

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU NOTABLE QUOTES

“Some four million slaves were set free and they would not have had any place to stay, any place to sleep, or any food to eat had it not been for the concept of the Freedmen’s Bureau. When you know your background then your foreground pretty well takes care of itself. When you know where you’re coming from then you can design where you are going.”

Rev. Cecil L. Murray, John R. Tansey Chair of Christian Ethics Senior Fellow, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, USC

“We are all an extension of those that came before us. So it's vitally important that we understand how they lived, what their thought process was, what life was like for them so that we in turn can appreciate the type of life that we're living now, and understand that everything that we have accomplished, everything that we have now is because of the things that they experienced and went through. And the legacies that they left to assure that we are afforded a good life...Our ancestors are calling out for us to tell their stories. And we need to be obedient and we need to hear them and we need to answer the call.”

Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, National President of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society

“This is a time – this is a chance for us to learn our story and then tell it to the world in a way that it has not been told before. It's our story. And we need to know it for ourselves. It gives you a sense of pride that can't be gotten in another way. It gives us something, a legacy to pass on to our children that can't be passed on in another way. And it puts us on the map historically in a way that the textbooks never have.”

Margo Williams, MS, Author, African and Native American Researcher

“Everyone needs to know who they are. They need to know something about their background. They need to know the traits that run through the lines and that will tell you a lot about your present day actions. The Freedmen’s Project will fill in those gaps.”

Ambassador Diane Watson Ph.D. Retired member of Congress, Los Angeles, California

“When you know where you come from, there's an aura about yourself. You have a level of pride and security no matter what's going on in the world, no matter what world events are happening. When you know who you are, where you came from, regardless of the story, whether good or bad, it brings some healing, restoration.”

Monique Lampkin, found her ancestors in the Freedmen’s Bureau records

“One could argue that the Freedmen's Bureau records are some of the most valuable records to study the African American family, particularly from the Civil War to the period that followed. So they have become very, very important.”

Dr. Reginald Washington, Author, retired National Archives and Records Administration African-American Genealogy Specialist

“The Freedmen’s Bureau papers open the door to literally millions of untold stories. They are a major contribution to the mission of the museum (Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of African American History and Culture) in bringing to life the experiences of the African American community.”

Hollis Gentry –Genealogy Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Freedmen’s Bureau Project

LEAD US INTO THE LIGHT

