

NEW IDEAS FROM NEW SOURCES:
MODERN RESEARCH IN RECONSTRUCTION, 1865-1876

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The Reconstruction years have been famously described as the best documented period of American history to that time but with masses of records that have been difficult to physically impossible to access. New attitudes on the era, however, combined with advances in technology, have encouraged the use of these materials in ways that can lead scholars to valuable information on the people who won, lost, took, and received during those controversial years of so much change. Research using these sources will help in major community, social, and biographical studies. Although much of the manuscript material of this period still remains, by its sheer mass, almost inaccessible, a good start has been made at tools for the use of that era’s surviving documentation.

Most of the source material for this period on property and position, as with the records of the Civil War, has been preserved among the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration. These documents include, for example, the federal census of June 1, 1870 including the population schedule; the mortality schedule, listing persons who died between June 1, 1869 through June 1, 1870, with other information; the social schedule of statistics on each county; the agriculture schedule that lists farmers and described farms; and the manufacturers schedule that usually lists businesses only have been microfilmed by NARA. The population schedule appears as M593 *Ninth Census of the United States (1870)*. Other schedules have been microfilmed by state with Georgia in 1870 as part of T1137 *Nonpopulation Census Schedules for Georgia, 1850-1880*.¹

The population schedule of the 1870 census gives each person’s name, age race, place of birth, indication of marriage during the year, literacy, value of property, and any foreign birth of parents. For hundreds of thousands of African Americans, this document became their first public record. It, however, has had a reputation for being exceptionally incomplete, unreadable in places, for having pages bound and then subsequently numbered out of order, and other problems. The returns for Richmond County and for the City of Savannah in Chatham County, Georgia, for example, each have two volumes, creating a confusing pagination. The Georgia Archives, now at a new facility at 5800 Jonesboro Rd., Morrow, Ga. 30260, however, has duplicate copies, compiled by the same census takers, for fifty-one of the state’s 132 counties wherein, in a few instances, the compiler included names omitted from or other information at variance with that found the microfilmed federal copy.²

Finding someone in the National Archives microfilm of the population schedules has also never been easier. Three subscription Internet websites now index every person in the

National Archives' microfilm of the census and also provide the user with the corresponding images of the census records: Ancestry.com; Ancestrylibrary.com; and Heritagequest.com.³ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has also begun a project, through volunteers, to eventually index or reindex all of the publically available federal census records, including the 1870 census, and millions of pages of other public records.⁴

Local government records such as tax digests and probate files can supplement information on the different census schedules. The Georgia Archives has microfilm and some originals of such documents but especially valuable in determining the property of a person of the period, black or white, can be the state's county homestead and pony tax exemption records which, when they survive, can be found in its county microfilm collection.⁵

The National Archives and Records Administration also has the extensive claims filed for damages and losses alleged to have been inflicted by the federal military during the Civil War and the struggles that people faced after the war in obtaining compensation. Entry 366 of Record Group 56 General Records of the Treasury, National Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, provides the only comprehensive index to the Treasury Department's many different files. Other claims, North and South, filed with the Quartermaster General of the U. S. Army, known as "Fourth of July Claims," must be sought from Entry 788 of Record Group 92 Records of the Quartermaster General in the National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001. The Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives has begun a project to prepare comprehensive indexes to petitions made directly to Congress.⁶

The United States Commissioner of Claims (1871-1880), popularly known as the Southern Claims Commission, created the most famous group of the Civil War claims. Applicants had to offer evidence of having not supported the Confederacy despite having property in the defeated southern nation that the federal military had confiscated or destroyed. Completed questionnaires, depositions, and other evidence provided often documented lives through tales of high adventure during turbulent times. Former slaves and foreign nationals could file such claims.⁷

