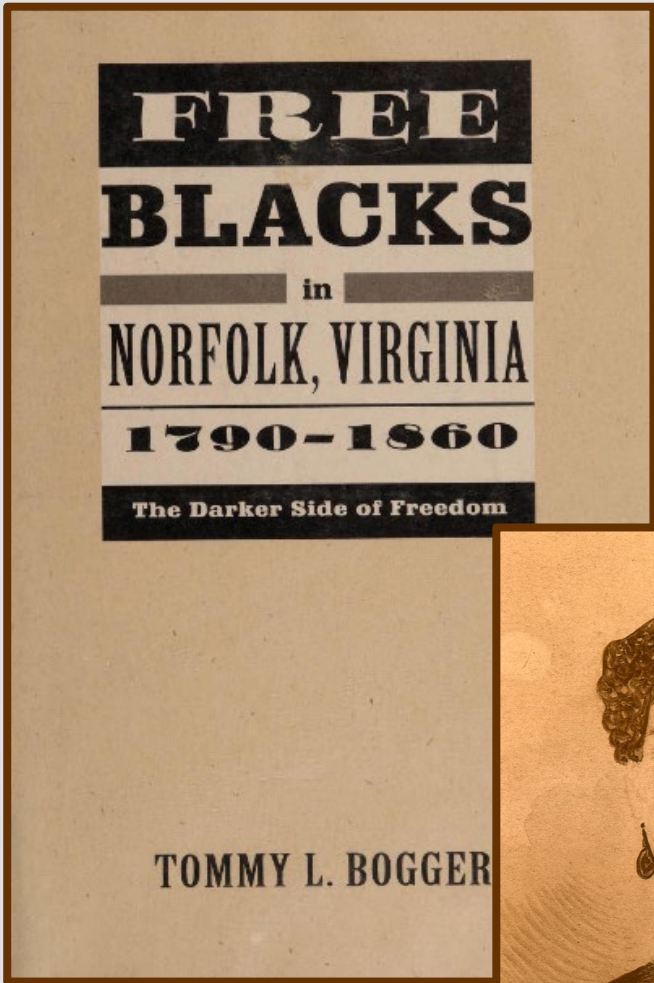




Community of Eligibility:
Testimony on Lineage
Research of Enslaved
African Americans

