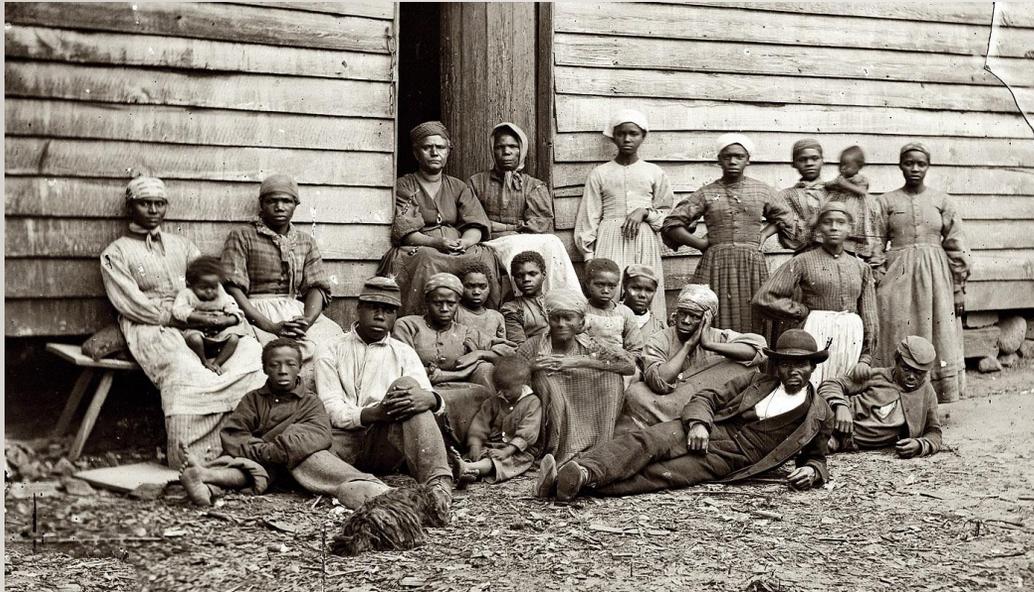




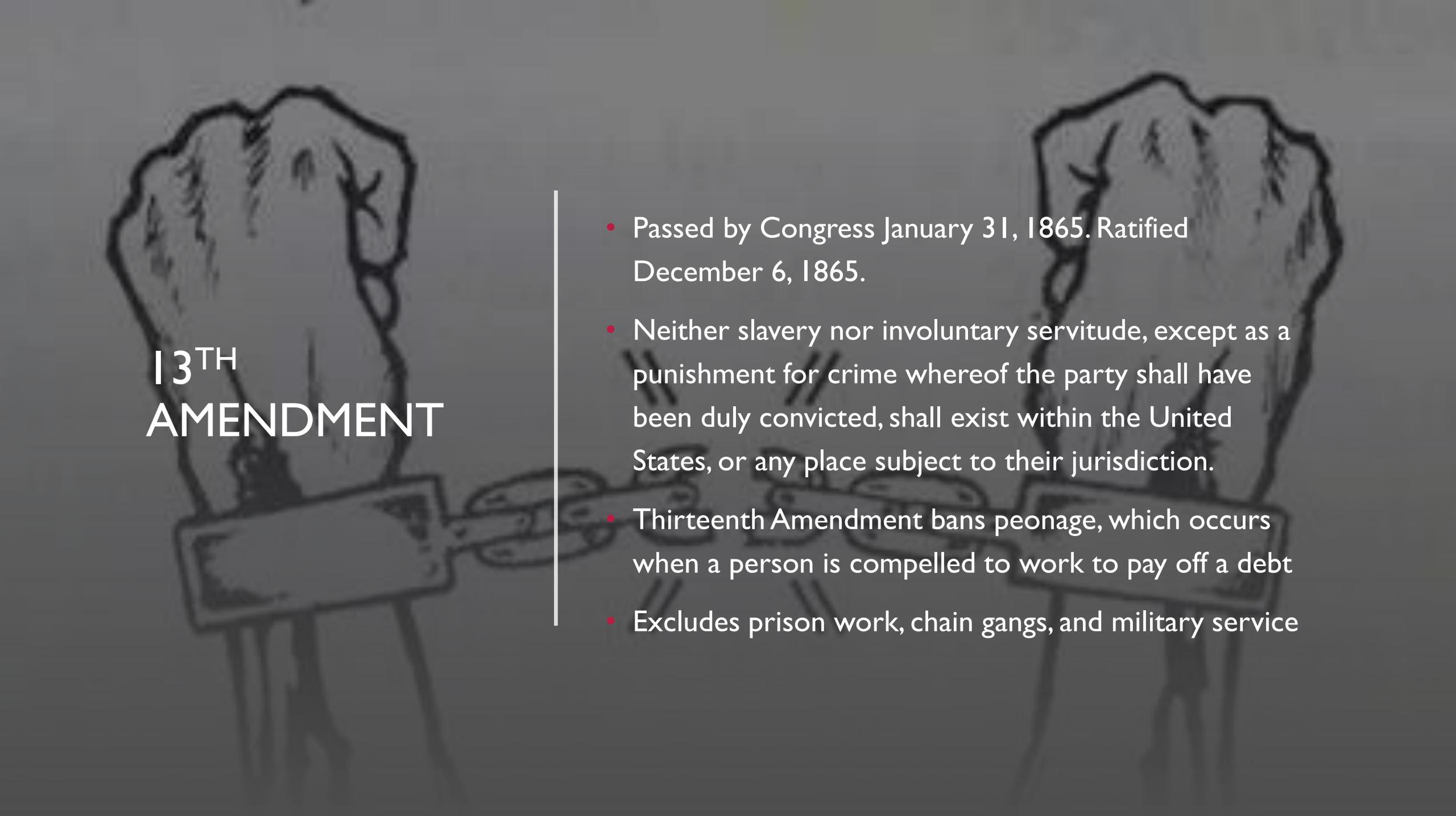
GENEALOGY OFF THE
SHELVES

FREEDMAN'S BUREAU RECORDS

EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION (1865-1877)



- On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”
- Black Union Soldiers totaled around 180,000
- Black Confederate Soldiers totaled about 10,000
- Civil War ends 1865, President Johnson begins Reconstruction soon after.
- Note: confiscated southern land returned to pre-war owners.

A faint, stylized illustration of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, both wearing metal shackles. The hands are positioned as if they are holding a horizontal bar or chain. The background is a dark, textured grey.

13TH AMENDMENT

- Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.
- Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
- Thirteenth Amendment bans peonage, which occurs when a person is compelled to work to pay off a debt
- Excludes prison work, chain gangs, and military service

14TH AMENDMENT



- Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.
- All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.
- Voting rights for all men, 21 and over (except rebels or the convicted)
- Note: different states had different voting laws (North AND South)

15TH AMENDMENT

- Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870
- The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- Confederate veterans can vote again