Georgians who sought such compensation have been deemed as Sherman's "Fifth Column" but many of the state's strongest supporters of the Union, within the Confederacy while it lasted, such as Elias W. Allred, James G. Brown, and Sion Darnell, failed to file any of these claims.⁸ The Commissioners of Claims also rejected over eighty per cent of the applications that it received. Many of the claimants had shown dubious loyalty to the Union. Former Atlanta mayor William Markham, for example, unsuccessfully filed for his losses and even published his case in a public pamphlet. His rolling mill, however, profitably made armor plating for all or almost all of the Confederate ironclad gunboats. Members of the Noble family of Rome, Georgia, similarly tried to obtain compensation for losses to the federal military although, among their many services to the Southern Cause, they provided the Confederate armies with cannons, seventy-shot bullet presses, and funds for a gunboat. Federal authorities had a thick file on their efforts, largely through the work done in their foundry and furnaces, for the Confederacy that have been copied in National Archives' microfilm M346 *Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens and Business Firms* (also available on the subscription website Footnote.com.) An agent for the SCC wrote that the Nobles did more harm to the federal army than any single Confederate regiment. In their final judgment,

the Commissioners added "how these claimants could file a claim . . . passes our comprehension, unless we accept the truth of total depravity."⁹ Similarly, in their decision on the claim of Lemuel J. Allred of Jasper, formerly an officer in the state troops, doorkeeper of the Georgia House of Representatives, and alcohol procurement agent, all for the Confederacy, they wrote:

He says he was never molested by the rebels on account of his Union sentiments. We should think not. It is somewhat singular, yet entirely characteristic, that this man not only swears to his own loyalty [to the Union], but finds witnesses to support his claim, notwithstanding the admission of such a record of service and aid and comfort to the rebels. The pretension to loyalty is preposterous if not monstrous under the circumstances.¹⁰

Gary Mills has consolidated earlier indexes to the claimants into one volume as *Southern Loyalists in the Civil War: the Southern Claims Commission*. Unlike earlier published lists of these claims, this work indicates when the Commission barred, disallowed, or accepted at least part of a claim although this work fails to identify the some 2,000 approved claims that the Third Auditor of the United States disposed of prior to 1878.¹¹ What survives of the approved claims have been microfilmed by the National Archives for (so far) Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, and West Virginia with Georgia's files as microfiche M1658 *Approved Southern Unionist Claims for Georgia, 1871-1880*. NARA has copied all of the barred and disallowed claims not later appealed to the U. S. Federal Court of Claims as M1407 *Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880*. The latter has also been indexed and scanned onto the subscription website Footnote.com.¹²

The Mills index does allow for an easier access to claims filed that deal with lives that, at different times, crossed through different states. Benjamin Conley, for example, filed an extensive claim for damages done to his late brother's ante-bellum plantation near Montgomery, Alabama, but, as shown in this printed index, he actually filed the claim under Fulton County, Georgia, where he resided in the years after the war as Georgia's last Reconstruction Era governor.¹³

Important claims not included among the records of the Southern Claims Commission, but for which Entry 366 of Record Group 56 also serves as an index, include the "Cotton and Captured and Abandoned Property" cases, compensation sought for property seized after the war had officially or technically come to an end. Julia Belle Roman Fuss of Columbus, Georgia, filed such a claim for seventy-five bales of cotton that she reported as seized by federal soldiers in Phenix City, Alabama, in the days after the war had unofficially ended. Her exhaustive efforts to receive compensation have documentation, as listed in Entry 366, in the rejected claims for Cotton and Captured and Abandoned Property, 1872-1890, Entry 371 of Record Group 56; the case files of the United States Court of Claims; and in National Archives microfilms M503 *Letters Relating to Claims Received by the Secretary of the Treasury, 1864-1887* and M513 *Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Treasury Relating to*

Restricted Commercial Intercourse, 1861-1887 (specifically cited in Entry 366 as "Com'l Intc. Letter Book.") She pursued the claim until her death in 1918 and her children continued the effort as late as 1946.¹⁴

Aside from the claims involving property damaged and lost, special tax records also survive although the extent to which these laws affected southerners has been greatly exaggerated. In Georgia, for example, attempts at real estate evaluations only occurred in Appling, Bibb, Bryan, Chatham, Clarke, Columbia, Crawford, Franklin, Glynn, Greene, Harris, Houston, McIntosh, Monroe, Morgan, Muscogee, Oglethorpe, Richmond, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Upson, Warren, and Wilkes County. These records are found in Entry 822, Record Group 217 Records of the General Accounting Office, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland.

