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# Register of Complaints: 1865-1868

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

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The seal of Ouachita Baptist University is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a cross and a flame. The shield is surrounded by a wreath. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "THE SEAL OF OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY" and the year "1880".

**Register of Complaints**

**1865 – 1868**

*Entry 283*

*Record Group 105*

*Volume 47*

*Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands*

***Transcribed by***

***Sarah Carnahan  
Meeks Etchieson  
Wesley Franklin  
Ashlee Hennessee  
Wendy Richter  
Charlie Thomas***

## Page 21

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 8<sup>th</sup> 1865

Bill Thomas vs. Joe & Jesse

Bill Thomas claims that one bushel of wheat and two sacks were unlawfully held by Joe and Jesse. Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows, viz.: That Mr. Frank Rudisell, the employer of Joe and Jesse, shall deliver to Bill Thomas the flour of one bushel of wheat and two sacks.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal of Freedmen

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Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 10<sup>th</sup> 1865

Captain Tennyson vs. Burl Garrett

Captain Tennyson charges Burl Garrett with stealing a hat full of peaches from an orchard belonging to said Britton and Tennyson.

Evidence taken and decisions rendered as follows, viz.: Burl Garrett shall make good the fruit taken, and pay a fine of two dollars (\$2.00) into this office.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal of Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 14<sup>th</sup> 1865

Vina Curtis vs. Bill Curtis

Vina Curtis charges Bill Curtis with striking, throwing down and cursing her, on evening of 13<sup>th</sup> instant --- also with having three wives.

Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows: That Bill Curtis pay a fine of five dollars (\$5.00) and marry one of the women he has lived with as a wife.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal of Freedmen

## Page 22

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 18<sup>th</sup> 1865

Amanda Potee vs. Daniel Marden

Amanda Potee charges Daniel Marden that he entered her room by force on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, handled her person and took a quilt from her bed, threw a chair, striking and cutting her head and committing other disorderly acts, also, has entered her room by night for unlawful purposes, at different times for the past three months. Said Daniel pleads not guilty.

Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows: the said Daniel Marden shall pay a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00).

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1865

Caroline Hargrove vs. William Marberry

A. N. Hargrove, in behalf of Caroline Hargrove, claims pay for eight months service during the year 1853 at 8 bushel of corn per month. The said William Marberry declines to pay full price, and claims that he has paid five bushel corn.

Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows, viz: The said William Marberry shall take credit for five bushels of corn paid the said Caroline Hargrove, and pay to Superintendent of Freedmen at Arkadelphia, on or before the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> instant the sum of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) in favor of the said Caroline Hargrove and her heirs.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

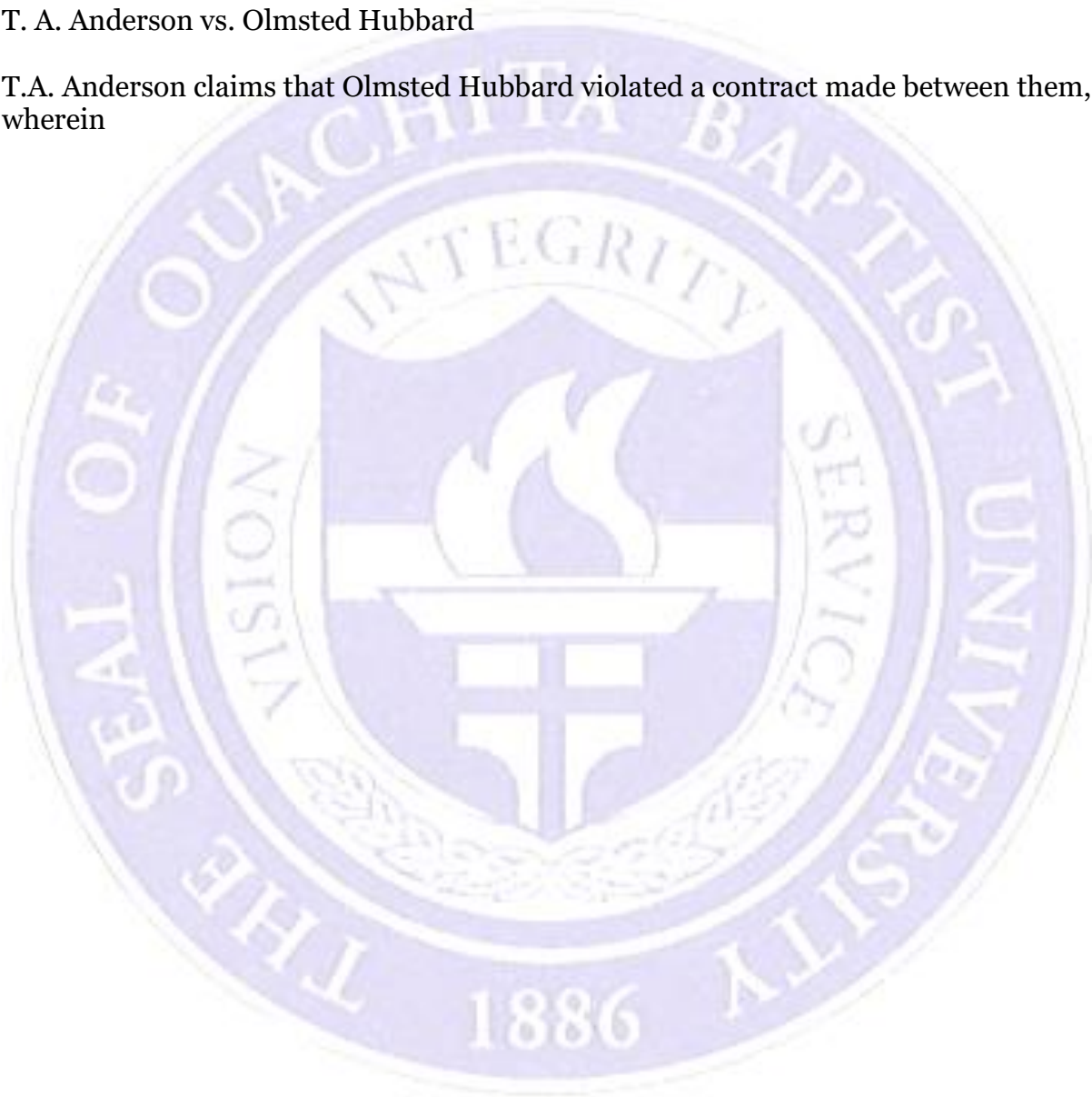
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**Page 22 (continued)**