RECONSTRUCTION ACTS 1867

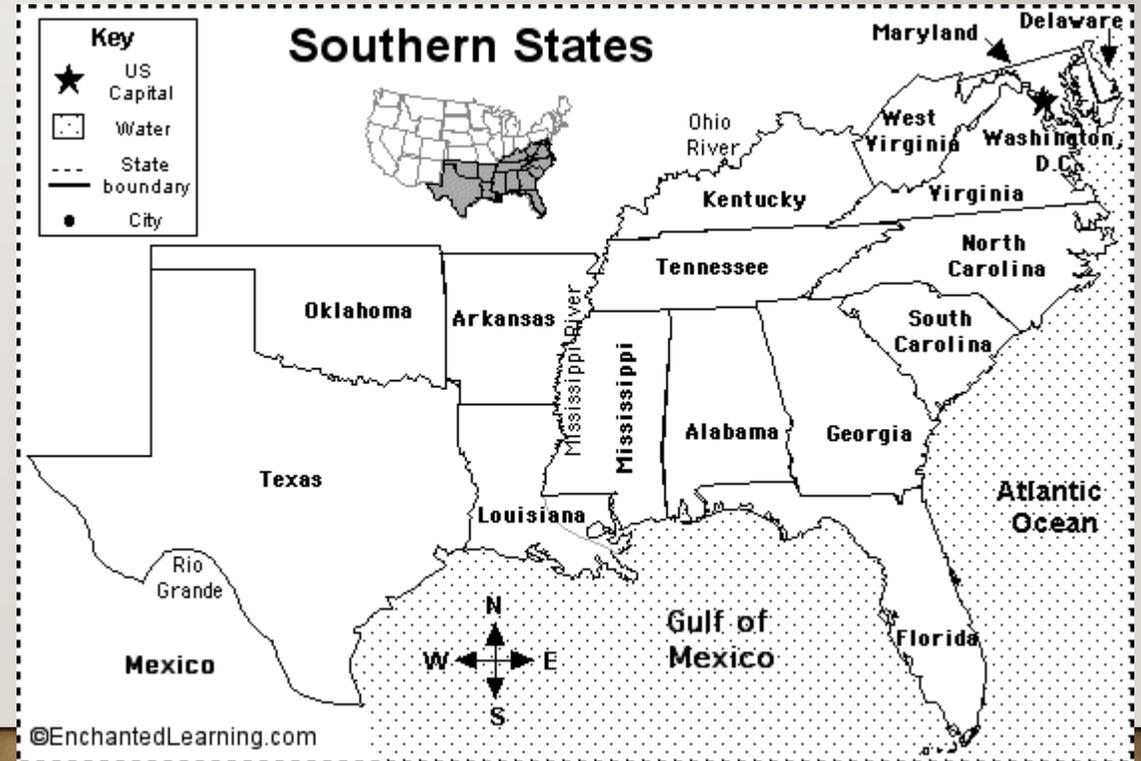
- The South was divided into five military districts and governed by military governors until acceptable state constitutions could be written and approved by Congress.
- All males, regardless of race, but excluding former Confederate leaders, were permitted to participate in the constitutional conventions that formed the new governments in each state.
- New state constitutions were required to provide for universal manhood suffrage (voting rights for all men) without regard to race.
- States were required to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment in order to be readmitted to the Union.

WHAT ARE THEY?

- The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands often referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865.
- Supervised all relief and educational activities relating to Southern refugees and freedmen
- Provided food, shelter, clothing, medical services, and land
- Records were created or maintained by bureau headquarters, the assistant commissioners and the state superintendents of education and included personnel records and a variety of standard reports concerning bureau programs and conditions in the states

STATES

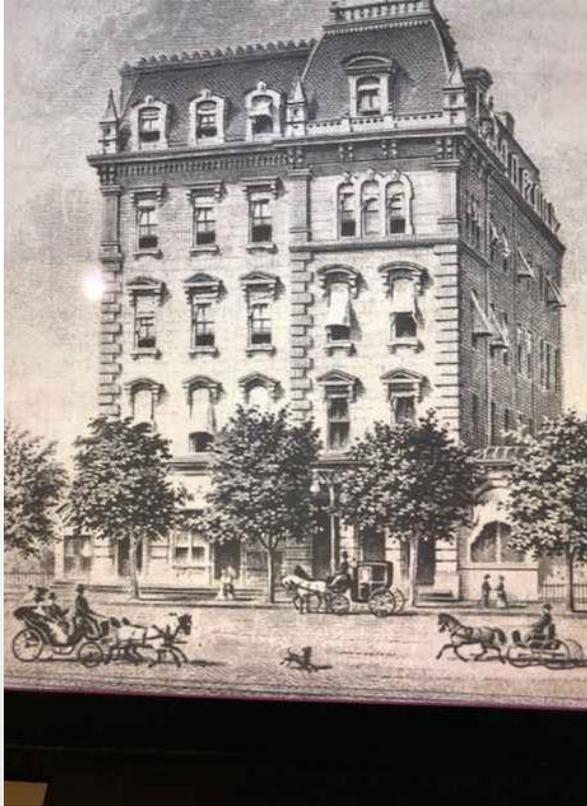
- Alabama
- Arkansas
- District of Columbia
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia



WHAT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND?