Government agents collected the federal direct tax, famously imposed on professions, alcohol production, pocket watches, pianos, and much more in a haphazard manner, at least in the former Confederate states, before all but the duties on alcohol and tobacco were finally removed. The records for some years for several states have been copied by the National Archives, including M762 *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Georgia 1865-1866*. These microfilms have been scanned and indexed onto the subscription websites Ancestry.com and Ancestrylibrary.com as part of "U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918." Other direct tax records must be used at their respective National Archives' regional branches; the records for Georgia, 1865-1873, survive at the new National Archives Southeast Region facility at 5780 Jonesboro Rd., Morrow, Ga. 30260, adjoining the new Georgia Archives building.¹⁵ In 1891, the United States government refunded this money to the states and some states tried to return it to the people from whom it was collected, see for example, John Milton Price, comp., *The Civil War Tax in Louisiana, 1865: Based on Direct Tax Assessments of Louisianians* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975). The Georgia Archives, Morrow, has records of attempts to refund these taxes to persons in Bibb, Chatham, Clarke, Monroe, and Richmond Counties in its Record Group 8-1-24.¹⁶

Filing claims for loss of property to the federal forces in the Civil War required proof of at least current allegiance to the United States government. President Andrew Johnson banned fourteen categories of southerners from obtaining this restoration to full citizenship without each first obtaining a presidential pardon and amnesty. Congress, under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, in 1868 conferred upon itself the exclusive power of amnesty for former Confederates government and military officials. Carolyn McGough Rowe published a list of the some 15,000 southerners granted pardons under President Johnson and also a list of the 3,771 pardons later granted by Congress.¹⁷

Each of the applications for pardon and amnesty now at the National Archives contain at least explanations of why the individual required more than merely an oath to be restored to citizenship. Some of the files also provide physical descriptions of the applicant and even long defenses of the individual actions or of the southern cause. Some persons who were required to take such an oath to be restored to their citizenship declined and some of them, eventually, illegally held public office or otherwise ignored the law. The National Archives has microfilmed the presidential pardon and amnesty records as M1003 *Pardon Petitions and Related Papers Submitted in Response to President Andrew Johnson's Amnesty Proclamation of May 29, 1865* (also available on the subscription website Footnote.com.)

Copies of the files on pardons granted by Congress must be obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration from Entry 500 40A-H21 of Record Group 233 Records of the House of Representatives.¹⁸

Men needed their citizenship restored to vote in the elections for the full restoration of their respective former Confederate states to the Union, except for President Andrew Johnson's Tennessee. (Congress overrode this process to fully restore the latter to the Union.) When the black or white registrant had foreign birth, the voter registers include naturalization data. Some of the records of some individual counties contain additional personal information.¹⁹ The respective archives of these states have these returns of qualified voters for 1867-1868, when the records survive.²⁰ For Georgia the records still exist for all of the state except for Haralson County and, depending upon the county, provide such information as number of years in the state and county; and state of birth.²¹ John David Brandenburg and Rita Binkley Worthy published the names of the white males from the Georgia records.²²

Other records can expand upon such personal information. Contemporary credit records by local agents of R. G. Dun & Company (a predecessor of the modern Dun & Bradstreet Company), 1840s-ca. 1880, can explain a great deal about an individual's fortunes before and after the war, including information on the complicated economics of Reconstruction.²³ Many men of the era, pardoned or not, have biographically rich files in the indexed National Archives microfilms M650 *Letters of Application and Recommendation During the Administrations of Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, 1861-1869* and M968 *Letters of Application and Recommendation During the Administration During the Administration of Ulysses S. Grant, 1869-1877*. These records, however, seldom contain requests for the then most common federal position, that of local post master, an employment that usually came through party bosses as political patronage. Cabinet secretaries, such as for War, Treasury, Justice, Interior, Post Office etc., hired their own respective civilian workers from other applications which survive today in the records of those specific federal departments in the National Archives and Records Administration. Premiere Georgia "carpet bagger" and former Confederate agent Ambrose Spencer, for example, tried unsuccessfully to obtain jobs through applications made to the Department of State, Justice Department, and President Grant despite his failure to apply for a federal pardon.²⁴

