

TENNESSEE OUTRAGES: Reports to the Freedmen's Bureau (1865-1868)

Part I

Abstracted by James Pylant

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (commonly called the Freedmen's Bureau) was created in the War Department by the Act of 3 March 1865. Until its termination by the Act of 10 June 1872, the Bureau's purpose was to oversee and aid the distribution of supplies to the destitute, maintain freedmen's schools, help black soldiers and sailors collect bounty claims or pensions, distribute confiscated or abandoned property, and supervise labor contracts between black employees and white employers. This act authorized the appointment of assistant commissioners to aid the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau in supervising the work of the Bureau in the States.

In Tennessee, the Bureau began on 1 July 1865, with Brig. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk as Assistant Commissioner at Nashville. Fisk was succeeded by Brig. Gen. John R. Lewis (September - December, 1866), Maj. Gen. William P. Carlin (January, 1867 - October, 1868), and Lt. Col. James Thompson (October, 1868 - May, 1869). During General Fisk's term, until June 1866, the Assistant Commissioner of Tennessee also had jurisdiction over Kentucky and northern Alabama. Fisk divided the Tennessee Bureau into three subdistricts, with headquarters in Nashville, Memphis, and Chattanooga. Pulaski and Knoxville were later added as headquarters for two more subdistricts. Then, subdistricts were subdivided into agencies with boundaries usually following county lines.

From NARS Microfilm No. M999-34, *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869*, are abstracted agency reports to the Assistant Commissioner of "outrages" committed by whites against blacks. An "outrage" meant any offense, but it was almost always a violent crime.

GENEALOGYMAGAZINE.COM

Target 1
Register of Outrages
Volume 1 October, 1865 - July, 1868

[Pages 101-119]

County	Name of Assailants	Name of party injured	Date of Crime	Nature of Attack
Rutherford	Mrs. M A F WHITE	William, orphan boy	Oct. 1866	Ill treatment ¹
"	LOWRY	Geo GAINES colo.	"	Stabbed ²
"	James WHITE	Jacob JARRET Col'd	"	Wounds ³
"	Enoch DICKSON	Col Woman (unknown)	"	Beating ⁴
Bedford	1/2 dos. white youths	Adam MOSELY Col.	Feby /67	Shot ⁵
Rutherford	Mrs WHITE	Col'd Laborers	-- 1867	Contust [?] ⁶
Rutherford	ALLEN Bros } WHITE Bros }	J D WILSON Esq & Col'd Laborers	Feby /67	Shot at a Col'd Man ⁷
Sumner	James PRICE	Powell [?] Col'd	1866	Killing ⁸
Sumner	James PRICE	Stanford WILLIS	21 Oct /66	House Burning ⁹
Sumner	Dr. L. B. MOULTON or WALTON	Eliza ELLISON Col'd	Decr 1866	Murder ¹⁰
Sumner	Col'd Boy	Col'd boy	1866	death ¹¹
Warren	Archibald NUNNELLY	Dak [?] WARDLEY colo	Mch /66	Murder ¹²
Grundy	Tim and John } McCANLIS, alias McCANN	Jake BROWN	15 th May /67	outrage ¹³
Giles	Michl DOGHERTY	King PEDAN, col'd,	Augt /66	Wound ¹⁴
Giles	Capt WHITFIELD	Wife Chas. WHITFIELD Col'd	July 5 /66	Assault ¹⁵
Giles	Jno GILLIAM, Jack KEITH & others	Dudly KIMBROUGH Col'd.	July 7 /66	Murder ¹⁶
Giles	John EZELL	Molly EZELL Col'd.	Augt. 16 /66	Assault ¹⁷
"	Robt. A MITCHELL	Dolly WHIRTS	Augt 23 /67	[not stated] ¹⁸
Giles	Unknown	Child of A BELL Col'd	Sept 3 /67	Beat ¹⁹
Giles	James BAILEY	Mary H BAILEY Col'd.	Sept 28/66	Beat ²⁰
Giles	David REYNOLDS	Col'd Woman	Sept 15 /66	Assault ²¹
Giles	Wm. KEELING	Caroline HASTINGS	Sept 29 /66	Cut in head ²²
Giles	Two White men unknown	Robt. TAYLOR Col'd	Sept 29 /66	Murder ²³
Giles	Squire RIVERS Killed by	Robt RHODES	Nov 7 /67	Killed ²⁴
Giles	Wm. KENNEDY	Louis KENNEDY	Nov 18 /67	Whipped ²⁵
Giles	Lucius SUTTLE	Jas MARTIN Col'd	Nov 26 /66	Shot at & beaten ²⁶
Giles	George N WRIGHT Frank BENNET and John BELCHERTH	Harrison HUGHES ,col'd,	Augt 1/66	[not stated] ²⁷
Giles	Seaborn JOINER	Lewis HUGHES Col'd	Mch 23/66	Murder ²⁸
Giles	Robbers & Thieves	Morgan EDMUNDSON Col'd	Jany 30/67	Robbery ²⁹
Davidson	J E SCRUGGS	Peter RANSOM	Oct /65	Wounded ³⁰
Davidson	J W THOMPSON	Ben FLEMING and Levi THOMPSON, Col'd	Nov /65	Shot at ³¹