- Registers (listing names, ages, former occupations of freedmen, and names and residences of former owners)
- Marriage registers (listing names, addresses, ages, and complexions of husbands, wives, and their children)
- Census lists
- Applications of rations or relief
- Labor and apprenticeship contracts
- Back pay records
- Registers of complaints
- Personal data about black soldiers (including company and regiment)
- School records
- Registers of patients
- Medical records
- Registers of bounty claimants
- Court records
- Claim records
- Records of murders committed against freedmen
- Records relating to property restoration and homesteads





FREEDMEN'S BANK VS. BUREAU

- Freedman's Saving and Trust Company (Freedman's Savings Bank) = private savings bank chartered by the U.S. Congress on March 3, 1865, to collect deposits from the newly emancipated communities
- 37 branches across 17 states and D.C.
- Over 67,000 depositors
- Development of the bank was largely driven by false claims and was coupled with mismanagement and fraud.
- Closed 1874

No. 180 RECORD for Dice Edwards

Date, March 18, 1871.

Where born, 5 miles from Beaufort Ala.

Where brought up, all over the state.

Residence, 1st Ward near Reeds Store.

Age, 58 Complexion, light brown

Occupation, Washer

Works for those who will pay.

Wife or Husband, James Edwards

Children, Mary Ann, Michie Ann,
Sabel (Grand child)

Father, Unknown

Mother, Doreas

Brothers and Sisters, don't know

REMARKS: Strong, & sensible.

Signature, Dice Edwards
March

Dice Edwards
 "All over the state"
 "Near Reeds Store"
 "Light brown"
 "Those who pay"
 "Grandchild"
 "Unknown"
 "Strong and sensible"

No. 2198 RECORD for Charles Stuart Crotty
'Chuck'

Date, July 3, 1871

Where born, Ireland

Where brought up, In U.S. since 65.

Residence, 42 West 9th St

Age, 24 Complexion, White

Occupation, Manuf of Corsets.

Works for of Miss Crotty Bros & Co.

Wife or Husband,

Children,

Father, John (dead)

Mother, Elijah (dead)

Brothers and Sisters, John S. & Thomas in N.Y.,
Frank & Cornelius in Melbourne Aus
Mary Theresa in Dublin & Mary

REMARKS: in Riga Russia & Alice in Bal-
briggan near Dublin.

Signature, Chas S Crotty

Charles
 "Chuck"
 "Ireland"
 "In Riga, Russia and
 (?) in Balbriggan near
 Dublin"