The story of Farquhar McRae of Mount Vernon, Georgia, provides an example of the interrelationship of these sources and how a person could suffer under the machinery of Reconstruction. As a postmaster in the Confederacy, he had to go to the expense and trouble of petitioning to the President of the United States for a pardon. At the same time, McRae also appealed for compensation for a piano that he had smuggled through the federal blockade during the Civil War but which General Sherman's soldiers captured at Savannah and subsequently sold at auction to McRae! The federal government eventually turned down his claim but it did tax him for owning the piano.²⁵

Many of the records produced during the Reconstruction Era, as indicated above, have value in African American research. The privately operated Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (the Freedman's Bank) had twenty-nine branches of which records have survived, including for the depositors for the Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah in Georgia. Black, and some White, depositors left detailed information in these records intended to prevent identity

theft, now copied as National Archives microfilm M816 *Registers of Signatures of Depositors in Branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company 1865-1874*.

Often these registers provide personal data that extends decades into slavery. Crude indexes exist for the Savannah and Augusta records as part of National Archives microfilm M817 *Indexes to Deposit Ledgers in Branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company 1865-1874*.²⁶ These records can be searched and copied through the subscription web site Heritagequest.com. The Genealogical Society of Utah has compiled the names and genealogical data on 480,000 persons from all of these records on a CD ROM disk that it sells through the website Familysearch.org. These disks do not include all of the information found in the original records. Alice O. Walker published the records for the Augusta branch, which includes information on a number of Irish immigrants.²⁷ The National Archives also has miscellaneous records of failed efforts to obtain federal pensions for former slaves and other records that include some identification of former slave owners.²⁸

The most famous documents of the era at the National Archives, the records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105 of the National Archives and Records Administration, can seemingly contain almost any information imaginable about people and events in the South during those years. Unfortunately, they usually lack any indexes. David Paterson has placed a free guide to using these records on the Internet: http://www.afrigenas.com/library/Bureau_Correspondence_Guide.ppt Not all of these records have been microfilmed although the most important of the headquarters papers; state records of assistant commissioners and superintendents of education; and local field offices have been copied. The films for Georgia, include M798 *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands*; M799 *Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Georgia Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands 1865-1870*; and M1903 *Records of the Field Offices for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872*. No Georgia records are included in M1875 *Marriage Records of the Freedmen's Bureau, 1861-1869*. The descriptive pamphlets that accompany the individual M series National Archives and Records Administration microfilms contain significant information on their respective content and use. NARA has other useful publications relating to these particular records.²⁹

Buried within the records of the Freedmen's Bureau can be found many reports of white on black violence. Related National Archives' records of interracial violence of the era usually have been difficult to use to any researcher not willing to search through them document by document. Copies of *Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Condition of Affairs in the Late Insurrectionary States* (Washington, 1872) been scanned onto Google books and can be searched electronically.³⁰ Similarly, the famous slave narratives of the Library of Congress, compiled between 1932 and 1975, containing considerable information on black and white Americans after the Civil War, have been made available at the LC's "American Memory" website under "African American History." This same free site also includes complete access to the massive archives of historical federal public documents known as the Congressional Serial Set.

Often accounts of incidents, violent or otherwise, during Reconstruction survive in the period's press. Individual state newspaper microfilming projects, such as the Georgia

Newspaper Project of the University of Georgia, have been extraordinarily successful in locating and preserving rare numbers of the press, Black and White, oriented towards the issues of the period, such as Georgia's *National Republican* (Augusta) of 1867 and *American Union* (Griffin/Macon) of 1867-1872. In the latter newspapers, for example, detailed information on the lynching of southern white Reconstruction supporter (or "scalawag") George W. Ashburn in Columbus, Georgia, in 1868, the first victim of specific Ku Klux Klan violence in his state, can be found and from a pro-Ashburn point of view.³¹

Many new ways have been found to access the information in those pages. For individuals, such subscription sites as Footnote.com, Genealogybank.com, and Newspaperarchive.com and, for large research libraries, Thomson Gale Learning's 19th Century U. S. Newspapers, ProQuest's archived editions of the nation's leading newspapers still in print, and Readex's *Historical American Newspapers* provide not only electronic word, name, and phrase searches of the press of the past but millions of actual images from the individual issues. The International Coalition on Newspapers tries to keep a list of the various sites wherein a researcher can access information from past newspapers: <http://icon.crl.edu/digitization.htm>.