"	Wm. KINNINGHAM	Simon RUTLEDGE Col'd	Nov /65	Wounded ³²
"	Lee NOLAN	Alfred SETTERS	1866	Killed ³³
"	Wm. RUNNEL	Jerry CARUTHERS	Jun /66	Killed ³⁴
"	B. C. AMENT	Sophia CONN	July /66	Murdered ³⁵
"	W O HYDE	Deck DAVIS Col'd	Augt /66	Shot & Crippled ³⁶
"	Isaac DAVIS	Elizabeth HATCHET a young Col'd girl	Sept /66	Raped ³⁷
Davidson	W C OWENS	Meshack MAY Col'd	Apl. 1867	Killed ³⁸
"	J B EDWARDS	A JONES (Col'd)	May /67	Wounded ³⁹
"	Berry WEST	Sophia HOBBS Col'd	May /67	Crippled ⁴⁰
"	Catherine CONNELLY	John IVEY Col'd	May /67	Wounded ⁴¹
Coffee	3 White Men unknown	Zary ORDMAN	Decr /66	Beat & Shot at ⁴²
Wilson	- LIGON	Freedman	1866	Murder ⁴³
Wilson	Ellis (soldier)	a White Boy	1866	Killed ⁴⁴
White	T E POPE	Phebe SNODGRASS	1866	Whipped ⁴⁵
Coffee	Young white men unknown	Ann WHITTAKER & Julia OATS	Jany /67	Tore down house ⁴⁶
"	Jas TAYLOR & others	Freedman	Jany 1867	Shooting ⁴⁷
Montgomery	Elisha STANLEY, Tobe RING & others	Soleman ADAMS Col'd	Decr /66	[not stated] ⁴⁸
Sumner	Robt Hester WEB & others	Irvin POWELL - Freedman	1866	Murder ⁴⁹
Franklin	PYREM	STRAMBLER, col'd,	1867	Assault
	SAUNDERS	BEANE col'd		Shooting ⁵⁰
Davidson	Bill REDICK	Sam CRAIGHEAD, Colo,	1867	Fractured Skull ⁵¹
"	White Man	Col'd Woman	Mch /67	Rape ⁵²
Montgomery	BLACK	Stephen COLE, colo.	Apl 19/67	Shot ⁵³
Rutherford	W. H. TILFORD	Steven TILFORD col. Deaf Mute	-	[not stated] ⁵⁴
Davidson	J B EDMONDS Policeman	A. JONES (Col'd,	May /67	Shot ⁵⁵
Overton	R LANGFORD	Freedman	Sept 1866	Murder ⁵⁶
Humphreys	Warren DAVIS Col'd	Jordan McMILLAN Col'd	June 1867	Wounded ⁵⁷
Clarksville	J McMANNERS	Doe MOORE, col'd,	Apl 1867	Assault ⁵⁸
Montgomery	AVANT	Millie CARTER, col'd	Sept /66	beaten ⁵⁹
Montgomery	Dr J. USURY	Minty USURY	May /67	Beaten ⁶⁰
"	Thos. MORGAN	Mary WHITFIELD colo.	May /67	Assault ⁶¹
Franklin	T J LOCKHART	Ned FARRIS, colo	May /67	[not stated] ⁶²
Dickson	Robt FAITH	Joe JOHNSON Col'd	May 1867	Assault ⁶³
Davidson	FUNSTON Detective	Ransom CHATMAN	June 25 /67	Killed ⁶⁴
Rutherford	Lewis SCOBY (col'd)	Joe RANDOLPH Col'd	June /67	Assault ⁶⁵
Montgomery	B GRAY	Merideth TOWNSEND col'd	May /67	Shot ⁶⁶