Hollis Gentry
March 29, 2022

Lisletown, Kentucky

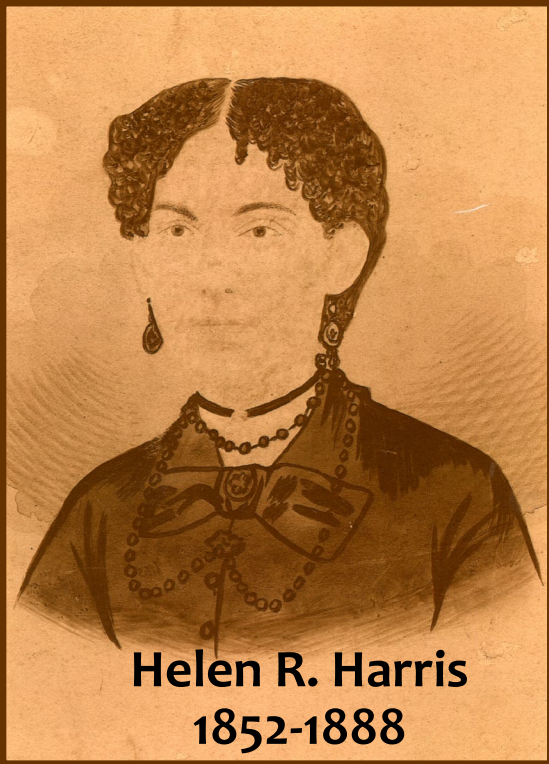


**WHERE IN THE WORLD?
Lisletown, A Black Hamlet**

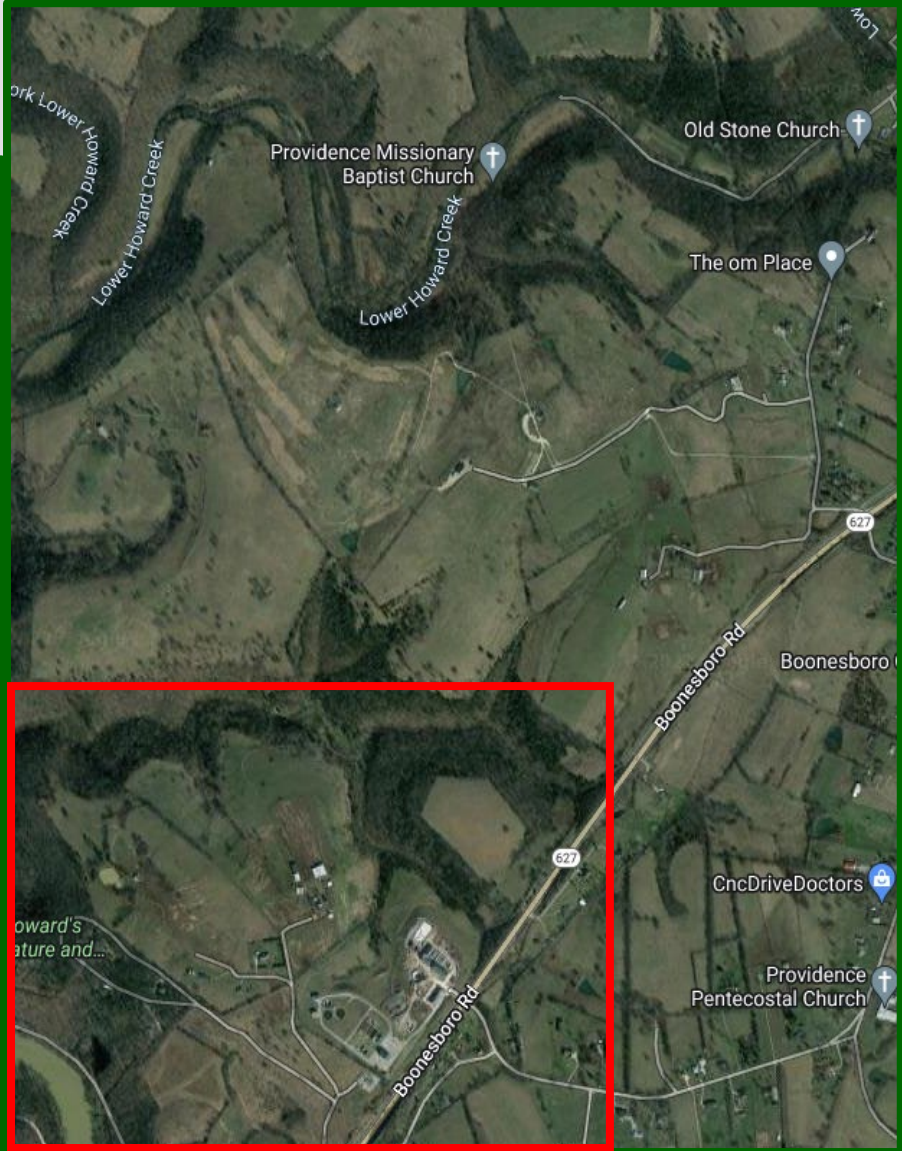
Harry G. Enoch
October 8 and 22, 2011

Following the Civil War, the freed slaves faced daunting challenges. According to one historian, "After emancipation on December 18, 1865, Kentucky's 225,000 former slaves were on their own. Literally overnight, tens of thousands of black Kentuckians were scrambling for the basics of life in an often hostile environment." Most had no money, no housing, no land and no job. So many moved to the cities to find work that there was soon a shortage of farm labor on post-bellum estates.

