



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Freedmen's Bureau*

## **South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Registers 1 and 2, A–O, May–Dec. 1865, Part 1**

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 08:38:20

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Freedmen's Bureau as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Freedmen's Bureau website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Freedmen's Bureau or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Freedmen's Bureau. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

IB 49 C 1865

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
Office of Agt. Beaufort  
Oct 16, 1865

Brvt. Maj Genl. R. Saxton  
Asst. Comr. Bureau R.F. & A.L.

General

In the matter of the application of certain "citizens of Dist of Beaufort" for an order obliging the negroes to adhere to their contracts &c. I beg leave respectfully to report.

That the memorialists assume a false position in the outset, for it is not true "that contracts have generally been made with these persons", and of the few made it is notorious that the terms were established solely by the late master, without reference to competent military authority, or to the rights of the laborers. That such is the fact is abundantly verified by attested complaints against at least ten of the planters, whose names appear in this document, for compelling the laborers under duress to sign contracts, giving the late master 3/4 or 4/5 of the crops to be raised, while the planter provided neither clothing, food, nor medical attendance, and in most instances now appropriates all the rice, corn and cotton, against the direct order of the Commissioner. It is also a notorious fact, that in the

*Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
Office of Agt. Beaufort  
Oct 16, 1865*

*Brvt. Maj Genl. R. Saxton  
Asst. Comr. Bureau R.F. & A.L.*

*General*

*In the matter of  
the application of certain 'citizens of Dist of Beaufort'  
for an order obliging the negroes to adhere to their  
contracts &c. I beg leave respectfully to report.*

*That the memorialists assume a false position  
in the outset, for it is not true 'that contracts have  
generally been made with these persons', and of the  
few made it is notorious that the terms were estab-  
lished solely by the late master, without reference  
to competent military authority, or to the rights of  
the laborers. That such is the fact is abundantly  
verified by attested complaints against at least  
ten of the planters, whose names appear in this  
document, for compelling the laborers under duress  
to sign contracts, giving the late master 3/4 or 4/5  
of the crops to be raised, while the planter provides  
neither clothing, food, nor medical attendance, and  
in most instances now appropriates all the rice, corn  
and cotton, against the direct order of the Commis-  
sioner. It is also a notorious fact, that in the*

South Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received,  
Entered in Registers 1 and 2, A-O, May-Dec. 1865, Part 1  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Apr-19-2024 08:38:20



## Smithsonian Institution

*Freedmen's Bureau*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)