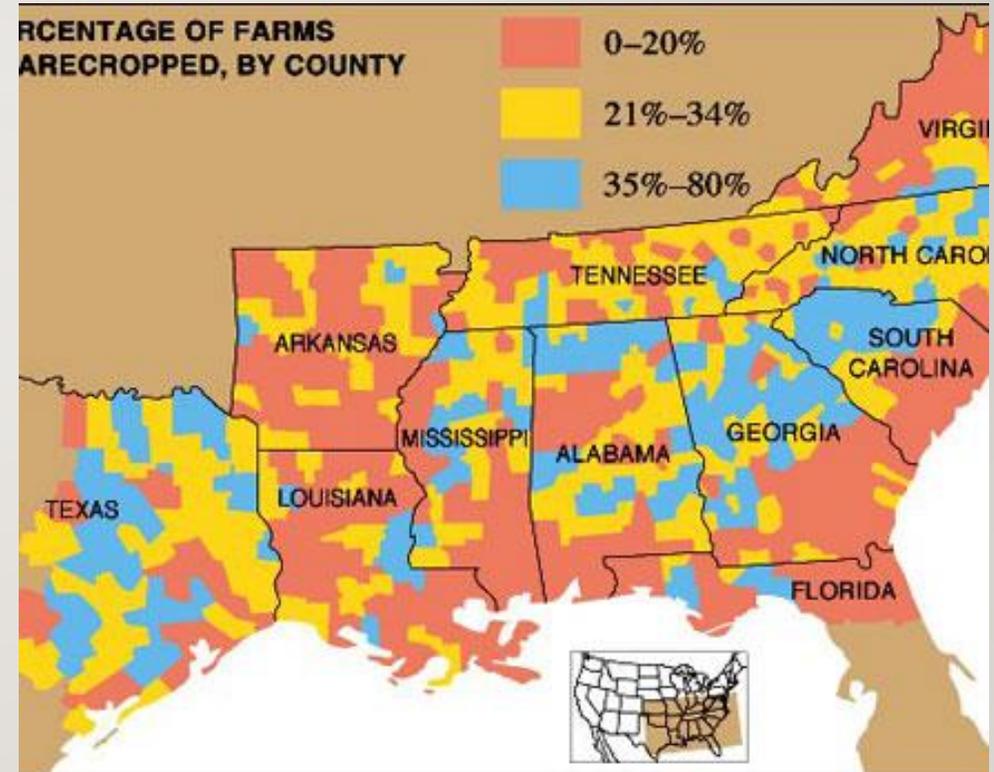
BUREAU OF REFUGEES

- Displaced people in the south, Black and white.
- The Bureau delivered food to freedmen and poor whites in the South and arranged labor contracts
- Early schools often charged tuition; Bureau created public schools in rural areas
- In 1830, about 55% of children aged 5 to 14 were enrolled in public schools; by 1870, this figure had risen to about 78%
- Southern white Americans hesitant to receive aid



SHARECROPPING

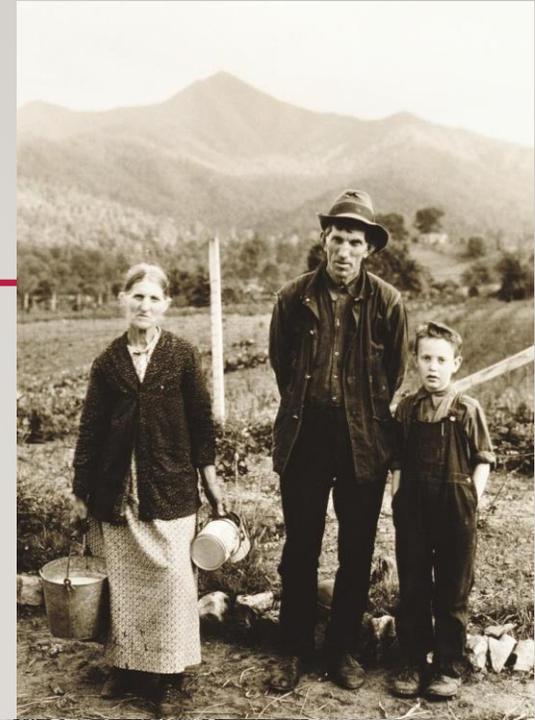
- Slavery by another name
- Serfdom in the modern age
- Landlord/Planter allow tenants to use the land in exchange for a share of the crop (amount and best share set by the planter)
- Rent out equipment to tenants
- Illegal or difficult to sell on the outside
- Perpetual indebtedness to landlord



SHARECROPPING REGARDLESS OF COLOR

“They never give you no details. They just say you owe so much. No matter how good account you kept, you had to go by their account and now, Brother, I’m tellin’ you the truth about this... he was always right, and you were always wrong it there was difference. If there was an argument, he would get mad and there would be a shooting take place.”
– Henry Blake, Little Rock

- Tenant Farmers = own tools and livestock
Sharecroppers = own nothing
- By the 1900’s, 2/3 of sharecroppers were white
- Black Americans moved north due to Jim Crow, Industrialization, and institutionalized economic oppression.