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 28<sup>th</sup> 1865

T. A. Anderson vs. Olmsted Hubbard

T.A. Anderson claims that Olmsted Hubbard violated a contract made between them,  
wherein





## Page 23

said Olmstead engaged to pull fifteen acres of corn fodder, causing him a loss of the whole crop. Olmstead admits the failure on his part to discharge obligations.

Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows: That Olmsted Hubbard pay to T.A. Anderson (5) days faithful labor when called for.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

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Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 15<sup>th</sup> 1865

Office Superintendent &c vs. Thomas Ewing

Thomas Ewing, resident of Clark County, Arkansas, has freedmen in his employ. Has failed to file his contract after due notice to do the same, and still refuses to do so, being a contemptuous disregard of the authority of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

He was fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or thirty days in confinement. The fine of \$25.00 was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 16<sup>th</sup> 1865

Joe Johnson vs. C. P. Draper

Joe Johnson charges that C.P. Draper struck him twice with a club on or about the 15th day of September 1865 near Arkadelphia without cause and contrary to law. C.P. Draper reported at office, pleaded guilty to the charge as above stated and submitted the case without evidence.

Decision was rendered as follows, viz.: That C.P. Draper pay a fine of twenty dollars (\$20.00). Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

## Page 24

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 18<sup>th</sup> 1865

Thomas Roland vs. Josiah Smith

Thomas Roland, M.D., complains that Cyrus Smith disturbed the peace of the citizens in east Arkadelphia on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> 1865 by cursing and swearing in a loud and boisterous manner and other disorderly acts.

Cyrus Smith pleaded guilty and was fined five dollars (\$5.00) or confined at hard labor for eight days. Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 16<sup>th</sup> 1865

Caroline Hargrove vs. William Marberry, reconsidered

Caroline Hargrove claims 8 bushels of corn per month for eight months (8) service. Case was heard August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1865 – Vide Case 5, page 22 – and now reconsidered.

Decision rendered as follows: That William Marberry pay to the said Caroline Hargrove or her heirs the sum of forty-eight dollars (\$48.00).

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

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Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1865