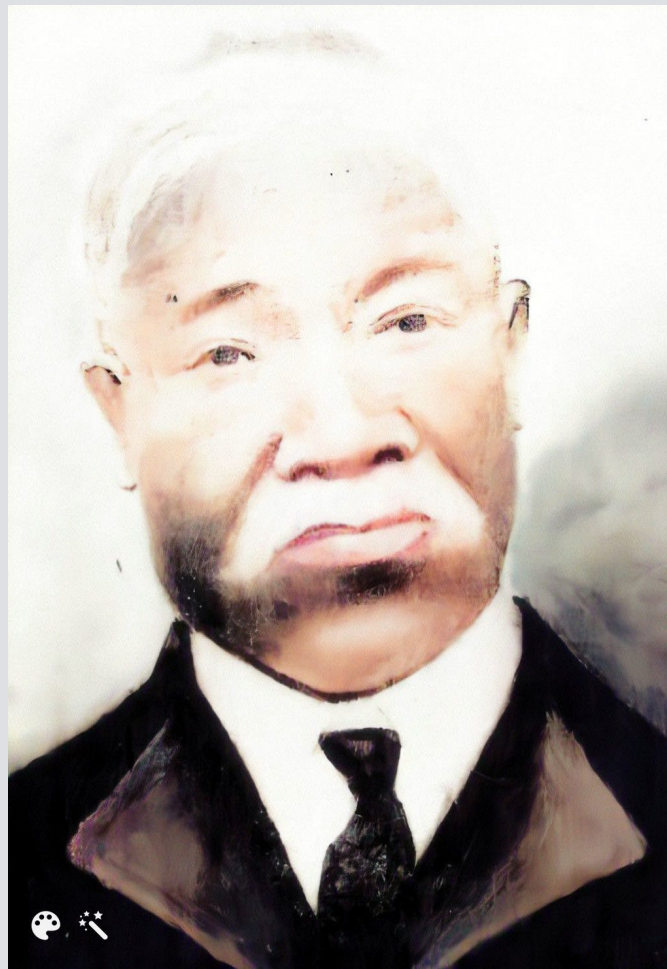
To attract workers, large landowners in the Bluegrass set aside tracts of 10 to 20 acres and gave away, rented or sold lots to those willing to work on their farms. Examples in the region were Fort Spring and Little Georgetown. These small villages were called Freetowns. Each lot had space for a house, garden, chicken house, and a well. Freetowns were most numerous in Fayette County, which had many farms. As a result, blacks came to play a key role in the region's economy. All Freetowns were not established by white owners, but Lisletown, a small black hamlet in Clark County, had a different origin. It was founded near the Kentucky River and the mouth of Lower Howard's Creek. Lisletown is on the site of Fielding Lisle's Restaurant from Winchester on Athens-Boonesboro Road. Its founder was Fielding Lisle, a



Fielding Lisle was one of seventeen slaves belonging to Henry Lisle. In 1864, Fielding and his brother John enlisted in the Union Army. Fielding served in the 10th U.S. Colored Infantry, was sent to Virginia where they fought at Petersburg and Richmond. After the fall of Petersburg, they fled to the mountains. After Robert E. Lee's army and his surrender at Appomattox Court House, Fielding was described as 5 feet 7 inches tall with a copper complexion and a government pension for his service. Fielding returned briefly to Madison County. He was listed in the 1870 Census as living in White Hall with his wife Annie and daughters Mary and Elizabeth. He moved to Clark County and settled on 20 acres of land he purchased from the estate of Henry Lisle. The tract was described as "part of the old [John] Lisle Farm" and was wooded land and has no buildings thereon." Fielding paid for the land at the time, he had \$200 on record in an account at the time that he may have received in connection with his military service. He also sold or gave tracts to his future wife Emily and to his children. He also sold or gave tracts to his future wife Emily and to his children. He also sold or gave tracts to his future wife Emily and to his children.



U.S. Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1875, Samuel Sumner, Acct #1183



Mills Sumner Jr., 1855-1916

No. 1183 Record for Samuel Sumner

Date of Application, July 27 1871

Where born, Norfolk Va.

Where brought up, Greenville

Residence, near the cemetery

Age, 11

Complexion, brown light

Occupation,

Works for

Wife,

Children,

Father, Mills Sumner in Norfolk Va.

Mother, Rachel Bird Allaire

Brothers, Tom Luke Johnson

Sisters, Ellen, Henrietta & Polly

Signature,

Ancestry.com



Rachel Hodges, 1820-1913

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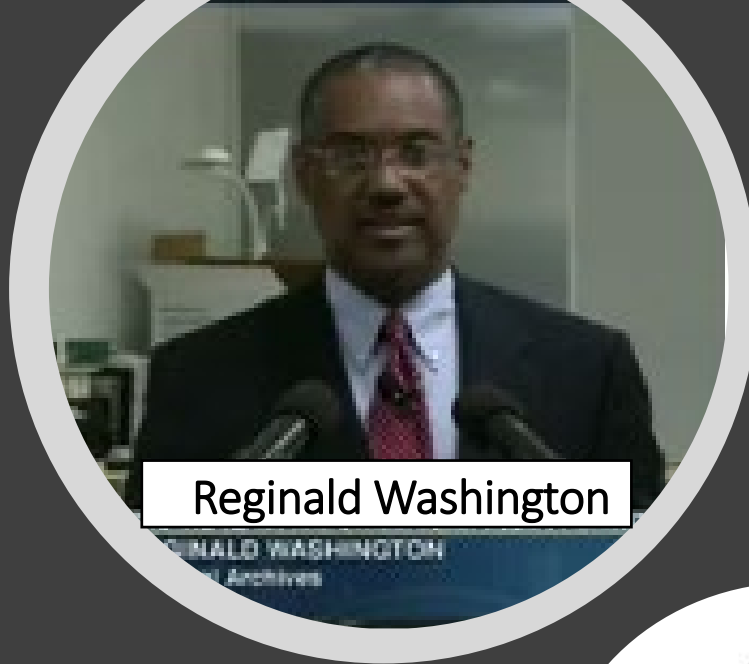
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Alex Haley