Bedford or Lincoln Cannon	Lacy BOBO, E BOBO & Doak BLY Unknown	Edmund GREEN col'd Sarah MARTIN Colo	Augt /67 2 July /67	Shot at ⁶⁷ Raped & Murdered ⁶⁸
"	Jim MAJERS	Ann FLETCHER	July /67	Beat ⁶⁹
Sumner	Dick LOVE	Nancy ELLIOT, Col'd	June /67	Assault ⁷⁰
"	TRIMBLE	RANDALL col'd	June /67	Assault ⁷¹
"	James HAYNES	Rose MARGUM	July /67	Assault ⁷²
"	SHIE Brothers Ely and Jim	Nelson FRANKLIN & John ODIM (Senr)	Augt 20 /67	Murder Wounded ⁷³
Williamson	Henry JACKSON	Peyton Sam and Margt Ann, col'd	1867	ill treatment ⁷⁴
Wilson	Frank MILLER	Jo MILLER col'd	Apl /68	Murder ⁷⁵
Montgomery	Unknown	Jn WATKINS col'd	Sept 1867	[not stated] ⁷⁶
Davidson	Unknown	James DRAKE and Wife Eliza (col'd)	Oct /67	Murder Wounded ⁷⁷
Humphreys	Pleasant STRIBLING	'Athele' Col'dd	1867	Ill treatment ⁷⁸
Rutherford	Cicero LAYHEW	W. NELSON col'd	Sept 1867	Shot ⁷⁹
Montgomery	Dr. Wm. SHELBY	Crea PERKINS, col'd	Sept. /67	Assault ⁸⁰
"	Thos. FESTER	Jas. LEAVITT col'd	Oct. /67	⁸¹
"	Jas. BIRD	Monroe WHITTOCK "	/67	⁸²
"	Unknown	Richd JOHNSON	Oct /67	Murder ⁸³
"	Geo HARGRAVE	Geo ROBERTS	May 1868	Assault ⁸⁴
Lincoln	KuKlux Klan	Leander WRIGHT Henry McDANIEL [?] Nathan HARRIS	July 5 68	Driven off by by threat of violence in case of Refusal ⁸⁵
Maury	KuKlux Klan	Melinda GREGORY Spencer GREGORY	July 5 "68	Same as above ⁸⁶
Maury	KuKlux Klan	Pleasant HILLERMAN	July 5	Attacked his house ⁸⁷
Marshall	KuKlux Klan	Lewis STEGOLD	July 5	Assault ⁸⁸
Giles	KuKlux Klan	Stanhope BODY George CRITTENDEN Walter SCOTT Mint BURKLY	July 5	Threat to Kill them
Giles	KuKlux Klan	Mint BURKLEY	July 5	Killed ⁸⁹

REMARKS

1. The affidavits of witnesses were presented to the Court, but not accepted as evidence in the case, as Mrs. White was absent when they were taken[;] this case was therefore dropped.
2. The boy was directed to appear before a Justice of the Peace & get a warrant for the arrest of Lowry, but failed to do so.
3. Jarret, Col'd, accepted a bribe not to prosecute White.
4. Warrant for the arrest of Dickson was taken out & given to a Deputy Sheriff who never served it.
5. No action has been taken by the Civil Authorities in this case.
6. Judgmt was rendered against the Col'd men for some 200 or 300 dollars & their cotton levied on the

matter was subsequently compromised.