William Calloway vs. John Peeples and Mills Bullock

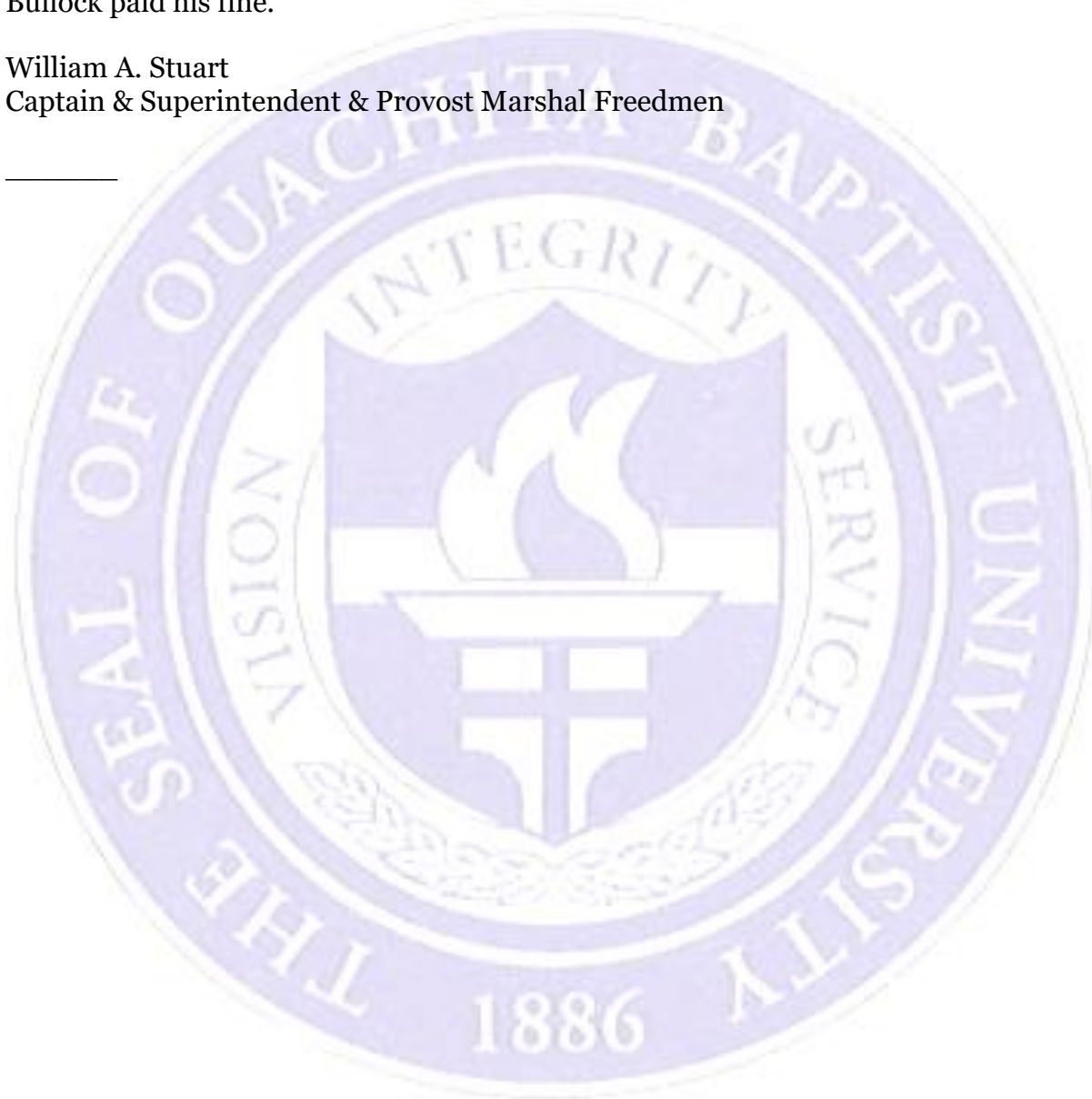
William Calloway charges John Peeples and Mills Bullock with throwing brick bats into his window and breaking nine lights of glass and one sash.

**Page 24 (continued)**

Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows, viz.: That John Peebles and Mills Bullock each pay 50 cents each to William Calloway for 3 lights of glass and one sash broken, and a fine of one dollar each or to be confined at hard labor one day. Mills Bullock paid his fine.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

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## Page 25

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1865

C. P. Draper vs. Joe Johnson

C.P. Draper charges Joe Johnson with violation of this contract to serve him &c by disobeying instructions, failing to discharge his duties, and using improper language to the said Draper.

Joe Johnson pleaded guilty, was fined \$5.00 or labor in confinement ten days. Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 25<sup>th</sup> 1865

Maria Hevington vs. Alice Daily

Maria Hevington charges Alice Daily with stealing one pair of ladies shoes from house of Jasper Reed on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1865.

Alice Daily pleaded guilty and returned the shoes, was sentenced to banishment from the county or pay a fine of four dollars. Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 9<sup>th</sup> 1865

Martha Edwards vs. Felix Edwards

Martha Edwards charges Mr. Felix Edwards with having whipped her on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, for not throwing corn into the crib as she was directed.

## Page 25 (continued)

Accused pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$25.00 or be confined in the military prison for thirty days. The fine was paid.

