

Negroes, Education: post-Civil War, reconstruction segregation

War of Rebellion Series 1, Vol. XLVII p 418

Headquarters District of Savannah, Savannah, Ga., May 6, 1865

Assistant Adjutant-General, Headquarters Department of the South

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an official letter dated May 3, 1865, from the major general commanding, and reply as follows to the questions therein contained, viz: The number of white children of the proper age to attend schools in ~~xx~~ this city is not less than 2,000.

The number actually attending now is about 600. The number will gradually increase, of course. The free schools for white children are supported, as will be seen, from the civil fund, which accrues from taxes, rents, fines and confiscations of smuggled goods etc. and which at present affords an income of about \$6,500 per month. The number of colored children in Savannah will not, I think, reach over 1,800, for the education of which there are now two schools, viz Mr. Magill's school having on its roll 500 children, and a school under the auspices of what is called the Savannah Educational Association, having on its rolls 600. With the exception of assigning a proper school building, fitting it up, etc. I have taken no official action in regard to these schools for the reason that Mr. Magill has ~~xxxx~~ been sent here by General Saxton as superintendent of all the schools for colored children in the eastern part of Georgia. He has his own teachers. All, I am informed, are paid by some benevolent association in the North. Mr. Magill has thus far had every every facility afforded him which he desired.

The school under the supervision of the Savannah Educational Association has colored teachers, and is superintended by colored men.

Thus far Mr. Magill has had nothing to do with this school and is not in favor of the system pursued etc. of the employment of colored teachers.

He does not think that a school can be successfully managed under such an organization. Another difficulty which stands in the way of establishing colored schools on a proper basis is that all the teachers will have to be brought from the North.

I am informed that the climate here is such as to make it necessary to close all schools at the end of June, less than two months from the present time. The schools remain ~~closed~~ closed until the 1st of October. Therefore, I do not think that the education of the colored children can, for the rest of the season, be upon a better basis than it now is, under which the colored children seem to be considerably better provided for, in proportion to the numbers than the white are now. Any assistance in the way of hiring competent teachers, when found, we can give, as we give to the free schools established in General Orders No. 29. But if the ~~supervision~~ supervision of such schools rests with General Saxton, as he evidently think, it does by sending here a superintendent for them, of course all that I can do in the matter will be to furnish them from time to time such assistance as they may require which has thus far been done. If, however, General Saxton is not authorized to appoint a superintendent or supervise the schools, and will inform me to that effect, I will at once take the necessary steps to establish them and see to their support. I am sir, very respectfully, C. Grover

Brevet-Major General Commanding



Headquarters, Department of the South

Hilton Head, S.C. May 10, 1865

Bvt. Maj. Geo. C. Grover, commanding District and Post of Savannah, Savannah, Ga.

General: General Orders No. 29, dated April 30, 1865, from the headquarters U.S. forces, city of Savannah, establishing three free public schools for the education of white children in that city; appointing a board of education therefor composed of residents of Savannah with the ~~my~~ mayor of that city, ex officio as chairman; also appointing a superintendent of common schools, who, in conjunction with the board of education, is by such order directed to establish these free schools for children and providing that such superintendent shall receive an annual salary of \$3,000 from the civil fund, is disapproved and you are directed to revoke the same in general orders.

Savannah is a captured city, occupied by national soldiers and governed by the national military authority.

The population of Savannah is equally divided, or very nearly so, between two races, the whites and the blacks, and the city is garrisoned alike by white and black soldiers. The white inhabitants, including nearly all the prominent men, have generally been disloyal during the rebellion, and many of them are avowedly so at the present time, while the colored people, with rare unanimity, have been true to the national flag, and the national ~~xx~~ authority, and have never, except under ~~xxxxxx~~ armed compulsion given aid and comfort to the insurgents.

Both soldierly honor and simple justice require that during our military occupation of this department no unjust distinctions as to privileges and favors be made against ~~xxx~~ a loyal race resident therein, which has furnished almost exclusively the only local defenders of our country's honor and flag.