7. The Allens & Whites shot at a negro & raised a disturbance with the Col'd people at Mr Wilsons, by breaking into their Cabins & Cutting them (2) across the throat & stabbing Mr Wilson Severly. The Allens left the Country. The Whites were arrested & tried but it was found that the evidence against them was not strong as at first supposed. They were therefore acquitted & sent to their homes.

8. Price was arrested & brought to trial but no Witnesses appeared against them was discharged.

9. This Case was tried twice. The first trial Price was found guilty, but the second acquitted him.

10. Dr. Walton or Moulton Surrendered himself to a Justice of the Peace and acquitted.

11. A difficulty ocured between the two boys in the employ of Mr. J. E Bell resulting in the death of one of them by a blow in the head with a stick[.] No investigation.

12. Nunnely was arrested & placed in jail but escaped & has not been rearrested.

13. No action has been taken in this case.

14. Warrant was issued against Doughtery & find \$5.00 & Costs.

15. Complaint was made to a Magistrate but nothing done.

16. The accused werheld to bail in the sum of \$600.00.

17. John Ezell pleaded guilty & was fined \$2.00 and Costs.

18. Robt. Mitchel was arrested & held to bail.

19. The child being too young was unable to identify the villian.

20. Complaint was made before a Magistrate but nothing done.

21. Reynolds was arrested & fine \$25.00 by Esqr. Abernathy.

22. Keeling was arrested & fined.

23. No effect was made by Civil authorities to find out who were the murderers.

24. Robt Rhodes was held in bail of \$2000.00[.] Nothing done since.

25. The parties making the assault were arrested and fined.

26. Suttle was arrested and fined \$50.00 and Costs.

27. The parties not being identified nothing was done in the case.

28. Joiner was arrested tried before Circuit Court & acquitted.

29. No arrest made in this case. The col'd man was robbed of \$75.00.

30. Scruggs was arrested & released & subsequently fined by the Bureau.

31. Thompson was fined by the Bureau.

32. Kinningham was fined by the Bureau.

33. Prisoner is at large on bail & has never been tried.

34. Runnel is still at large under bail of \$4000.00.

35. Ament is at large under bail of \$5000.00[.] has never been tried.

36. Hyde is still at large & has not been tried.

37. Davis is still at large defying arrest.

38. Owens is still at large defying arrest.

39. Edwards was fined \$50.00 by the Recorder.

40. West was fined \$50.00.

41. Catherine Connelly is at large upon bail of \$1000.00.

42. No clue whatever as to the identity of the guilty party.

43. This case was tried before the Circuit Court and no [illegible]. The judges charge to the Contrary. The Murderer was unjustly acquitted.

44. The continuance of this case was secured on the grounds of being unable to find witnesses (sentenced to 5 years in the Penitentiary[.]).

