

Letters Sent (Provost Marshal's Office, 7th District Missouri)

[page 1]

[*front cover*]

[page 2]

Headquarters Prov. [Provost] Mar. [Marshal] Office Seventh District of Missouri

Saint Joseph, April, 22, 1865

Col. [Colonel] E. B. Alexander

A. [Acting] A. [Assistant] P. [Provost] M. [Marshal] Genl[.] [General]

Saint Louis Mo.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of you Circular Letter of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1865 and would respectfully state that Capt[.] William Fowler relieved the Asst[.] Surgeon in the 16<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1864 and all his Dept[.] Prov. mar. on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst with the exception of O.B. Phelps who is in duty at this place and whose services I think indispensable for the present he being the only employee in duty except the three clerks and owing to the number of Volunteer Recruits recently mustered[.] I deem their services also necessary in closing up the the business of the Office[.]

I have had to purchase two Blank Books for Letter and record Books with a small amount of letter paper at the same time[.] I assure you that every possible effort shall be made to reduce the expense of this Office to the lowest possible amount[.]

Very respectfully

Your Obot [Obedient] Servant

A. C. Miller

Commissioner Board of Enrolment 7<sup>th</sup> Dist of Mo

In Charge

[page 3]

Prov. Mar. Office, 7<sup>th</sup> Dist of Mo.

Saint Joseph, August, 8<sup>th</sup>, 1865

Col. E. B. Alexander,

A. A. P. M. Genl.

Saint Louis, Mo.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular Letter, dated, May, 16<sup>th</sup>, 1865, directing the Provost Marshal of this District to make out and forward a complete history of the operations and workings of this Office since it commenced business etc and in accordance therewith I would respectfully submit the following Report[:]

Organization of the Board

Pursuant to orders received from Col. James B. Fry, Prov. Mar. Genl. U.S. the Board of Enrolment for the 7<sup>th</sup> Cong. Dist of Mo. met and organized in the City of Saint Joseph, Mo in the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1863[.]

Members of the Board

William Fowler – Captain and Provost Marshal

Abraham C. Miller – Commissioner

Dr. William Bertram – Surgeon

The duties of the office were commenced with a little delay as possible. Three Rooms in the "City Hotel" were selected as suitable rooms for offices, at a cost of 15\$ per month, a small amount of Stationery and Office Furniture was purchased. It was the opinion of the Board at that time, that two clerks would be amply sufficient to secure the speedy transaction of all business that might come before the Board, whereupon Willis M. Sherwood and Theodore A. Fowler were appointed clerks and it was recommended to the Department that they should receive Compensation at the rate of 75\$ per month each[.] The employment of one Special Agent was also deemed necessary and accordingly Caleb G. Gillette was appointed and it was recommended to the Prov. Mar. Genl. U.S. that he receive compensation at the rate of 65\$ per month.

The Board with the least possible delay, then proceeded to the Sub-division of the District into twenty one Sub-districts and to put an Enrolling Officer at work in each.

The manner of Conducting the Business was as follows: The Board usually met at 8 o'clock a.m. and continued in session until 12 m. [meridian] reassembled at 1 o'clock p.m. and adjourned at 6 o'clock p.m. and from Sept 1, to May 1<sup>st</sup> that Board assembled at 7 o'clock a.m. and adjourned at 9 o'clock p.m.

When completing the Enrolment and during the progress of the Draft, the labors of the Office were sometimes prosecuted until 12 o'clock at night, it being necessary in order to facilitate the operation of the draft.

The Prov. Marshal attended specially to the Correspondence and the daily record of the business transacted by the Board each day[.]

The Commissioner superintended the Enrolment, Consolidation of the Enrolment, Purchases and Accounts and making the required Reports of the Office.

The Surgeon took no part in the workings, or conducting the business of the office, more than when his official duties required it.

Our clerk was constantly employed in the Enrolment, in consolidating and recording the names enrolled; The other clerk was employed in keeping the accounts, making up the monthly and Tri monthly Reports, copying letters etc.