Whatever may be the policy which our Government may determine to pursue toward the leaders and the active aiders and abettors of the rebellion, our duty to those who have remained thoroughly and consistently loyal appears plain and unmistakable. I consider the general order referred to as unjust toward the blacks, in that it directs the mayor of Savannah ex officio to act in the matter of educating white children alone. The mayor of Savannah is bound to act and is expected to act with equal solicitude for the equal welfare and improvement of all classes of the residents of that city. If he cannot do that conscientiously he should in honor, resign, and if he does not he will be removed.

The order is deemed further unjust in that it appropriates money from what is called a "civil fund" for the benefit of a class and not of all. This civil fund is raised by the military ~~authority~~ authority and applied by them to civil uses, in defraying such expenses as are involved in the local government and management of Savannah. In various ways, direct and indirect, both white and blacks contribute to it, and it must be used equally for all.

The fact that Northern charity has in some degree ministered to the education of the children of the freedmen does not relieve the military authorities from making equal provision for all classes where it helps any. I do not propose to interfere in any manner with questions of State policy, or to give official expression to partisan or peculiar opinions, but simply, during the military occupation of this department, to enforce equal and exact military justice and extend equal and exact military protection to all loyal persons without regard to color or race. You will adopt such measures as you think proper for the education of the children of Savannah, governing yourself in so doing by the principles herein above enunciated. I have etc.

the honor Q.A. Gillmore, Major-General U.S. Volunteers, commanding department.



Negroes: Voting: Rights, enforcement of rights Sherman on

War of "ebellion Series I, Vol XLVII p 515

HdQRS Military Division of the Mississippi, in the Field, Dumfries, Va,  
May 17, 1865, 9 p.m. General O. O. Howard, Washington, D.C.

...I hardly know whether to congratulate you or not, but of one thing you may rest assured, that you possess my entire confidence and I cannot imagine that matters that may involve the future of ~~4,000,000~~ 4,000,000 of souls could be put in more charitable and more conscientious hands. So far as man can do, I believe you will, but I fear you have Hercules' task.

God has limited the power of man, and though in the kindness of your heart you would alleviate all the ills of humanity it is not in your power, nor is it in your power to fulfill one-tenth part of the expectations of those who framed the bureau for the freedmen, refugees and abandoned estates.

It is simply impracticable. Yet you can and will do all the good one man may, and that is all you are called on as a man and Christian to do, and to that extent count on me as a friend and fellow soldier for counsel and assistance.

I believe the negro is free by act of master and by the laws of war, now ratified by actual consent and power. The demand for his labor and his ability to acquire and work land will ~~enable~~ enable the negro to work out that amount of freedom and political consequence to which he is or may be entitled by natural right, and the acquiescence of his fellowmen (white). But I fear that parties will agitate for the negro's right of suffrage and equal political status, not that he asks it or wants it, but merely to manufacture that number of available votes for politicians to work on.



If that be attempted we arouse a new and dangerous element, prejudice, which right or wrong, does exist and should be consulted. There is a strong prejudice of race which over our whole country exists. The negro is denied a vote in all the Northern States save two or three and then qualified by conditions not attached to the white race and by the Constitution of the United States. No State is left the right to fix the qualification of voters.

The United States cannot make negroes vote in the South any more than they can in the North without revolution, and we have just emerged from one attempted revolution, ~~and as we have agreed~~ it would be wrong to begin another. I believe the negro is free constitutionally, and if the United States will simply guarantee that freedom and allow the negro to hire his own labor, the transition will be comparatively easy, but if we attempt to force the negro on the South as a voter "a loyal citizen" we begin a new revolution in which the Northwest may take a different side from what we did when we were fighting to vindicate our Constitution.

I am more than usually sensitive on this point because I have realized ~~that~~ in our country that one class of men makes war and leaves another to fight it out. I am tired of fighting and if the "theorists" of New England impress this new condition on us, I dread the result.