45. Pope was acquitted.

46. Some of the guilty party were arrested but acquitted.

47. Taylor fled & no steps taken by the Civil Authorities for his arrest.

48. Stanley, Ring & others were tried for burning Adams house & acquitted.

49. The trial of this case was postponed[.] Subsequently acquitted.

50. Warrants were issued against the guilty parties but the officers report that they cannot be found.

51. Redick was fined \$24.00 & Craighead \$29.
52. A true bill of indictment was finned [sic] by the Grand Jury.
53. Black was arrested & held to bail in the sum of \$1000.00.
54. Said Stephen was former slave of W. H. Tilford & the County Court unjustly bound him to his former Master for 12 mos.
55. Edmonds was a Policeman has Jones under arrest, the latter tried to make his escape when he was shot at by the former[.] Edmonds was arraigned before the Recorder & fined \$50.00.
56. No inquiry has been made by the Civil authorities in this case.
57. Warren Davis was arrested & fined \$25.00 & Costs.
58. Moore got from the J. P. one Cent damages.
59. Nothing reported in this Case
60. This case was Compromised.
61. This case was Compromised on payment of all monies due Mary &c.
62. These two boys were playing which resulted in an altercation when Ferris recd a blow from Lockhart which resulted in his death. Lockhart was tried & acquitted.
63. Faith was tried & fined \$5.00 before the Recorder.
64. As the officer Funston acted in accordance with his duty no action has been taken by the authorities.
65. Scoby has not been arrested & his whereabouts unknown by the Civil Authorities[.] No pursuit or attempt to arrest was made.
66. This case was compromised as Townsend was not dangerously wounded by B. Gray paying \$25.
67. Lacy Bobo & Bly were both fin[e]d by the Magestrate.
68. This poor girl was aged 14 yrs raped & murdered & no clue to the perpetrators of this diabolical outrage.
69. A Warrant for Majors arrest was issued by the officers & Could not find him.
70. Nancy Elliott did not appear against Love. The latter paid Costs.
71. This case was brought before a J P but dismissed.
72. A Warrant was issued but not returned (let off with cost[.]).
73. The Shie Bros were tried before a Committee Court & found guilty of the charges preferred & place in jail to await trail before the Criminal Court. Said trial took place in Gallatin when they were most unjustly acquitted.
74. The boy Peyton Sam was found by his Mother 'Selah' in a most pitiable [?] Condition owing to the brutal treatment of Jackson his feet were so frozen that all the toes on one foot & part of the large toe on the other rotted off & was beaten also by Jackson until he became Senseless & otherwise most brutally treated.
75. This case was compromised on payment of [\$]500.00 to the widow.
76. Jn Watkins was accused of some desperate act & his pursuers were about to shoot when they were stopped by a Policeman Watkins was then give up to them & taken to Todd Co. Ky.
77. The two Crockets were arrested tried but proved an alibi to the satisfaction of all parties.
78. Stribling has brutally treated this Col'd Woman & child for Years keeping them in a hen house. He Stribling will have to stand his trial at the Criminal Court a true bill having been found against him by the Grand Jury.
79. Several attempts were made by the Officer to issue the warrant in Layhew but without effect.
80. Suit has already commenced in this case.
81. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Fester.
82. " " " " " " " " " Bird.
83. Johnson was murdered near Davys Mill[.] No clue to the party who committed this foul murder or their whereabouts.
84. The Grand Jury being in session at the time the matter was referred to them and Hargrove it now awaiting his trial in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.
85. The KuKlux Klan drove them from the farm they were working on, and threatened to Kill all

colored men who voted for Brownlow.

86. Same as above.

87. The KuKlux Klan attacked his house and threatened to Kill him. He and several other colored men gathered on the outskirts of the town /Columbia/ where they were attacked by the KuKlux Klan. They fought all night and left next morning for fear of being assassinated.

88. The KuKlux Klan took him from his house and threatened to hang him, also beat him with a leather strap. Had to leave the place for fear of getting Killed.

89. As the Murder was committed by the KuKlux Klan who gravel in disguise no legal action has been taken as none of them could be recognized.

Target 2:
Reports of Outrages, Riots, and Murders
(Jan. 15, 1866-Aug. 12, 1868)

Report from John Seage, Supt., Freedmen's Bureau, Murfreesboro, TN, to Lt. J. T. Alden, Jan. 1866

[Page 1]

July 28th 1865. Ben (Col'd) Plaintiff vs. Beverly Randolph

Ben says on the 29th of June Randolph beat my wife with his fists then caught her by the Chin threw back her head pulled out his Knife swore he would Cut her throat. His Brother in law Stopped him he then went to his house got his pistol & swore he would Kill some dam niger - fired off[f] his pistol & went to the Harris's (The woman was large with Child at the time) Defendant admitted the Charge - was fined 50 Dolls which was paid to plaintiff.[]].

[Page 2]

Aug. 1st. Egbert (Col'd.) vs. J Irwin

Egbert Says Irwin returned form the Reb Army & found I had a Crop growing ('I staid on the place & took care of his family house & stock ever since The war begun') when I began to gather the Crop (I was to have the 1/3) he drove me & my family off & would not give us a bit of any thing to eat & said he did not care a Dam for the Bureau[]]. Got 3 Mounted men sent for & brot Irwin who was very persistent under bayonet force & Secured by Bond the Crops to Plaintiff Since all paid.