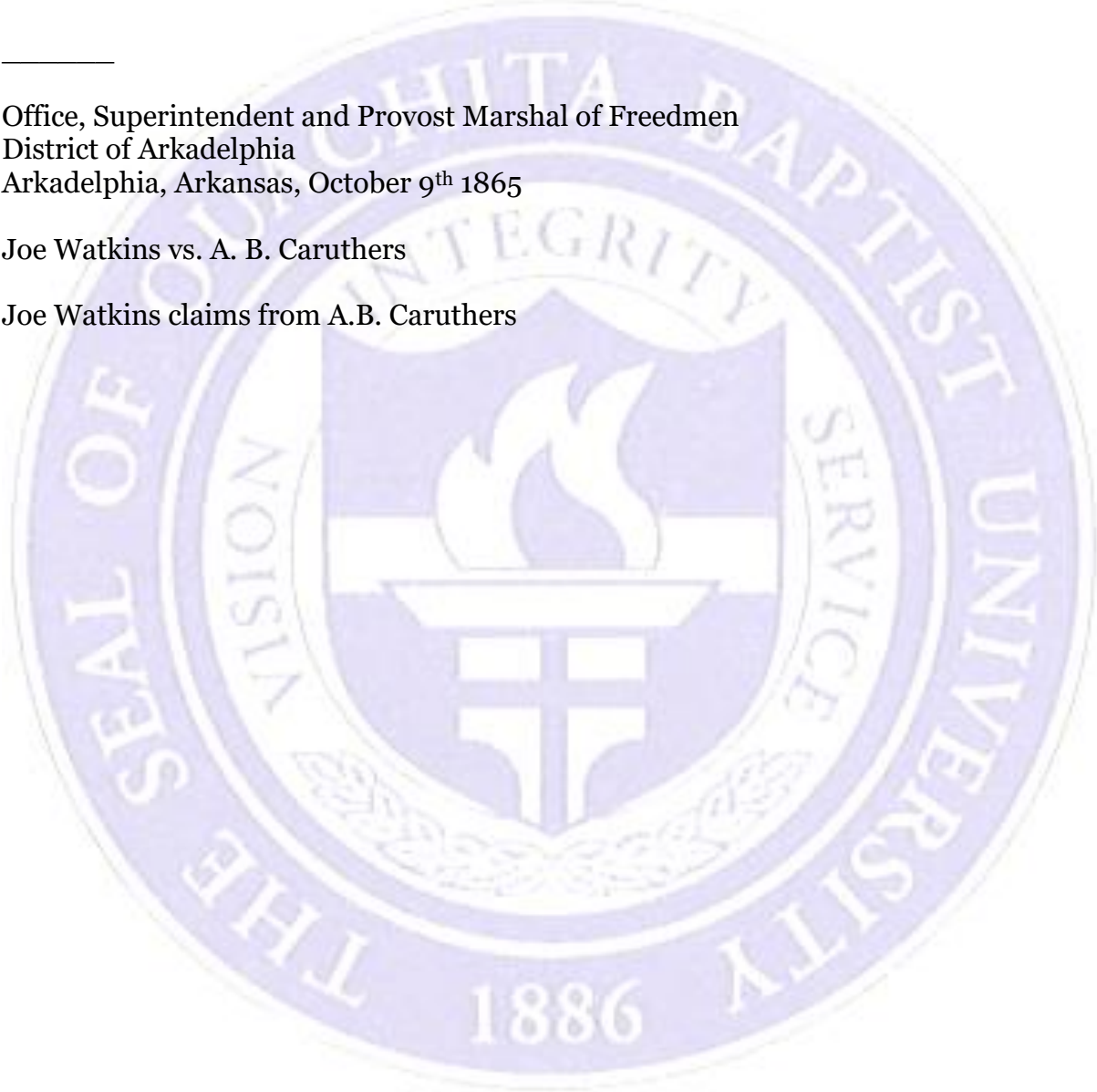
William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

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Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District of Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 9<sup>th</sup> 1865

Joe Watkins vs. A. B. Caruthers

Joe Watkins claims from A.B. Caruthers



## Page 26

60 bushels of corn for six months labor in 1865, \$5.00 for 2 shirts, 1.50 for 1 pair shoes, 1.00 for 1 pair gloves. Mr. Caruthers refusing to pay said account.

Evidence taken when it was shown that Joe was sick nearly all the year and that the shirts were sold for \$4.00 instead of \$5.00.

Decision was rendered as follows: Mr. Caruthers shall pay to Joe Watkins the sum of \$20.00 and 200 bundles of fodder.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

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Office, Superintendent and Provost Marshal of Freedmen  
District Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 11<sup>th</sup> 1865

Sandy vs. Isaac Anderson

Sandy charges Isaac Anderson with having beaten him with a whip handle and otherwise abused him for not finding a certain whip. Accused acknowledged that he struck him and submitted the case without further evidence.

Decision rendered as follows, viz.: That said Isaac Anderson pay a fine of fifteen dollars (\$15.00). Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent & Provost Marshal Freedmen

---

Office, Superintendent Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
District Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1865

Captain Tennyson vs. Burl McLure

Captain Tennyson charges Burl McLure with assisting to steal cotton from the gin of said Tennyson. Burl denied any criminal intentions by his act.

Evidence taken and Burl McLure was fined ten dollars. Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

## Page 27

Office Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, District  
November 16<sup>th</sup> 1865

MacLin Bullock vs. Thomas S. Bullock

McLin charges T.S. Bullock with striking him on the head with a piece of iron bar. T.S. Bullock pleaded guilty, but pleaded most provoking impudence to his father by said McLin in extenuation of the act.

T.S. Bullock was fined \$15.00. Paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

---

Office Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
District Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas  
November 30<sup>th</sup> 1865

Wiley Young vs. Robert Hurt

Wiley Young charges Robert Hurt with having whipped him with a rope on or about November 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hurt was arraigned and pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$10.00 or be confined at hard labor for 15 days. Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart  
Captain & Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

---

Office Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
District Arkadelphia  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas  
December 9<sup>th</sup> 1865

Oscar Peeples vs. Scipio Perry and John Peeples

Oscar Peeples charges Scipio Perry and John Peeples of carrying firearms, contrary to orders issued in Circular No. 3, and dated November 21<sup>st</sup> 1865, also shooting on his premises and disturbing his family.



