

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREELMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,

HEAD QUARTERS, SIXTH DISTRICT VIRGINIA

WINCHESTER, VA., *March 26<sup>th</sup>* 1866

*Jacob Bailey*  
Chairman Board of Overseers of the Poor  
Page County, Va

Sir  
Under orders from H<sup>on</sup>ble Genl. Comm. State of Va, I am directed to require from you immediate answers to the following questions viz: Will the Board of Overseers undertake to provide for the maintenance or assistance of destitute colored persons having a settlement within the limits of its control in the same manner as is provided for destitute white persons? What will be the extent and character of such maintenance or assistance, and if it cannot be provided for all destitute colored persons, for what proportion will the Board undertake to provide? What rule of action does the Board propose for their own Government on the whole subject of colored paupers?

These questions apply to the present year,  
in which it is demanded that the freed-  
people should pay taxes, and include the  
ability as well as the disposition of the  
corporation in the premises -

As information that you can readily  
obtain, you will also please report to me  
the exact rate at which all the several taxes  
are assessed in your county and town,  
specifying Poll tax, and those upon real  
and personal property -

To avoid any misconception of the nature  
of this order, and the necessity for prompt  
compliance with it you are reminded that  
its authority is now the supreme law  
of the land -

M. Stanton

B. W. May, Jr.

Superintendent

These questions after the first year  
should be answered that the  
people should be provided with  
adequate food and the  
Government should be  
the information that you can easily

Overseers of Poor

These are the questions which  
are answered in your  
specifying the law and the  
and the  
I have very much  
of the other and the  
Guarantee that of you are  
the certificate is not the

Mr. J. J. J. J.  
B. J. J. J. J.