The Prov. Marshal always consulted the Commissioner in regard to the business of the Office, and the best mode of transacting the same, the two being always present during business hours, the surgeon being present only when his official duties required.

All written communications sent from the Office were copied in a book kept for that purpose and all letters received each month were carefully filed separately for convenience of reference[.]

Citizens were allowed full and free access to the office at all times during business hours, and great pains were taken by the Board to become familiar and well acquainted with the opinion and desire of the people and also to urge upon them the necessity of a cheerful compliance on their part with the requirements of the law.

Method of Enrolling etc.

This was found to be the most difficult work yet presented to the Board, being without experience and with nothing but the law and the orders issued upon the subject to guide them in the discharge of this duty.

It was deemed best by the Board to divide some of the largest and most populous counties in the District, especially those nearest Headquarters into two or more sub-districts so that the enrolment might be nearly completed in these by the time it had fairly commenced in those more remote, in order that the work of Consolidation might be commenced at the earliest moment possible.

[page 4]

The District is composed of Fifteen Counties embracing an area of more than seven thousand square miles, with a distance from the Headquarters of the District to the remote parts of 150 miles by mail routes was divided into 21 sub-districts and the best men that could be obtained residing therein were appointed Enrolling Officers, who were instructed to commence their work immediately and proceed with it as rapidly as possible, making their reports and returns of the Enrolment when completed by municipal Townships and to do their work as thoroughly as possible. Enrolling Officers in the prosecution of their labors had many difficulties to contend with, many persons were at that time absent from their homes, the majority of this class being Rebels and their sympathizers, some temporarily absenting themselves, while many joined the Rebel army. Others composed of the loyal and disloyal had left and were leaving the District for the western Gold mines and Territories to avoid the Enrolment and draft, supposing that unless the Enrolling Officer saw them personally they could not be legally enrolled and held liable to draft. Questions arising from the facts above alluded to, in the matter of absentees frequently presented themselves to Enrolling Officers and were by them generally referred to the Board of Enrolment for an opinion and proper instructions. The questions thus presented to the Board were very embarrassing and difficult of solution, requiring that justice be done the Government and no injustice done those citizens remaining at home and willing to meet all just demands of them from the Government to fill up the Armies.

To increase the number enrolled to more than the actual number of citizens would be doing this class great injustice and by not enrolling the absentees and those who had temporarily left their homes to avoid service would in learning of their non-enrolment and so soon as the danger of draft was passed, return, the Board decided to enroll all, consequently few absentees enrolled have returned. Accordingly all were enrolled whether at home or supposed to be temporarily absent. Citizens of the District in the Rebel Army were also enrolled in accordance with instructions dated Prov. Mar. Genl. Office, St. Louis, Mo. July 31<sup>st</sup> 1863. Part. II as follows:

"I have also to inform you, that persons absent from their legal residence should be enrolled, whether they are supposed to be in the Rebel Service or otherwise."

This vexed question having been settled, which had somewhat delayed the progress of the Enrolment, Enrolling Officers were urged to push forward the Enrolment as rapidly as possible and to enumerate all belonging to the class mentioned in the above instructions, until completed. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Sepr. the following letter of instructions was received from Col. E. B. Alexander, A.A.P.M. Genl. mo. dated St. Louis, mo. Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

"I am directed by the Prov. Mar. Genl. to direct you not to place upon the Enrolment Lists, the names of persons who are in the Rebel Service. If any such persons have already been enrolled, their names must be stricken from the Lists."

As this class had been enumerated in accordance with the judgment of the Board and the letter of instruction of July, 31, the latter instruction cause some confusion in the Lists already returned, which had to be corrected by striking the names of such from the lists. Enrolling Officers were under the necessity of coming to Headquarters in order to examine and note upon their returns the names of persons enrolled by them belonging to this class. In some localities larger numbers in the Rebel Service were found to be enrolled; this also caused some delay in the consolidation of the Enrolment as the sheets had to be again compared, in order to purge the Lists of such of these names as had been placed upon the Consolidated Lists. Enrolling Officers, during the

progress of the Enrolment and until its completion, were required to make their returns to this office at least once a week or oftener.

