

Overseers of the Poor Correspondence 1866

Jacob Byerly

Chairman Board of Overseers of the Poor

Page County, VA

Sir,

Under orders from 8th [illegible] asst. comm. State of VA

I am directed to request from you immediate answers to the following questions. Will the board of Overseers [illegible] to provide for the maintenance or assistance of destitute colored persons having a settlement within the limits of it 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 the board propose for their own government on the whole subject of colored pauper?

These questions apply to the present year for which it is demanded that the freed people should pay taxes, and includes the ability as well as the disposition of the [illegible] 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 specifically 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 upon all reminded that its authority is now the law of the supreme land