THE FREEDMEN’S BUREAU FACTS

7 YEARS in existence (1865-1872).
1.5 MILLION documents created.

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.

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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

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.

RECORDS NOW SEARCHABLE:
- MILITARY PENSIONS
- MARRIAGE
- PROPERTY CLAIMS
- REGISTERS AND CENSUSES
- HOSPITAL RECORDS
- TRIAL SUMMARIES
- LABOR CONTRACTS
- SCHOOL ROLLS

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

FREEDMEN’S BUREAU RECORDS TIME LINE

1,400 LINEAR FEET of handwritten records
1,882 ROLLS of microfilm
1.5 MILLION IMAGES of scanned microfilm online
APPROXIMATELY 1.8 MILLION searchable records

1872
2007
2015
by 2016

11 YEARS
Time it took to index the first 10% of the records

1 YEAR
Time it took to index the last 90% of the records

HELP RECLAIM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY
Join with thousands across the country in searching these records for free at DiscoverFreedmen.org.