Aside from the Georgia issues included in the above, news appeared as stories reprinted from newspapers that have not survived or which have yet to be scanned. Much of the story of Chattanooga-Ringgold area serial murderer Joe Ritchey, for example, survives in questionable memoirs written decades after his death. A white Unionist, he has been credited, in legend, with being a victim of post Civil War violence who went on to kill nineteen or more men between 1865 and 1876.³² His murder of Pickens County, Georgia, Sheriff J. M. McCleaird and Deputy Warren Brown over a mule in 1869, however, finds documentation in contemporary stories copied from now lost Dalton, Georgia, newspapers that can now be accessed electronically.³³

Several Reconstruction Era newspaper sources relate specifically for Georgia. The Digital Library of Georgia has free access to Atlanta, Columbus, Macon, and Milledgeville newspapers of the era. A free index to past stories in the *Atlanta Constitution* for 1868 to 1939 has been created stacks.ajc.com, "Historic Archives," at http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/ajc_historic/advancedsearch.html while the subscription site Augustaarchive.com includes word searches and the actual pages of the *Augusta Chronicle*. Tad Evans and his daughter Elizabeth Kilbourne have also published books of state-wide genealogical abstracts from newspapers of the Reconstruction era for the Georgia towns of Albany, Bainbridge, Calhoun, Darien, Dawson, Greensboro, Hawkinsville, Milledgeville, Perry, Quitman, and Sandersville.

Other, even less well known sources document related problems of the period. Lists of beneficiaries of the Masonic Orphans Home Lottery held in Atlanta for 1866-1876 for widows and orphans of the Civil War, for example, have been found in the papers of Georgia's governors in Record Group 1-1-5 of the Georgia Archives.³⁴ Prison records generally survive for federal and state imprisonments. For Georgia, information on the state prisoners can be found in Record Group 21 of the Georgia Archives.³⁵ Records of prisoners in federal custody in Georgia for the months immediately after the Civil War survive for Atlanta in Entry 1734 and for Fort Pulaski, near Savannah, in Entry 1735 of part i of Record Group 393 Records of the Continental Commands at the National Archives and Records

Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.³⁶ Many persons black and white moved to the West and some of them joined the United States Army as soldiers or as scouts. Their service records appear in National Archives microfilm M233 *Registers of Enlistments in the U. S. Army, 1798-1914*, and usually include county and state of birth; age; and physical description of each soldier and scout. This microfilm publication has also been included on the subscription databases Ancestry.com and Ancestrylibrary.com as “U. S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914.

For generations writers portrayed the years immediately after the American Civil War as an era of corruption as dark as the time before had been a period of light of heroism. Modern studies, based in the contemporary records rather than the prejudices of the subsequent “Lost Cause” era, by Eric Foner, Richard Current, George Rable, and others show Reconstruction as hardly any darker or less heroic than the Civil War. Their work in new and old source material also became the basis of a view that the two periods should be seen as one entity. Historian Mark W. Summers, for example, in his works *The Era of Good Stealings* and *The Plundering Generation*, described the entire mid-1800s as, in fact, a grand nation-wide time of corruption that started at least as early as 1849.³⁷ Progress continues in this effort to understand the people who lived through the Civil War and the Reconstruction that followed. We still have much to find and learn from the extensive records of the era but that task becomes increasingly easier thanks to these many new means of accessing the documentation.

NOTES

¹ Georgia’s manufacturer’s schedules do not survive for 1850-1870. Some state archives such as the Alabama Department of Archives and History microfilmed its own respective nonpopulation schedules. The ADAH also has an alternative index to most of its state’s 1870 population schedules. For information on the publication of statistics from census records and related information see Suzanne Schulze, *Population Information in Nineteenth Century Census Volumes* (Phoenix, Az., 1983); Katherine H. Davidson and Charlotte M. Ashby, *Preliminary Inventories Number 161 Records of the Bureau of the Census* (Washington, 1964); Thomas Jay. Kemp, *The American Census Handbook* (Wilmington, De., 2001); and Loretto Denniz Szucs and Matthew Wright, *Finding Answers in U. S. Census Records* (Orem, Ut., 2002).

