

**The Gelman Library
The Special Collection Department**

RECORDS OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was created by an act of Congress on March 3, 1865. Under the original act, the Bureau was to be terminated one year after the end of the Civil War, but Congress extended it twice. It went on until 1872. After July 1868, its functions were limited to education and assistance in the collection of claims.

Although the Bureau was part of the War Department, its work was primarily social and economic in nature. It maintained schools for black children, supervised labor contracts between black employees and white employers, assisted black soldiers in collecting back pay and pensions, and handled the disposition of property abandoned or confiscated during the war.

Freedmen's Bureau--2

Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia. (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands).

Holdings: 1865-1869 (21 Reels; descriptive guide)

Call Number: E 185.93 .D6 U53
Reel 1055

These reels consist of letters and correspondence, special orders issued, and reports of operations. Also included are records relating to the issuing of rations to Freedmen, the relief of destitute Freedmen, the transportation of Freedmen and Bureau personnel, personnel records, and those records relating to abandoned or confiscated land.

Records of the Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia. (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands).

Holdings: 1865-1872 (24 Reels; descriptive guide)

Call Number: E 185.93 .D6 U53
Reel 1056

These reels consist of letters and correspondence, school reports, records relating to school buildings, grounds, and supplies. They are indexed in the descriptive guide.