2nd. Sam Neal (Col'd) vs. Andrew B Payne

Sam Says. Payne hired myself & family 10 alltogether to work for the Season he has made several base attempts on my daughter; has ordered me off without pay or share of the crop & because I did not go he got his pistol & threatened to shoot me - he got **Miles Ferguson** to beat me & the both together beat me badly. Payne Came by a Summons & on proof of guilt offered to let them go back gather the Crop & have their Share & I fined him for beating on ordering Ferguson to beat him 25 Dolls. Paid to Sam.

[Page 3]

Aug. 3rd. Jane Turner (Col'd) vs Tom Eland

Jane says. Eland has driven me off & beat me & owes me 20 Dollars but Keeps it back to pay for a Doctors Bill 2 Years ago[.] Ordered Elan[d] to Jane the 20 Dollars & 50 Cents for every day lost by this suit all paid.

4th. Anthony (Col'd) vs. Bill Murray

Anthony Says Mr Murray did on the 1st Just Severly beat my wife & daughter with a Stick because we were Singing a Union Song. Sent an order to Murray to appear at this office but was taken with the appoplexy & it is said died from the mortal fear of the being put in the Bureau.

30th on Sunday Wm Jones (as reported to this office by **John Ryan** Constable of the 8th Dist) did tie up a colored boy & have him 500 lashes[.] The boy died on the Tuesday following. This on the Farekin [?] Road 12 miles out & 4 from Irwine [?] Presented Charge &c to Military Commissioner found the boy not dead but badly whipped & the Criminal gave to parts unknown.

Sept 3rd. Bee Whitney (Col'd) vs Isaac Rucker

Whitney Says himself & wife hired to work for the one third of the Crop they made In the month of June he wanted us to leave & said he had hands enough & when ordered off did not go he beat my wife on the head side & body with a Peice of board the last blow Knocked her down This was 6 days before she had a child. He threatened to shoot us if we did not leave we left.

Rucker refused to come & had to be brought by military force[.] The Case was investigated & Rucker confessed The beating the woman - was fined 50 Dollars & Paid over to the Woman & a note for \$94 40 for their work for 6 Months

Sept 14th Sina (Col'd) vs Widow Brothers

Sina Says I live with Widow Brothers on Fall Creek 13 miles - **Mr. May** the Overseer tied me up because I would not consent to him & tied my Clothes around my neck & beat me very badly then drove me off without pay or a morsel to eat.

(Said girl 19 Years old was whelted all over Shamefully)

Mrs Brothers & **Albert Jones** Administrator same on order & stated they Knew nothing of the beating untill the next day[.] May ran off to Georgia.

16th. Unity & Minerva vs D Beasley

Unity is 70 years of age & Suckled Beasley

Minerva is 45 & with her Beasley has cohabitated nightly for 17 Years (They have laid in the same bed that time at nighs.) At the fight at Stone River Beasley left his home (a poor one) & told the 2 Col'd Women the Black hearted Yankees were Coming they might stay & have everything he left he was going to his Children - he left [page 4] and after an absence of a year he returns & drives us into the Street.

The Cohabitation he did not deny & drove the old woman off because she could not work & Minerva because she would not submit to his lust. Ordered him to permit them to stay rent free & pay 9 Dollars rent paid else where while driven off & threatened with Imprisonment if he ever urged his baseness on either.

22nd. Israel Huntsman from Ohio & agent for a Carriage factory in Crawford County Ohio goes through the Country as a US Agent Collecting taxes from the Colored Race to purchase their homes (with a Six Shooter).

I arrested him & proved obtaining money under false pretenses. Sent to prison untill he paid a fine of fifty dollars - he remained 3 Weeks paid his fine (obtains my letter from his home) I paid him 5 Dolls to sent him home [\$]25 to the negroes he had cheated & [\$]15 to 3 families to help them to go to Georgia & [\$]5 for Stationery.