The Enrolment of each Sub-District was kept separate, the names being entered upon the Consolidated Lists in alphabetical order, giving the Township and Sub-district, upon each sheet, in which the parties enrolled resided.

Two copies of the names thus consolidated were made out, one copy placed in file for the use of this office, and the other was forwarded to the office Prov. Mar. Genl. U.S. Washington, D.C. That three classes required to be enrolled were kept on separate Lists, the I Class consisting of all persons between the ages of 20 & 35 years, and all single men between the ages of 20 & 45 years  
II. Class, all married persons between the ages of 35 & 45 years  
III. Class, all those who were in the Military Service of the United States on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 1865.

The Consolidation of the Enrolment was Completed and forwarded to Washington on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 1863.

The number of each Class enumerated is, as follows:

I. Class, 9725. II. Class. 4491. II. Class. 3064. Total Enrolled, 17280. The number of days required by Enrolling Officers were 658, at a cost of 1974\$, making an average of nearly 26 $\frac{1}{3}$  persons enrolled per day at a cost of nearly 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents each.

The Enrolment was commenced in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sub-District in the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, three days after the organization of the Board

[page 5]

and completed October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863, but was not thoroughly gotten under way in the other Sub-Districts, until the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1863, which delay may appear to have been neglect of prompt action on the part of the Board, but it must be taken into account that some of the more remote Sub-Districts were distant near 150 miles from these Headquarters by mail routes and irregular weekly mail communications. The mail facilities being of such an indifferent character, were not always depended upon, and in order to expedite the enrolment, Special Agents were sometimes employed and sent to the most remote Sub-districts with Blanks and instructions to the Enrolling Officers. Every effort was made by the Board to carry into effect the practical workings of the law, and I am of the opinion, that the time employed by the Enrolling Officers and the cost of the Enrolment, will in the matter of economy, favorably compare with any District in the State, in which the same difficulties were contended with. It was the constant study and business of the Board to promptly execute all orders and carry out as far as possible all instructions emanating from the Bureau.

I will take occasion here to state, that the thanks of the members of the Board are due Col. E. B. Alexander, A.A.P.M. Genl. for Mo. for the kindness and courtesy shown in giving them prompt instruction and information in the discharge of their duties.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of Mary. 1864, a 15 quire Record Book was received at this Office, forwarded by Col. Alexander, to be used as an Enrolment Record. In this Book were entered the names of all persons enrolled in the District, in alphabetical order, with the residence of each by Sub-Districts and Townships. No pains were spared to make this as complete a Record of the Enrolment as possible, accordingly the names of all persons stricken off the lists, were so entered under the head of Remarks with the cause of exemption, also opposite the names of persons enlisting and those drafted into the service of the United States, the fact was noted and the disposition made of

them. Consequently this record book has been made very valuable for future reference and information and great care has been exercised to preserve it in as good condition as possible.

Correction of the Enrolment.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1863, Circular No. 101, dated Prov. Mar. Genl's Office, Washington. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1863, was received at this Office and the Board proceeded at once to enter upon the duties of carrying out the instructions contained in said Circular.

The names enrolled in this District were immediately placed in the hands of the printer and contract made for their publication on sheets in alphabetical order, and by Sub-Districts, to be completed at the earliest moment possible, but were not completed and ready for distribution until the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. following.

