



Mine the Gold! Effectively Research Millions of New Freedmen's Bureau Records from FamilySearch

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You will learn:

- What was the Freedmen's Bureau?
- What records were kept during the operation of the bureau?
- What was the Freedmen's Bureau Project?
- How can we use the Freedmen's Bureau records for genealogical research?

What was the Freedmen's Bureau?

Formed by an act of Congress at the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau (The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands) provided support for newly freed African Americans and poor white Southerners. With all of this support came the first records for a new group of U.S. citizens.

What records were kept during the operation of the bureau?

- 1.5 million digital images
- Labor Contracts
- Ration Records
- Education Records
- Claim Records
- Records of Complaints
- Hospital and Medical Records
- Land and Property Records
- Court Records
- Marriage Records
- Records of Persons Hired
- Assistant Commissioner Records

How can we use the Freedmen's Bureau records for genealogical research?

How to find indexed Freedmen's Bureau collections on FamilySearch.org

1. Go to FamilySearch.org and click on "Search Records"
2. Click "Browse all published collections"
3. Type "freed" in the "Filter by collection name" box
4. Click on "Records" to sort the result

- FamilySearch.org Collections with a number in the Records column have been indexed
- Collections with "Browse Images" in the Records column have not been indexed

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