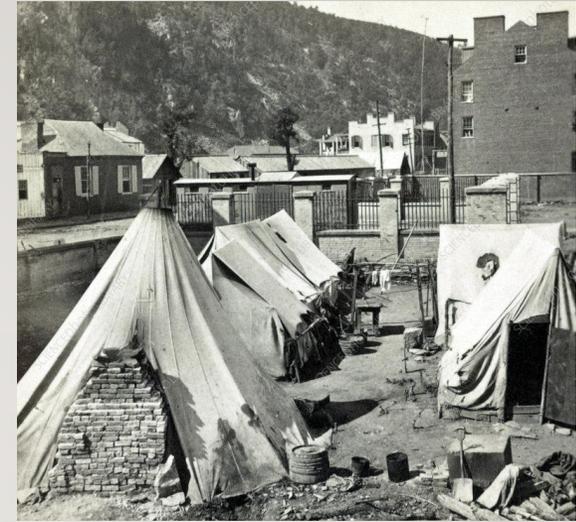
CAMPS AND COLONIES

Pre-Bureau is a modern term used to refer to the military's efforts to address the needs of the wartime African American refugee community.

Contraband Camps/Refugee Camps – Pre-Bureau, runaways, Union sympathetic, and enslaved gathered behind Union lines. Included a lot of similar services to the Freedmen's Bureau, just more transient.

Home Colonies – Take a designated plantation and turn it into a home for workers, the ill, and the elderly. Wages would be recorded. Often self-sustaining with schools, stores, and a hospital.

- Rost Colony in St. Charles Parish, LA
- McHatton Colony near Baton Rouge, LA
- Sparks Plantation in Jefferson Parish, LA
- Bragg Plantation in Lafourche Parish, LA



APPRENTICESHIPS



- Indentures of apprenticeship are preprinted or handwritten forms giving pertinent data concerning the contracted parties and dates of apprenticeship and include a statement of the obligations and responsibilities of each party. Registers of indentures provide the date, name of the person indentured, name of the officer who officiated, name of the custodian to whom the person was indentured and occasionally parents.
- Apprenticed until age 18 for women and 21 for men.
- Consent not needed from parents.

BLACK CODES

- Contracts between freedmen and employers (usually farmers or plantation owners) witnessed by Bureau officers. Most of the contracts provide the names of the contracting parties, the period of service, the rate of wages, and type of work to be performed.
- "Be it enacted by the general assembly, That every person having one-fourth or more of negro blood, shall be deemed a colored person, and every person, not a colored person, having one-fourth or more of Indian blood, shall be deemed an Indian."

LABOR CONTACTS

May include:

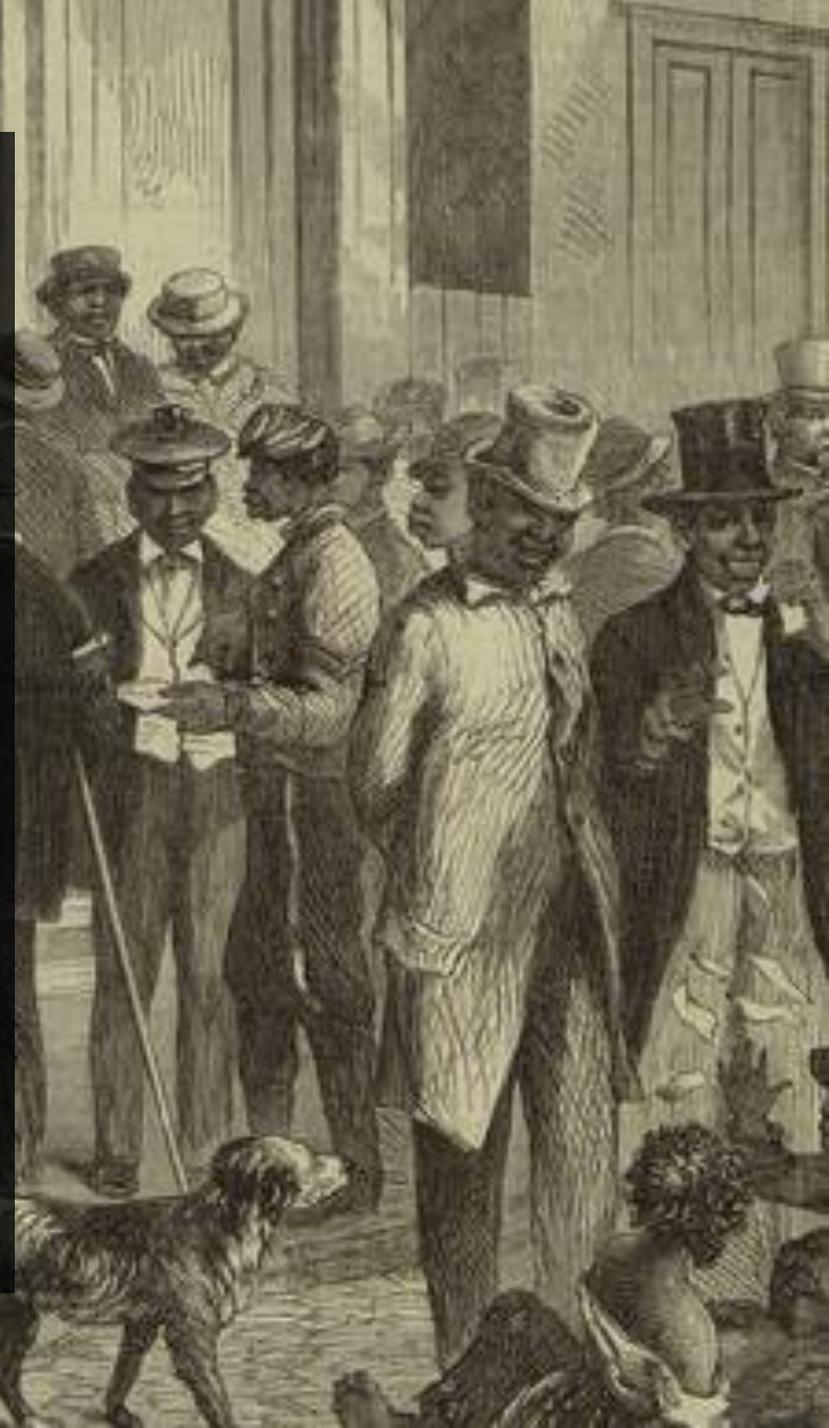
- Given and Surname
- Age and/or Birth Date
- Death Date
- Residence
- Spouse Name and Birth
- Race or Color
- Occupation
- Marriage Date
- Military Unit

Renewed annually by law

This Article of Agreement, made this *First* day of *January* 186*6*
between *Joseph Luckett Freedman* of the first part, and
Thos Burch & A.C. Trundle of the second part,
WITNESSETH:
THAT for, and in consideration of the sum of *One Hundred & Twenty* dollars, the
said *Joseph Luckett* hereby agrees faithfully and diligently to
perform the duties of *Laborer* for the said *Thos Burch*
A.C. Trundle at his place in *Loudon* County, Va., or
such other place as he may direct, for the period of *Twelve, "12"* months, in consid-
eration of which services the party of the second part herewith agrees to pay the said party of the first part the sum of
Ten *10* dollars per month, with proper and suitable food and quarters. The said
parties hereby further agree that a sum equal to one month's pay shall be retained by the said party of the second part until
final settlement at the expiration of the said period *December 31st 1866*
And the said parties further unchangably agree that if this contract be violated by either party without legal cause, the
party so violating the same shall pay to the other, as liquidated damages, the sum of *Fifty Dollars*
50 dolla s.
And the said parties further agree that if it shall be mutually desirable to annul this contract before the expiration of
the term agreed upon, it shall be done only in the presence and with the concurrence of such officer of the FREEDMAN'S BU-
REAU as may have immediate jurisdiction in th's matter in the district wherein the said parties re-ide.
Given at *Charlottesville* Va., on the day and date above written.
Burch & Trundle { L. S. }
WITNESS: *Joseph Luckett* { L. S. }
Mr. M. Collins
Capt 58th Pa. vols
Asst Supt Freedman Bureau
Charlottesville Va


VOTING

- Name
- Time of residence in the state, in the county, and in the precinct
- Place of nativity
- When and where naturalized
- Remarks
- Can be used to create a timeline of migration



WHERE TO FIND THEM?