James O. Eastland



Reginald Washington

REGINALD WASHINGTON
Archivist



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

The Atlanta Constitution
April 16, 1977, p 19, Newspapers.com

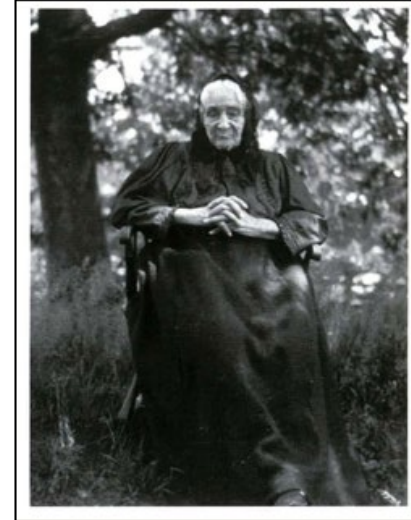
Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records

Field Office Records of the Bureau of
Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands
(The Freedmen's Bureau), 1865-1872

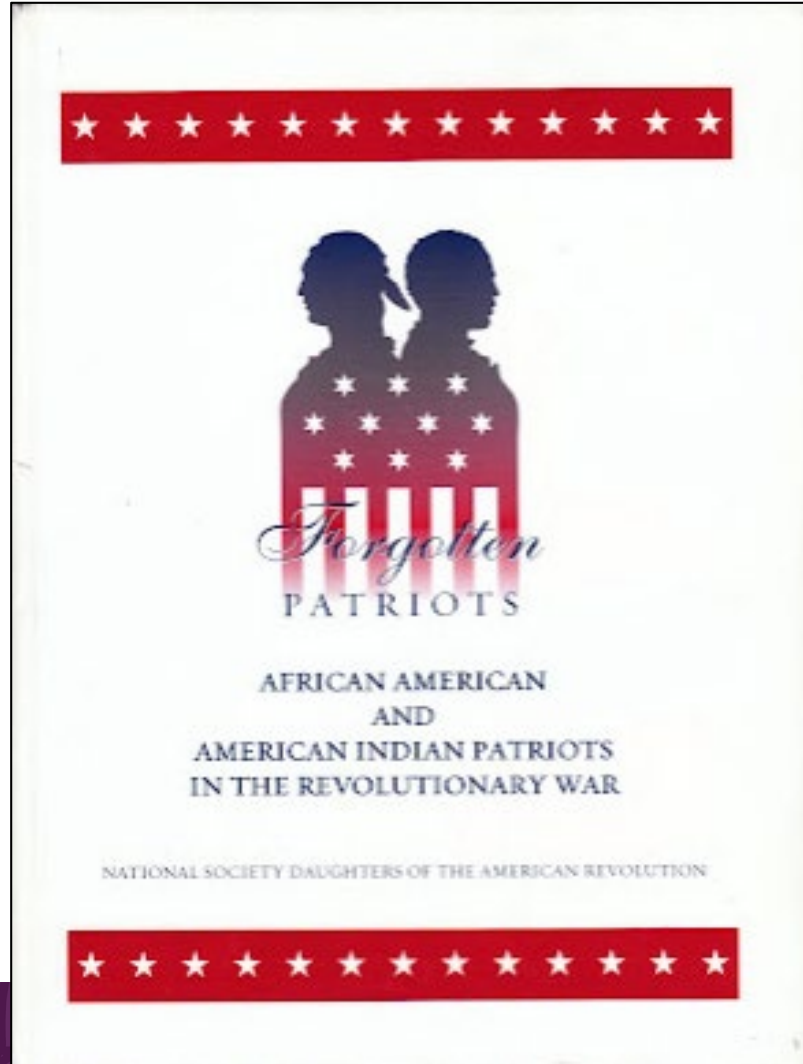
*Emancipation left freed men, women, and children in desperate need of relief, medicine,
the family, education, employment, and protection. The Freedmen's Bureau's field office records
hold stories of their struggle and the unprecedented efforts to secure their needs.*



www.dar.org/library/research-gides/forgotten-patriots



Findagrave.com



Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Secretary's Office, September, 13th 1888.
I hereby Certify, That, from an examination of the Books and Documents, relating to Military Services in the War of the Revolution, which remain in this Department, it appears that Prince Anup of Andover, served as a Private in Capt. Abbot's Company, Colo-Tupper's Regiment, from Feb^y 19th 1777 to December 31st 1780 - Forty five months and eleven days at 40/100 month.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto affixed the Seal of the Commonwealth, the date above written.