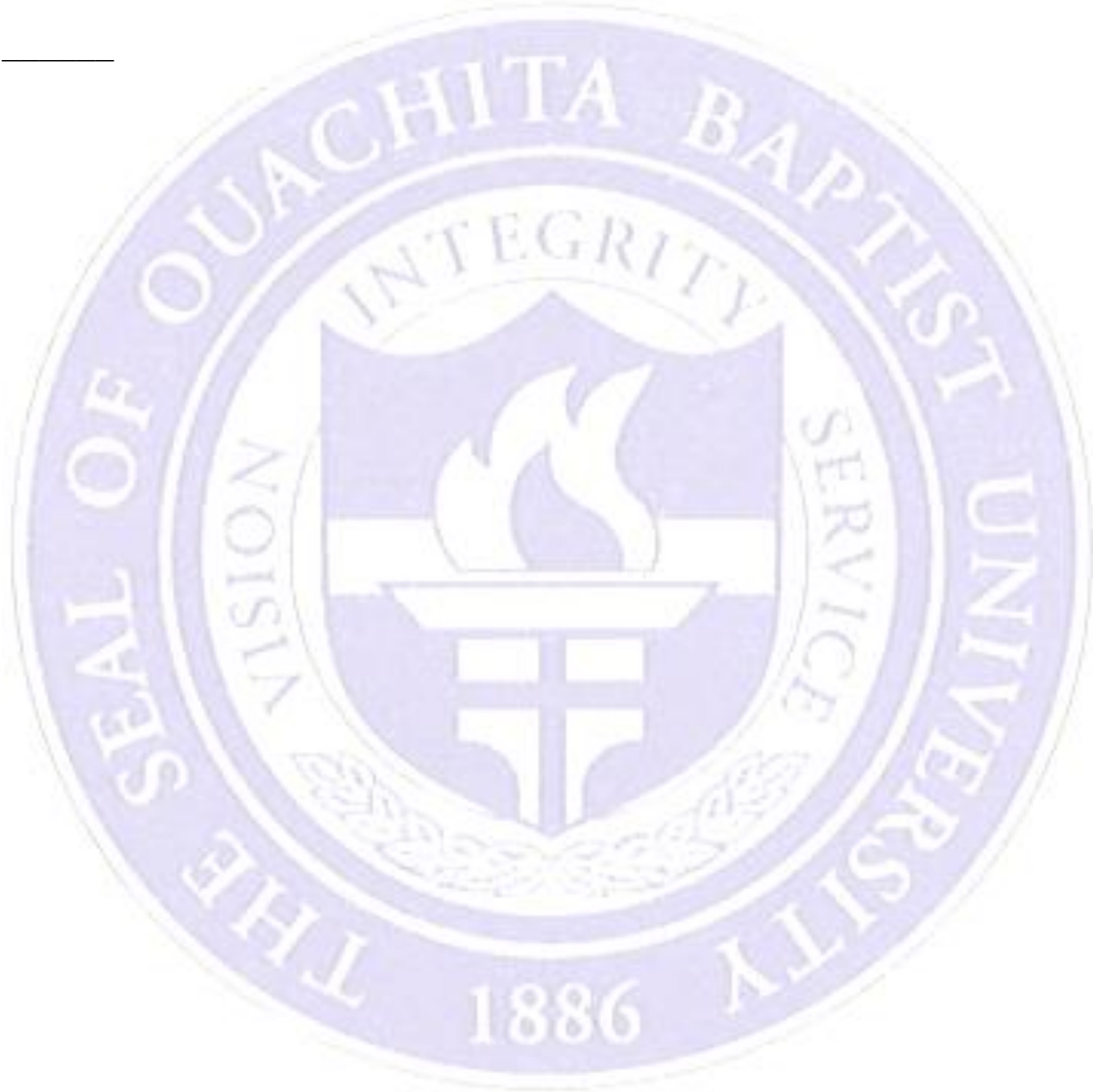
**Page 27 (continued)**

Evidence taken and decision rendered that they each pay a fine of five dollars. Fine was paid.

William A. Stuart

Captain & Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

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## Page 28

Office Superintendent, Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
District Arkadelphia  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 1865

Willis Wilson vs. Jim Jordan and Doc Nash

Willis Wilson charges Jim Jordan and Doc Nash with killing and stealing hogs in the bottom belong to other persons. They acknowledged the charge.

Decided that they each carry a block of wood weighing 30 lbs. and keep in motion 2 hours on and one off from sunrise until sunset for the term of 15 days.

Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen

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Office Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen  
District Arkadelphia  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 1865

C. W. Sparks vs. Alex Jones and Peter Jordan

C. W. Sparks charges Alex Jones and Peter Jordan with having killed and stolen a hog belonging to him.

Evidence taken and decision rendered as follows: That the accused pay to C.W. Sparks \$5.00, the value of the hog. That they each carry a block of wood weighing 30 lbs. and keep in motion 2 hours and one off from sunrise until sunset, for fifteen days.

Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen

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Office Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen  
District Arkadelphia  
February 28<sup>th</sup> 1866

Emily Seawood vs. Mrs. Greene

Emily Seawood charges Mrs. Peter Greene with having beaten and abused her. Mr. Peter Greene on the part of Mrs. Greene submitted the case.

Decision rendered that accused pay a fine of \$10.00. Fine was paid.

Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen

## Page 29

Office Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen  
District Arkadelphia  
February 28th 1866

Adeline Greene vs. George White

Adeline Greene charges George White with having beaten and otherwise abused her. George White submitted the case; decided that he pay a fine of \$20.00

Commutd to \$10.00 and paid, April 21<sup>st</sup> 1866.

W. A. Britton  
Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen

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March 19, 1866

Bureau vs. Robert Murdock

Robert Murdock arraigned for killing Mat Dickinson. Turned over to civil authorities by order of Brigadier General Sprague, April the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1866.

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Office Superintendent, April 10<sup>th</sup> 1866

W. H. Calloway vs. A. H. Blish, et omnes vs. U.S.

Concerning a mule claimed by both plaintiff and defendant and whereupon the government entered a claim.

Judgment rendered against the parties and properly restored to the government. Cost against defendant.

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Office Superintendent, April 14<sup>th</sup> 1866

Jane McLane vs. Wiley Rogers

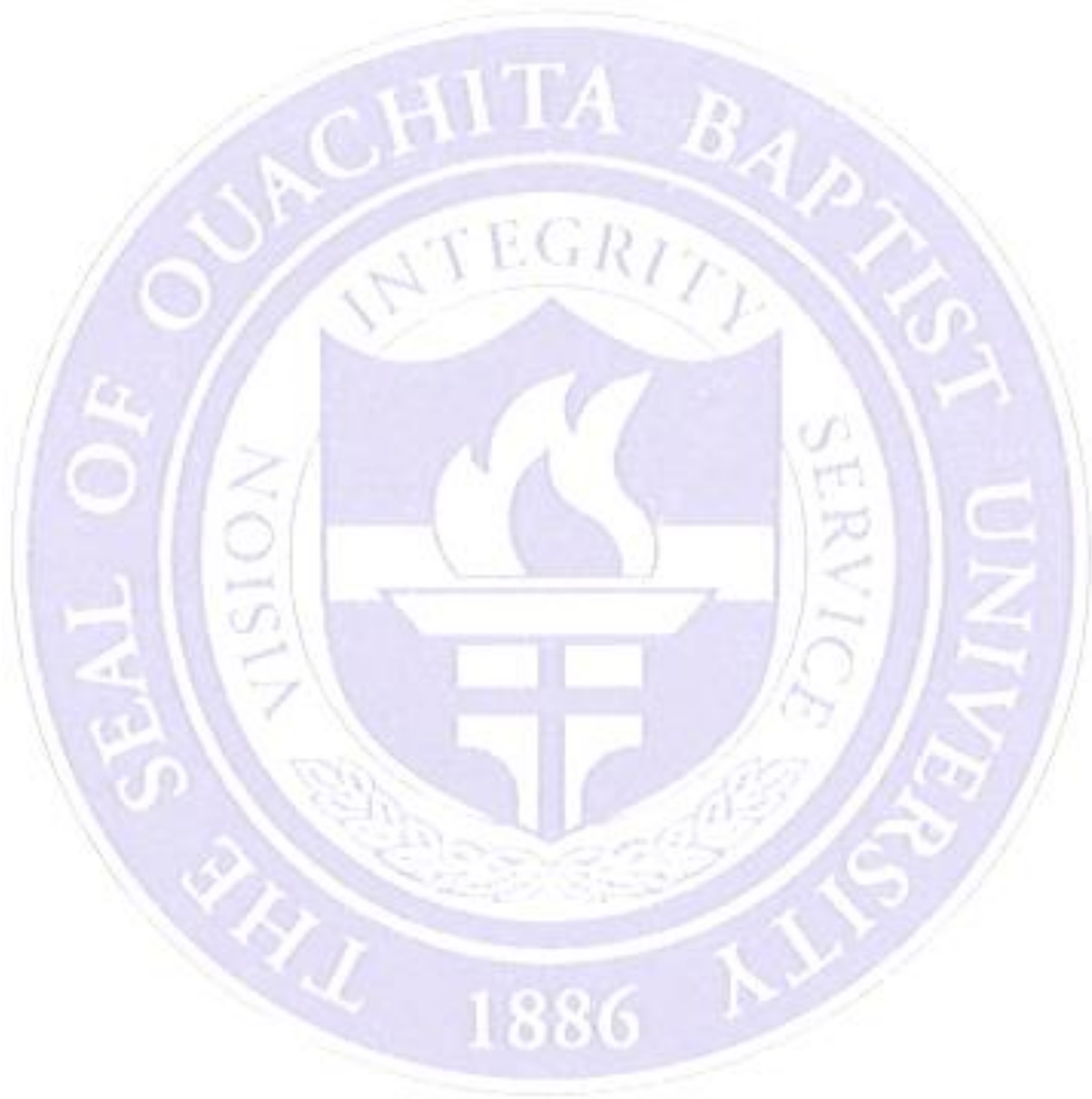
Jane McLane charges Wiley Rogers and wife with having beaten and bruised her over the head and blacked her eyes. Wiley Rogers submitted the case without further investigation, upon her representation.