² The 1870 population, and sometimes other schedules, found in the county records microfilm survive for Camden, Cherokee, Fayette, Morgan, and Randolph counties; and originals in Record Group 44-1-2 for Cherokee, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Cobb, Coffee, Columbia, Coweta, Crawford, Dade, Dawson, Decatur, DeKalb, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Effingham, Elbert, Emanuel, Fannin, Fayette, Irwin, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Rabun, Richmond, Schley, Screven, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Towns, Troup, Twiggs, Union, Upson, and Warren counties.

³ The 1870 population schedule for Georgia has two earlier, separately compiled, published indexes to at least the heads of households and certain other persons in each household, in addition to what has been published by various individuals for specific counties. Bradley W. Steurt, ed., *Georgia 1870 Census Index* (Bountiful, Ut., 1991); and Ronald Vern Jackson, *Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah, Georgia 1870: Federal Census Index* (Salt Lake City, Ut., 1990). Mr. Steurt also published such indexes in print and on CD-Rom disks for all of the United States. Many transcriptions of returns for individual counties have also been published by various individuals.

⁴ For more information on the LDS indexing program go to:
http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp.

⁵ For lists of these records by county see Robert S. Davis, *Research in Georgia* (Easley, SC, 1981), 83-145, 173-81.

⁶ Charles E. Schamel, "Untapped Resources: Private Claims and Private Legislation in the Records of the U. S. Congress, Indexes," *Prologue: the Quarterly of the National Archives* 27 (spring 1995): 45-58. For other records of confiscated and abandoned property see Kenneth W. Munden and Henry Putney Beers, *The Union: A Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War* (Washington, 1986), 125-31, 287-99, 623-24; Robert S. Davis, "Without Right of Conquest: The Civil War Occupation and Restoration of the Findlay Foundry of Macon, Georgia," *Prologue: The Quarterly of the National Archives* 29 (winter 1997): 301-15; and Robert B. Matchette, *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States* (3 vols., Washington, 1997), 2: 366.

⁷ Donna Rachel Mills, "Civil War Claims Commission: The Mixed Commission of British and American Claims," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 75 (June 1987): 141-52. For names of some former slaves who filed such claims see Robert S. Davis, "Some Liberty and Chatham County Civil War Claims by Former Slaves," *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* 27 (fall 1991): 169-71 and for a history of the Commissioners of Claims see Frank W. Klingberg, *The Southern Claims Commission* (Berkeley, 1955). The National Archives microfilmed the proceedings of this organization as M87 *Records of the Southern Claims Commission*. For advice on using M87 see Sarah Lawson, "Records of the Southern Claims Commission," *Prologue: the Journal of the National Archives* 12 (winter 1980): 207-18.

⁸ John Hammond Moore, "Sherman's 'Fifth Column': A Guide to Unionist Activity in Georgia," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 68 (fall 1984): 382-409 and "In Sherman's Wake: Atlanta and the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880," *Atlanta Historical Journal* 29 (2) (summer 1985): 5-18. For the Civil War careers of Allred, Brown, and Darnell see Robert S. Davis, "The Curious Civil War Career of James George Brown, Spy," *Prologue: The Quarterly of the National Archives* 26 (spring 1994): 17-32; and "Memoirs of a Partisan War: Sion Darnell Remembers North Georgia, 1861-1865," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 80 (spring 1996): 96-116.

⁹ William Markham vs. the United States, case 11137, Record Group 123 Records of the U. S. Court of Claims, National Archives and Records Administration; Franklin Garrett, *Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and Events* (2 vols., Athens, Ga., 1969), 1: 629; Robert S. Davis, "The Noble Family of Rome: Cannon Makers of the Confederacy," *Northwest Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly* 23 (3) (winter 1990): 4-7; U. S. Commissioners of Claims, *Summary Reports in all Cases Reported to Congress as Disallowed Under the Act of March 3, 1871* (5 vols., Washington, 1871-1880), 5: 85.

¹⁰ Commissioners of Claims, *Summary Reports*, 1: 251.