John P. Bigelow
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Eunice Russ Ames Davis

BIRTH	26 Oct 1800 Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts, USA
DEATH	26 Apr 1901 (aged 100) Dedham, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, USA
BURIAL	<u>Brookdale Cemetery</u> Dedham, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, USA
PLOT	Eglantine Path, Lot 0436
MEMORIAL ID	30936528 · View Source

“I think we need to recognize that if we can make history personal, find the connections with the public, we’ll be able to help them see the broader issues. Anyone who’s seen the great interest in genealogy recognizes there’s a thirst for history.”

– **LONNIE G. BUNCH III,**
SECRETARY OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



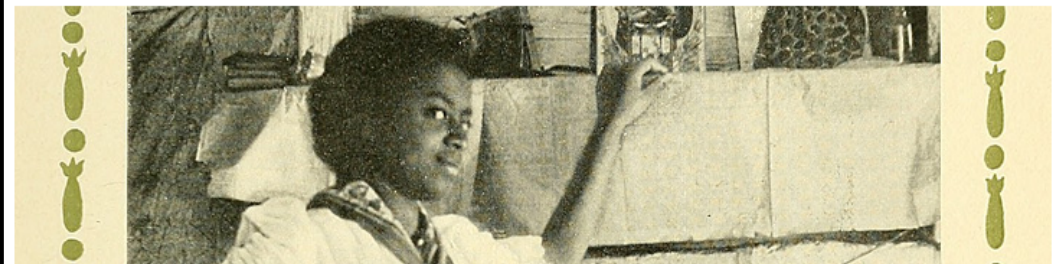
A People’s Journey
A Nation’s Story



nmaahc.si.edu



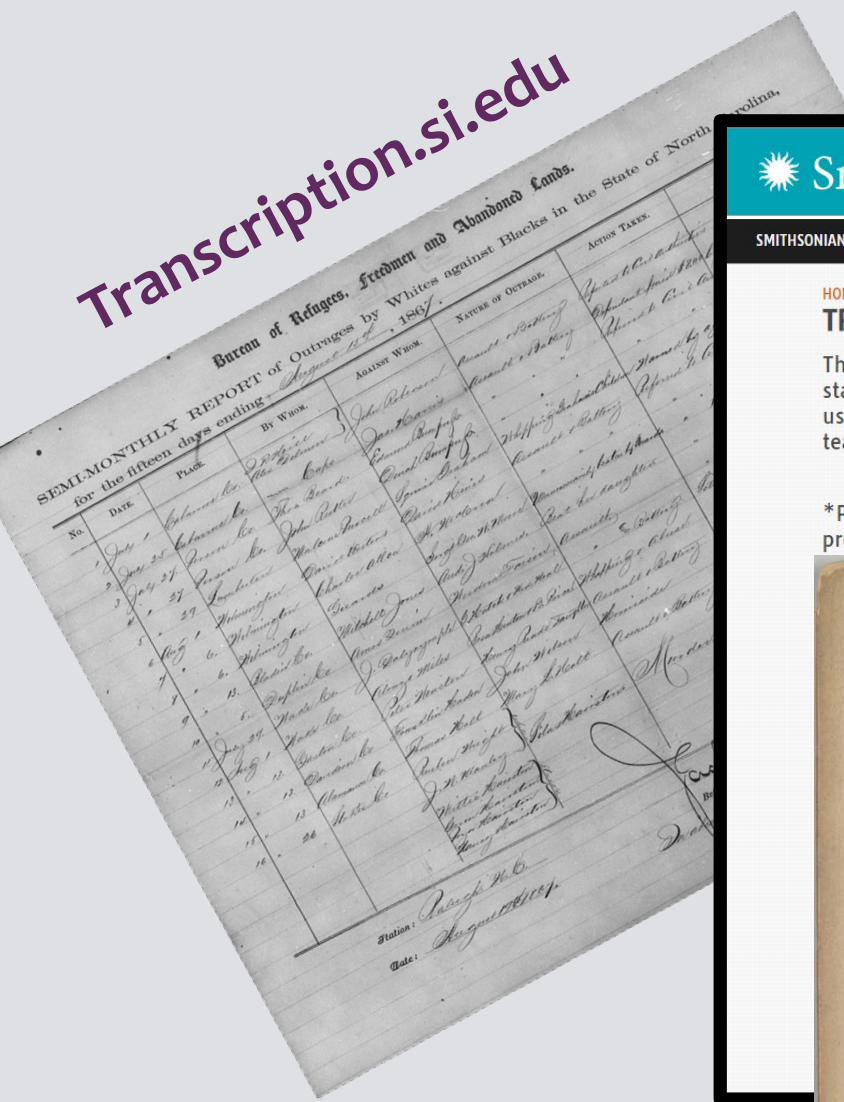
National Museum of African American History & Culture Library



