

# The Freedmen's Bureau Project AT A GLANCE

## WHAT WAS THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU?

Formed by an act of Congress at the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau provided support for newly freed African Americans. With all of this support came the first reliable records for these new U.S. citizens.

### THE BUREAU WAS CREATED TO:

- Operate refugee camps
- Open schools
- Manage hospitals
- Ration food and clothing
- Provide legal representation
- Assist with labor contracts
- Manage abandoned or confiscated land

## 4,000,000

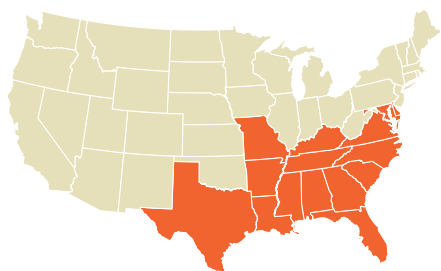
African Americans were freed at the end of the Civil War in 1865.



This represented about  
**10% OF THE POPULATION**  
of the United States at the time.

## RECORDS WE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO SEARCH:

MILITARY PENSIONS • MARRIAGE • PROPERTY CLAIMS • REGISTERS AND CENSUSES  
HOSPITAL RECORDS • TRIAL SUMMARIES • LABOR CONTRACTS • SCHOOL ROLLS



### STATE FIELD OFFICES

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland/Delaware, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

### KEY FREEDMEN'S BUREAU FACTS

**7 YEARS** in existence (1865-1872).

**1.5 MILLION** documents created.

**“WITHIN THE RECORDS OF THE BUREAU ARE THE NAMES OF THAT FIRST GENERATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS TO EXPERIENCE FREEDOM.”** —Ken Nelson, AG<sup>3</sup>, Civil War Era Record Specialist for FamilySearch

## FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS TIME LINE

**1,400 LINEAR FEET**  
of handwritten records

1872

**1,882 ROLLS**  
of microfilm

2007

**1.5 MILLION IMAGES**  
of scanned microfilm online

2015

**APPROXIMATELY  
4 MILLION**  
searchable records

by 2016

**11 YEARS**

Time it took to index the **first 10%** of the records

**1 YEAR**

Goal to index the **remaining 90%** with your help

### HELP RECLAIM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY

Join with thousands across the country to make these records freely available to all. Become a volunteer indexer at [DiscoverFreedmen.org](http://DiscoverFreedmen.org).