¹¹ Gary Mills, *Southern Loyalists in the Civil War: The Southern Claims Commission* (Baltimore, 1994); John K. Vandereedt, Civilian Records, Textual Archive Services Division, National Archives, to Ms. Treva Hood, August 19, 2004, in the author's possession.

¹² The National Archives has microfilmed an index to some of these cases as M2007 *United States Court of Federal Claims Docket Cards for Congressional Case Files, 1884-1937*. To have a search made for a Court of Claims case file write to the Clerk's Office, U. S. Court of Federal Claims, 717 Madison Place NW, Washington, DC 20005. The claims themselves are at the National Archives and Records Administration in Record Group 123 Records of the United States Court of Claims but have not been microfilmed.

¹³ Mills, *Southern Loyalists*, 129; Sarah Conley Clayton, *Requiem for a Lost City: a Memoir of Civil War Atlanta and the Old South*, ed. Robert S. Davis (Macon, 1999), 132-34, 138.

¹⁴ Julia B. Fuss vs. the United States, case 30962, Record Group 123 Records of the U. S. Court of Claims; "Georgians Sue for War Cotton," *Atlanta Journal*, Sunday Magazine Section, April 1, 1934, p. 9; chronology in the possession of Susan M. Davis. Her more obstinate young female descendents still receive the nickname "Julie Belle."

¹⁵ See Cynthia G. Fox, "Income Tax Records of the Civil War Years," *Prologue: the Journal of the National Archives* 18 (winter 1986): 250-59.

¹⁶ Other holdings of the Georgia Archives include individual county maps for 1866-1871 and an almost complete set of state copies of county tax digests, 1872 to the present, as well as many earlier tax digests microfilmed from original copies found in various individual county court houses.

¹⁷ Carolyn McGough Rowe, *Individual Pardon Applications to President Andrew Johnson 1865-1867; Individual Pardon Applications to Congress 1868-1898* (Pensacola, 1996).

¹⁸ Contemporary abstracts of many pardon applications have been reprinted as Special Presidential Pardons for Confederate Soldiers: a listing of former Confederate Soldiers requesting full pardon from President Andrew Johnson (Signal Mountain, Tn., 1999); for Georgia also see Robert S. Davis, "The Civil War: Amnesty and Pardons." *Ancestoring* 8 (1984): 13-27.

¹⁹ Voter records for Walker and Winston Counties in Alabama, for example, include date of birth and county of birth for black and white voters. See Carolyn M. Rowe, *1867 Voting Registration Loyalty Oaths Individual Pardon Applications Walker County, Alabama* (Pensacola, 1996) and *Loyalty Oaths 1867 Voters Registration Winston County, Alabama* (Pensacola, 1997).

²⁰ For a list of what survives of these records, by state, see Robert S. Davis, "The South's 1867 Returns of Qualified Voters," *Heritage Quest Magazine* no. 54 (November/December 1994): 62-63 and for the history of these records see Harold Melvin Hyman, *Era of the Oath: Northern Loyalty Tests During the Civil War and Reconstruction* (Philadelphia, 1954). The state archives of Alabama and Mississippi also have 1866 state censuses created in connection with these elections.

²¹ For an inventory of the personal information found in the Georgia 1867 voter lists see Ted O. Brooke and Robert S. Davis, *Georgia Genealogical Workbook* (Atlanta, 1987), 48-49.

²² John David Brandenburg and Rita Binkley Worthy, *Index to Georgia's 1867-1868 Returns of Qualified Voters and Registration Oath Books (White)* (Atlanta, 1995). For background on these oaths see Edmund L. Drago, "Georgia's First Black Voter Registers during Reconstruction," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 78 (fall 1994): 760-93.

²³ The credit reports are today at the Baker Library of Harvard University, see its website: <http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/collections/dun/> and also Robert C. Kenzer, "Credit Ratings of Black Businessmen, 1865-1880," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 79 (summer 1995): 425-40.

²⁴ Robert S. Davis, "Yankee Gone South: The Georgia Odyssey of 'Colonel Spencer of Andersonville,'" *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 88 (spring 2004): 50, 63. Requests for searches of applications made to specific departments must be made to the National Archives and Records Administration. Lists of federal employees were published biannually by the federal government from 1816 to 1940 as *The Official Register*. For other similar sources see *Genealogical & Biographical Research: a Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* (Washington, 1983).