[Page 5]

Decr. 10th. Sundry Labours vs. Peter Goodin

Said Laborers Say they worked all the year for P Goodin & last week he called in the due bills he gave us & paid us 20 per cent & promised to met us all at the Bureau to pay the ballance he left on the Cars yesterday & has cheated us all. (gone to Napoleon Arkansas)

Nov 27th. Tabby Wheatly vs Andrew B Payne

Tabby Says on Monday 27 Inst Payne took my daughter & beat her badly she came to my Cabin & Payne & Miles Ferguson with him they wanted to beat the girl more I would not let them. Payne then Jumped on me & Ferguson struck me a Dozen times with a Stick[.] Payne took the girl down the back of the Yard & Pulled her Clothes over her head & beat her holding his head between his knees. I heard the cries of the girl & ran down he then let go the girl & began to beat me ag ain. By order Payne appeared & confessed to the beating - but denied that he Sanctioned Fergusons acts.

Finid 25 Dolls. Paid Plaintiff

(This is Payne's 2nd Outrage)

[Page 6]

Decr 20th. Maria Posey vs. Andrew B Payne

Maria Says Payne came to her house in Lavergne yesterday She was alone with her Child 5 Years aold she had been sick & was on the bed I got off the bed & was puttong on my Shoes when he pushed me back & tried to pull up my Clothes I screamed he let me alone. I jumped up & ran toward the door - I then saw a Companioin of his outside[.] Payne took up a fire shovel & was going to strike me with it when the man jumped in & took the shovel from him he then shoved me back on the fire & burned up my dress (Dress shown) They then went off. This Case cant be proved the 3rd party cant be found & no proof but no doubt of guilt. (This is Payne's No 3 & is reckoned one of the most respectable among men)

[Page 7]

Decr 18th Lewis Drennon (Co'd) Vs T Mahoney

Lewis Says - Drennon [Mahoney] Came to my house last night about 9 or 10 Oclock (we were all in bed) be broke in the door & presented a large pistol to my head demanded arms I told him I had none he then Struck me with his pistol over the eye Stunned [?] me & Cut my head open he then asked for my money my wife got up went to the box & took out & gave him my pocket book with a Cents [sic] in it he then went to the bed of my old fatherinlaw & Searched his pockets & my Childrens also & took every thing they had in it[.] He then went off (he had an accomplice outside). I then got up dressed my Self & went to the next house fearing they might come back to get some help while I was out[.] They Came back & beat my poor old Fatherinlaw so bad I am afriad he will die[.] (Case is now being tried by Military Court[.] The old Man died 2 days after the outrage[.]

[Page 8]

Decr. 20th Bill Stover Vs J Rolla Miller

Rolla Miller did in the presence of 11 Witnesses ten of them being White persons Shoot said Stover putting 2 balls through the right arm with the intent to Kill said Bill Stover while Stover was working for Millers Brother driving tem[.] Cause - Stover took away a Sister of his 10 Years of age & formerly owned by Said Miller[.] Said Child was badly used.

This Case has been in the hands of the Military Court - now dissolved & Case returned to me

Report from M. H. Puckett, Centerville, TN, to Brig. Maj. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, 15 Jan. 1866

[Page 2 of this letter includes a lengthy account of a freedman (unidentified) being attack in Vernon, Hickman County.] "These fellows Still prowl through the country boasting that they have not Surrendered and never intend to. Their names are **Benj Turbeville**, [William?] **Turbeville**, **William saterfield** and a fellow who resides in West Tennessee, whose name I have forgotten. . ."

Report from S. Melcher, LaGrange, TN, to Lieut. J. T. Alden, 17 Jan. 1866

[Page 1] . . . Dec. - During the 'insurrection' excitement in Tippah Co. Miss. one **Porter** shot at and killed a freedman because he did not stop when ordered to do so - he fired twice at him.

Dec. 11th. **Stephen Lane** Freedman was robbed of his gun, costing \$40 & his amunition - by **Capt R H Bomer**, commanding Militia in Marshall Co. Miss. . .