The National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC) Library is devoted to collecting and providing access to resources that support scholarship in African American history, culture, and the African Diaspora. The Library also supports research in genealogy and family history.

Transcription.si.edu

#DiscoverTCFreedmen



Smithsonian

HOME PROJECTS SEARCH ABOUT TIPS BLOG

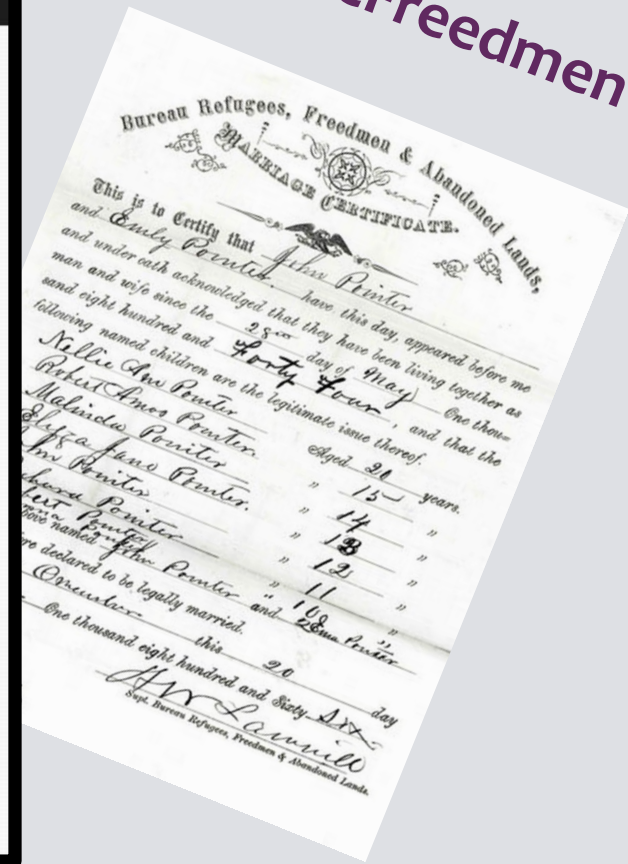
SMITHSONIAN DIGITAL VOLUNTEERS: TRANSCRIPTION CENTER SIGNUP LOGIN

HOME

TRANSCRIBING THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU PAPERS

Thank you for being a digital volunteer! It's very important that this work is performed in a standardized manner, so please make the effort to read and follow these instructions. Reach out to us anytime with questions by emailing the TC team at transcribe@si.edu or the Freedmen's Bureau team at freedmensbureau@si.edu.

*Please note that given the historical time period in which the Freedmen's Bureau records were produced, and the wide range of experiences and topics included within these documents, you may



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List of Suggestions

1. Establish an agency to administer and manage the eligibility processing. Connect that agency to the state archives and office of vital records to facilitate efficient access to records that assist reparations applicants.
2. Enlist public, state, and private libraries to conduct genealogy research workshops that help potential applicants trace their enslaved ancestry.
3. Create a committee to identify and survey the types of records most useful to African American genealogy and enslaved ancestry research.
4. Survey and publish a study on California African American genealogy and history resources. The survey would update previous surveys done by the Federal Writers Project and Works Projects Administration of the early 20th century.
5. Train a corps of African American genealogists, and genealogists of other ethnicities and cultural backgrounds to develop skills to research and compile documentation needed to trace African American lineage to enslaved ancestry.