Decision rendered that said W. Rogers pay a fine of \$10.00. Fine was paid.

Superintendent, Refugees and Freedmen

**Page 30**

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## Page 31

November 24<sup>th</sup> 1866

W. A. Pillow

Charged by Fred Atkinson with breach of contract, threatened to kill Fred, has followed Fred with a gun, has never settled with Fred and F is afraid to carry a note.

---

Sarah Wheeler vs. Richard Harvey

Comes plaintive and say during the year 1864 she sold defendant three bushels of corn for which she has never received any pay.

Judgment given to plaintiff for \$ — & settled Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 1866

---

Matilda Linly (colored) vs. John Cash

Comes plaintiff and say she sold a horse to John Cash for \$10 in gold and \$25 in greenbacks.

Henry Shelter was authorized to sell the horse. Defendant took Shelter off the road to pay for the horse say that if that white seen them trade he would swindle Shelter, also told Shelter not to show the money to any person or they would steal it from him. Shelter as soon as he received the money took it and showed it to Mr. W.W. Walker, who examined it and found only \$10 in specie and \$14.60 in greenback. When Walker remonstrated with Cash, Cash told Walker he better leave.

Plaintive claims the horse or the balance of \$10.40.

Clay Bank horse branded with H4 on right hip and Spanish brand on right shoulder, 14 hands high about.

Settled, proven that the price to be paid for the horse was only \$30, current money, and parties discharged.

## Page 32

Adams vs. Bill Curtis, Freedman

Comes plaintiff and accuse Curtis with stealing his hogs in Dallas County. Adams wants it referred to civil authorities. Justice declined to issue a writ.

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Office Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
Arkadelphia, December 7<sup>th</sup> 1866

Mr. Sparks

Sir,

Alice Dennis (freedwoman) brings charges against you for refusing to pay her for 3½ months work done for your family at \$5 per month.

You will therefore call at this office to settle said account and save yourself further expense.

By order of  
A.E. Habicht, Superintendent

Sparks summons to pay Alice Dennis

---

J. F. Bozeman

Ordered to report to settle account of Ely Logan, run off, being charged with killing hogs.

December 17<sup>th</sup> 1866

Ely Logan overdrew his account, owes J.F. Bozeman 18 - 84/100

**Page 33**

Sarah E. Martin vs. W. S. Horn

Sarah enters complaint that she has been whipped and ill used. She left the place. Notice was sent to Horn to settle with her (by her) and he refused to pay her. Horn lives 18 miles on the Camden Road.

Settled with her to date

\_\_\_\_\_

Clarrisa Green vs. W. F. Hulsey

Clarrisa claims pay for two months wages at five dollars per month. Ordered Mr. Hulsey to settle.

Settled.

\_\_\_\_\_

Mc Johnson vs. Dick Browning (freedmen) (both)

Comes Johnson and claims the sum of twenty-five dollars for one certain black mare sold to Browning. Said mare died while in charge of Browning. Cause why he refuses to pay.

\_\_\_\_\_

Jim Jones ordered to report to answer charge of taking off children from their indentures to Dan E. Jones.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867

Children returned

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. Tom Dickerson

Comes plaintiff badly bruised and right arm bleeding profusedly and states that defendant attempted and did with a shovel strike at her head. By guarding the blow with her right arm it saved her life.

February 16<sup>th</sup> '67

\_\_\_\_\_

**Page 34**

Arkadelphia, April 27<sup>th</sup> 1867

Appeared before me A.E. Habicht, Superintendent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

Jesse Lamb, who being duly sworn, deposes and says that he received the order to report to this office at 12 n on the 26<sup>th</sup> instant and says that the meat in dispute between Washington Fields was killed and salt furnished as per order and that the meat was delivered and, the spoiling of the same was of no fault of his. And further states that the account for the labor of year 1866 was satisfactorily settled between himself and plaintiff (Harrison) as he can prove by good witnesses.