[Page 2] **Edmund McNeil**, Freedman, was arrested & put in jail at Bolivar & then hired to a man in Miss. who took him on the cars - but he jumped off on the way. He swears he knows of no reason for this except he went to the Supt at Bolivar to learn about his contract.

Dec. 28th. **Julia Wilson**, freedwoman, assaulted by **Steve & Jerry Bull** & cut with a Knife while they were intoxicated.

Jany 6th. **Jane Simmons** freedwoman assaulted by **Brickney Stafford** while intoxicated & badly beaten over the head.

Dec. **Ben Graves**, Freedman Fayette Co. Tenn. was robbed at night of his gun &c - valued at \$40 - by supposed Tippah Co. Miss. Militia. . . .

Report from Jno D Ussery, Supt., Bolivar, Hardeman Co., TN, to Maj. Gen. C. B. Fisk, 17 Jan. 1866

[Page 1] . . . Up the the 1st Jany 1866 but one case came to my knowledge, even looking like an outrage & that the case of a negro man, named **Isaiah Forbes**, charged with an assault upon a white man, named [page 2] **Wm. Wiggins**; Isaiah Forbes was arrested & after an examination & investigations of the facts he was released it appearing that he was justifiable

Report from R. C. Scott, Supt., Brownsville, Haywood Co., TN, to J. A. Alden, 18 Jan. 1866

[Page 1] . . . I have the honour to report to you that I Know of no case of any magnitude of offense committed by either of the white or colored population one against the other, since the date mentioned therein. . . .

Report from John W. Jones, Supt., Trenton, Gibson Co., TN, to Maj. Gen. C. B. Fisk, 24 Jan. 1866

[Page 1] . . . About the 1st of Jany 1866: a freedman by the name of **Daniel Wood** aged about sixty years peaceable and quiet in his character whose wife lived five miles from this place with a Mrs **Coleman**, was taken from his bed at his wifes house in the night time by some white men, and carried by force to a considerable distance, and shot several times and left by them as dead. Daniel recovered and is now nearly well. I have the parties suspected

of committing the outrage arrested and brought before me, but was unable [page 2] to obtain any satisfactory evidence of the guilt, or rather identity of the parties charged Daniel himself could not identify them. The result was the discharge of the parties accused, said as yet no clue can be obtained as to the parties who committed the outrage.

Some time after and within a few days of the above outrage on Daniel Woods a colored Man by the name of [blank] having a wife living at Tom Harris was shot and severely wounded. Harris at my instruction was arrested on suspicion, a justice of peace for said County proving the warrant of arrest under the state law. The colored man never came to make any complaint and was not before the Justice of the Peace, being as I learn unable from his wound to do so, and is still unable to quit his bed and may yet die. On the trial before the Justice, no evidence could or was had except the statement or admissions of Harris himself. They are as follows. Harris accused the colored man of giving a venereal disease to the colored girl in Harris employ, and told him he ought to pay the doctors Bills, whereupon according to said Harris Statement, the colored man replied that any man who made such a charge was a d__med liar, and advanced upon Harris for a fight, and Harris then drew a pistol and shot him, upon this evidence the Justice discharged the prisoner. . . .

[Page 3] The third and last one of any serious Consequence occurred also within a few days of the other two, & was the murder of a freedman by the name of Nettles, quite an old man, and one of the most harmless and inoffensive men in all this country. He was shot in broad daylight on the public highway leading into this Town, and only about 1 1/2 miles from it. He was driving a team peaceably and quietly along the road, and was met by three men white men, on horseback and under the influence of whisky. one of them rode up to the wagon and caught hold of the old man, and attempted to pull him out, upon his pulling back the man having hold of him called to the one of his crowd to shoot him, and he drew his pistol accordingly and shot him [page 4] through the body, and then left him. the old man survived the wound only three days.

Upon hearing of this outrage, I caused a warrant of arrest to issue for the parties, and placed it in the hands of a constable, but as yet they have not been found; and as I learn have fled the Country. If the parties can be arrested there will be no difficulty in making the proof. It can be done by an eye witness. . . .

(To Be Continued)