The country is now deeply in debt, the South is exhausted and can contribute little or nothing toward its payment no matter how severe the laws of taxation be made, and the sale of her lands and plantations will not realize one tenth part of the money required to pay the troops that will be needed to enforce the sales and maintain possession to the purchasers. I know the people of the South even better than you do,



and you cannot doubt the sincerity of my opinion.

I do believe the people of the South realize the fact that their former slaves are free, and if allowed reasonable time and are not harassed by "confiscation" and political complication will very soon adapt their condition and interest to their new state of facts. Many of them will sell or lease on easy terms part of their land to their former slaves and gradually the same political state of things will result as now exists in Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri.

The West will not submit to the taxation necessary to maintain separate colonies of Negroes, or the armies needed to enforce the rights of negroes dwelling in the Southern States in a condition antagonistic to the feelings and prejudices of the people, the result of which will be internal war, and the final extermination of the white or black majority. But I confess I am not familiar with the laws of Congress which originated your bureau...

W.T. Sherman, major-general

War of <sup>R</sup>ebellion series; ~~S~~esearch

Series I, Vol XLVII

Richmond, Va. , May 17, 1865, 1 p.m.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war

I learn that Vance was started for Washington this morning under guard.

The Rebel War Department records, eighty-one boxes, weighing ten tons, will leave this evening (estimated five carloads)

H.W. ~~W~~ Halleck, Major-General.

....found at Charlotte, informed of their being there by General Johnson soon after surrender of his army. Few had been broken open ... Doubtless some carried away. All that remained were carefully collected and replaced in boxes. J.M. Schofield, major general

Headquarters Dept of North Carolina, Army of the Ohio,  
Raleigh, N.C. . May 17, 1865

Invoice of the archives of the late Confederate War Department as received from General Johnston at Charlotte at Charlotte, N.C., on the 13th day of May, 1865; five boxes marked Letters received; three boxes marked ~~Confidential~~ Certificates of disability; 13 marked Adjutant and Inspector General's Office; 5 boxes marked Captured flags; 1 box marked Books and papers General's ~~head~~ <sup>headquarters</sup>; 1 box marked Official reports of battles; 1 marked Provost-marshal; 1 box marked Lieutenant Blackford, C.S. Engineers; 1 marked Col John Withers, C.S. Army; 3 boxes marked Dept. office; 7 boxes contents unknown; 11 boxes marked War Department; C.S.A.; 21 boxes marked Regimental rolls; 1 box marked Signal glasses, six marked Miscellaneous papers, J.M. Schofield, Major-General.



Segregation: Negroes

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol XLVII p. 387

headquarters Department of the South, Hilton Head, S.C., May 3, 1865

Bvt. Maj. Gen C. Grover, Commanding District of Savannah, Savannah, Ga.

General: I have observed in the Savannah Republican of May 2 instant your General Orders No. 29 providing for the support of "three free public schools for the education of white children" in the city of Savannah.

Without any desire to exercise any ~~improper~~ improper interference in the local affairs of your post, it is important that I should be made acquainted in some detail with the policy which you have marked out for yourself for the education of the children of Savannah, and - therefore request that you will send, by the officer who bears this letter, written replies to the following questions, viz: First, What is the number of white children attending the free schools in the city of Savannah, and what are the sources and the amount of the fund from which the expenses of said schools are to be paid, as provided in your general order above referred to? Second. What is the number of colored children attending school in Savannah, and what official action have you taken to provide for their education in the way of providing school houses and paying the expense of hiring competent teachers?

Very respectfully etc. Q.A. Gillmore, major-general commanding.



Negroes, Education: post-Civil War, reconstruction segregation  
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He does not think that a school can be successfully managed under such an organization. Another difficulty which stands in the way of establishing colored schools on a proper basis is that all the teachers will have to be brought from the north.

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