



FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS TRANSCRIBE-A-THON



The Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in collaboration with the NC African American Heritage Commission (NCAAHC), is seeking to transcribe North Carolina's Freedmen's Bureau Records (records are being held back from larger crowdsourcing campaign for NC use). North Carolina is the first state to pilot this idea of a statewide crowdsourced transcription effort and Fayetteville State University (FSU) is the only historically Black university participating. FSU is working with the Cumberland County Library-Headquarters & Spring Lake Branches and the River Jordan Council on African American Heritage (RJC) to plan a series of virtual transcribe-a-thons with community members, FSU students, faculty, and staff, and high schoolers. The transcripts will be held in the Smithsonian Transcription Center and North Carolina will be highlighted on the website.


#DiscoverTCFreedmen



Sat, May 1, 2021
Wed, June 16, 2021
Tues, July 13, 2021

Needed

- Students, faculty, and staff to participate in a virtual training and transcribing event.
- Would be particularly useful to have student organizations or classes participate as groups towards building community for the event.



The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands operated in all 15 southern and border states. North Carolina had branches across the state including Rocky Mount, Wilmington, New Bern, Raleigh, and Goldsboro. Cumberland County's records are in the Wilmington collection. All the extant records have been digitized, but many of them are in letters and correspondence in cursive and some are difficult to read. By transcribing these documents into typed text, we will help make archival research more accessible. These records contain rich historical information including community and education history, names and experiences of the formerly enslaved, court records, labor contracts and more.

Contact Francena Turner @ fturner1@uncfsu.edu for more information!