²⁵ Robert S. Davis, *A History of Montgomery, Georgia to 1918* (Mount Vernon, Ga., 1992), 171.

²⁶ For more information on these and related records see Reginald Washington, "The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company and African American Genealogical Research," *Prologue: The Quarterly of the National Archives* 29 (summer 1997): 170-81, and Robert S. Davis, "Documentation for Afro-American Families: Records of Freedman's Savings and Trust Company," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 76 (June 1988): 139-46.

²⁷ Alice O. Walker, *Registers of Signatures of Depositors in the Augusta, Georgia, Branch of the Freeman's Savings and Trust Company* (Augusta, Ga., 1998).

²⁸ Miranda Booker Perry, "No Pensions for Ex-Slaves: How Federal Agencies Supressed a Movement to Aid Freedpeople," *Prologue: The Quarterly of the National Archives* 42

(Summer 2010): <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/summer/slave-pension.html> and Robert S. Davis, "Some Former Slaves and Their Masters," *Heritage Quest* no. 69 (May/June 1997): 85-87. The more than 180,000 African-Americans who served in the federal military during the Civil War have compiled federal service records and pension files that also sometimes identify their respective former masters. The National Archives has those records and many others relating to claims filed by slave owners after the Civil War but mainly from persons in slave states that did not secede from the Union. For the various National Archives microfilms of compiled service records of African-American Civil War soldiers go to its website: <http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/civil-war-service-records-pamphlets.html> and for information on related records see Munden and Beers, *The Union*, 391.

²⁹ For descriptions of these microfilms and records see the National Archives website: <http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau>; *Guide to Genealogical Research at the National Archives* (Washington, 1983); *Black Studies: a Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* (rev. ed., Washington, 2008); Debra L. Newman, *Black History: a Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives* (Washington, 1994); Jacqueline A. Lawson, *An Index of African Americans Identified in Selected Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands* (Bowie, Md., 1995); and Mary Farmer-Kaiser, "are they not in some sorts vagrants?": Gender and the Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau to Combat Vagrancy in the Reconstruction South," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 88 (spring 2004): 25-49. For Georgia specifically see Paula A. Cimbala, "On the Front Line of Freedom: Freedmen's Bureau Offices and Agents in Reconstruction Georgia," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 76 (fall 1992): 577-611; and Fred C. Rathbun, *Names From Georgia, 1865-1866 Freedmen's Bureau Letters, Roll 13* (Littleton, Co., 1986).

³⁰ The names from National Archives records for Georgia from racial violence in Reconstruction are included in Robert S. Davis, *The Georgia Black Book: Morbid and Macabre Records of Genealogical Value* (Easley, SC, 1981) and *The Georgia Black Book II: More Morbid, Macabre, & Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value* (Greenville, SC, 1987)

³¹ Richard H. Abbott, "The Republican Party Press in Reconstruction Georgia, 1867-1874," *Journal of Southern History* 61 (November 1995): 725-60.

³² John Wilson, *Hamilton County Pioneers* (Chelsea, Mi., 1998), 280; V. N. Phillips, *The New Ozark Cousins* (Jasper, Ar., 1984), 176.

³³ "A Desperado Murders a Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff," *Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Daily Sentinel*, February 11, 1869; "The Sheriff of Pickens County Murdered and His Deputy Seriously Wounded," *Weekly Georgia Telegraph* (Macon, Georgia), January 29, 1869.

³⁴ Davis, *Georgia Black Book II*, 157-90.

³⁵ *Ibid*, 6.

³⁶ Robert S. Davis, "Civilians Held Prisoner in Atlanta, 1865-1866," *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* 38 (spring 2002): 36-38.

³⁷ Mark W. Summers, *The Plundering Generation: Corruption and the Crisis of the Union, 1849-1861* (New York, 1987). While the National Archives and Records Administration has not yet published a comprehensive guide to records of the Reconstruction years, that so many of those records do appear in Henry Putney Beers, *The Confederacy* (1986) and *The Union* (1986), guides to Civil War records argues for Reconstruction as being part of the same period.



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