducted by means of Correspondence with Officers in charge of Districts and Subdistricts. These letters are voluminous, but if it is desired I will have copies made and forwarded. To indicate the nature of them I will furnish at once copies of a few.

Very Respectfully



Getting Started

- Step 1: Register for an account
- Step 2: Review Instructions
- Step 3: Explore Projects



transcription.si.edu/user/login

transcription.si.edu/tips

transcription.si.edu/projects

Transcribe or Review

Option 1 : Transcribe

A transcriber types all content included on a page – making it readable and text-searchable across Smithsonian databases.

Instructions

- 1 [Register](#) and select a page labeled “Start / Continue Transcribing”
- 2 Transcribe
 - Type what you see on the page
 - Save frequently
 - Mark for review after completion
- 3 Helpful resources
 - [General transcription rules](#)
 - [Freedmen's Bureau's transcription rules](#)

Option 2 : Review

A reviewer checks the accuracy of already transcribed page, completing the process of making the historical content accessible.

Instructions

- 1 [Register](#) and select a page labeled “Needs review”
- 2 Review
 - Check completeness and accuracy of the page
 - Reopen for editing – if needs further editing
 - Mark as complete – if everything looks good
- 3 Helpful resources
 - [General transcription rules](#)
 - [Freedmen's Bureau's transcription rules](#)

The following is a sample of a class of case among the Freedmen in Wilmington, North Carolina.

transcribe@si.edu

@TranscribeSI

@NMAAHC

#FreedmensBureau

#DiscoverTCFreedmen

Freedmen's Bureau Transcription Project

When in Doubt:

- Review the overall TIPS page (including a helpful instructional video) -> <https://transcription.si.edu/tips>
- Search for Freedmen's Bureau agent names, place names, etc. within the TC "search" page or via Google or refer to the resources on the [Freedmen's Bureau instructions page](#).
- Review other completed pages in the project you're working on to see how others have done it.
- Stuck on a word? Type [[?]] and "save"
- Reach out! Via the "Feedback button" or email us – transcribe@si.edu or freedmensbureau@si.edu