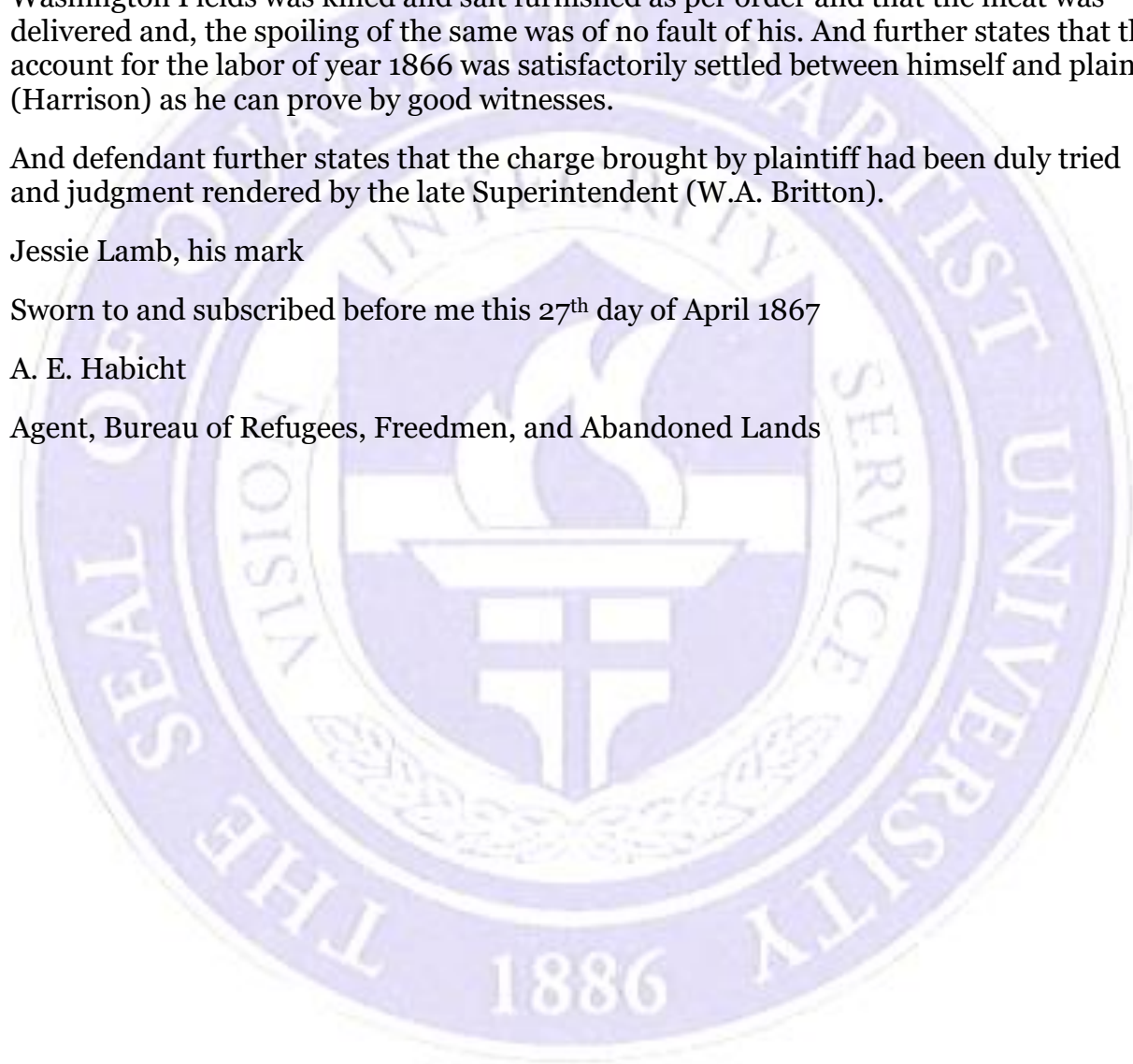
And defendant further states that the charge brought by plaintiff had been duly tried and judgment rendered by the late Superintendent (W.A. Britton).

Jessie Lamb, his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 1867

A. E. Habicht

Agent, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands





## Page 35

April 20<sup>th</sup> 1868

Adam Blanch vs. Thomas Ewing

Adam says Ewing owes him \$9 for repair of plows, 40 bushels of cotton seed and 60#s lint cotton.

Adam had plows repaired for work this year. For repairs of plows Ewing was to let Adam have plows to make crop but sent for the plows on 19<sup>th</sup> April, which threw Adam out of tools.

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April 24<sup>th</sup> 1868

Mc Johnson, freedman vs. William Jenkins

Made contract before Jessy Ross, J.P. Jenkins drove off Johnson for not working a certain piece of ground. Summoned to appear Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, instant.

---

McKey vs. Alex Jordan

John Narra say that Alex lives on the place of Mr. McKey. He does nothing. Alex said that he would leave the place and leave Narra have the house on the Tuesday following. About 6 week ago (April 25<sup>th</sup>) Mr. McKey notified Alex to leave or go to work. Neither would he go to work, both of which he refused to do.

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**Page 36**

April 29<sup>th</sup> 1868

D. M. Wadley

Ordered to report to this office on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to settle with Henry Holliman for year 1867.

---

May 12

Martha Williams claims pay for year 1868. J.N. Brooks died and his widow refuses to pay. Sent word to Mrs. Brooks.

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R. E. Reames

Sam Harris 36.15  
Fodder & hay

Prange Steen 39.76

Giles 79.91

Garner B. 16.89

Henry Doby 16.71  
Paid June 27 \$30

Ramsey Hunter .80

Jim Merrill 47.16  
Proceeds, one bale cotton \$69 65/100  
Merrill, fodder 2.50, cash \$8

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