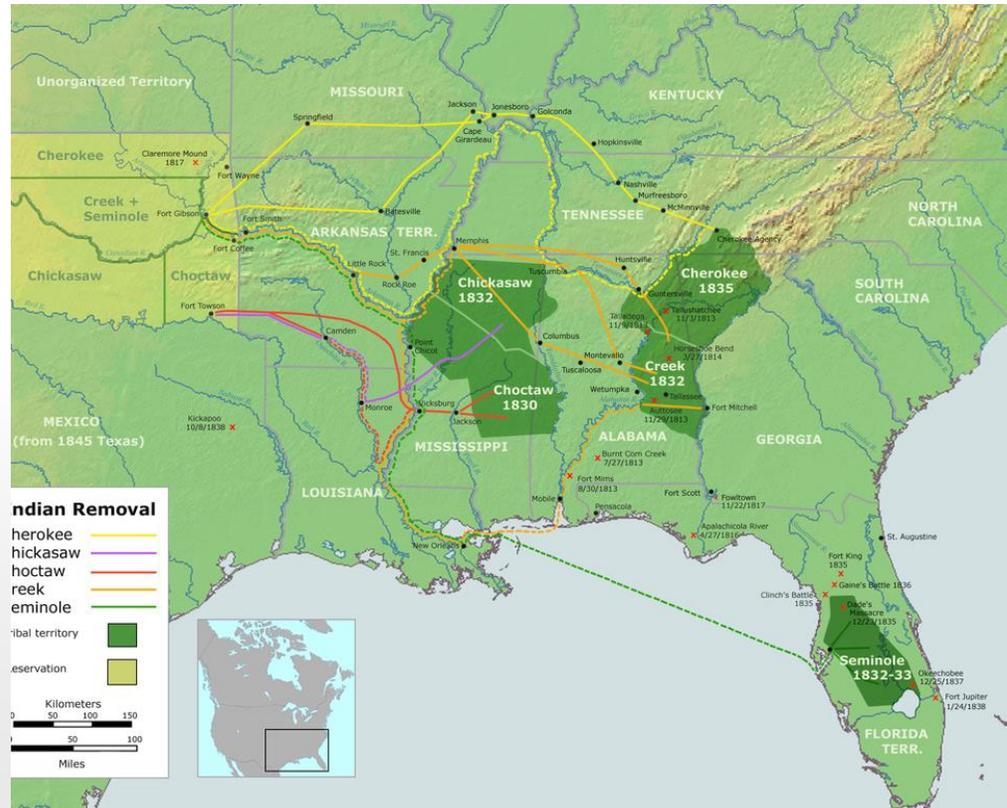
- National Archives
- Ancestry
- FamilySearch
- Local and State Archives



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA.—[SEE PAGE 294.]

5 CIVILIZED TRIBES

- Cherokee - February 1863
- Chickasaw – April 1866
- Choctaw – April 1866
- Creek – June 1866
- Seminole – March 1866



GEOGRAPHY

Mapping the Freedmen's Bureau

(<https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/>)

- Where Freedman's Bureau offices were located
- Branch of the Freedman's Saving Bank
- Freedmen's Bureau Hospitals
- Freedmen's Schools
- Contraband Camps
- Battle sites where men who were in the US colored Troops fought

OTHER RESOURCES

- Southern Claims Commission
- Congressional Records
- Non-Population Census
- Amnesty and Pardons

- Black ProGen
- <https://www.whoisnickasmith.com/blackprogen/>
- International African American Museum Center for Family History
- <https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/blog/>