Previous to the reception of this order, all enrolling officers on duty in the District had been relieved, hence it became necessary to appoint new ones or reappoint those formerly employed, notify them of their appointment and submit said appointments to the Prov. Mar. Genl[.] for his approval. This to some extent delayed the carrying out of the provisions and designs of Circular 101. So soon as the necessary officers were procured, as above stated, these printed Lists were placed in their hands and by them posted up in at least five of the most public places in each of the Sub-Districts, and in some of the large sub-districts it was adjudged necessary by the Board and so ordered that more than this number should be posted up, in order that notice to the citizens might be as general as possible. These printed Lists, in addition to what has been previously stated contained the information, that "Any person enrolled might appear before the Board of Enrolment and claim to have his name stricken off the List, if he could show to the satisfaction of the Board, that he is not or will not be at the time fixed for next draft liable to military duty on account of 1<sup>st</sup>, Alienage, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Non-residence, 3<sup>rd</sup> unsuitableness of Age, 4<sup>th</sup>, Permanent Physical Disability. Any person being cognizant of any other persons liable to military duty, whose names do not appear on the Enrolment Lists, are requested to notify the Board, who will thereupon direct the Enrolling Officer of the Sub-district, so that said persons may be properly enrolled", This information was also brought to the knowledge of the Citizens of the District by means of advertisement in the newspapers of the District.

During the time in which parties enrolled were notified to appear before the Board, a general Snow Storm occurred in the District, rendering the roads almost impassable, in consequence of which but a small number of persons appeared before the Board and but few of the Sub-districts would have received any benefit from this order, had not the Board been order by dispatch received to Continue the time for the hearing, of cases for exemption up to the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Fanuary, 1864. Within the time fixed for

[page 6]

the hearing of applications for exemption, from Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863 to Jany, 5<sup>th</sup> 1864. Seven hundred and eighty (780) cases were examined by the Board and a considerable number upon application accompanied by the requisite proof, change from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Of the number examined, two hundred and thirty nine (539) names were recommended to be stricken from the List, as follows:

Alienage	49
Non-residence	1
Unsuitableness of Age	27
Physical Disability	436
Mental	1

Twice Enrolled	3
Died Since Enrolled	14
Changed to 3 <sup>rd</sup> or Military Class	8
Total	539

During the same time, Five hundred and fifty (553) names were enrolled, as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Class	437
2 <sup>nd</sup> "	103
3 <sup>rd</sup> "	13
Total	553

The manner in which these examinations were conducted by the Board, was, as follows: But one applicant was permitted to appear before the Board at a time: if for Alienage, he was required to comply fully with Cir. No. J3 G.S. 1863. in the case of non-residents, sworn testimony to the fact was required in all cases. The same was required in the case of claims for exemption in account of unsuitableness of Age, the testimony first of the parents was required when it could be obtained, otherwise the applicant of two or more citizens cognizant of the fact.

In cases of claiming for exemption on account of Physical Disability, the applicant was examined with the affected parts fully exposed to the view of the Board, and by each of them closely examined, The Surgeon Dr. Bertram was well qualified to discharge this part of his duties, his examination being made with skill and prudence and generally to the satisfaction of the applicants.

In every case submitted to the Board, the name, age and residence of the applicant was taken and entered upon the record, also the opinion of the Board whether they considered the case presented a proper one for exemption or not was recorded in each case examined.

No certificates of Exemption were given by the Board, none at that time being required.

Usually, about one hundred applications were heard each day, after which, the names of those proposed to be stricken from the Lists, were so noted in the Consolidated Lists, with proper remarks in red ink and were afterwards reported to the Prov. Mar. Genl's Office, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Febry. 1864.

#### Preparation for Draft etc.

As soon as the Consolidation of the Enrolment had advanced sufficiently far for the Board to form an estimate of the number of cards, that would be required for the First Class, the same were purchased, of the following description, 2¼ inches long by 1¼ inches in width, but in uniform size and from the same quality of paper. The names were then taken from the Consolidated Lists, and placed upon these cards, giving the Township and Sub-District in which the party enrolled resided: the class was also noted upon the cards together with the number corresponding with the Consolidated Lists when a sub-district was thus completed, the cards were compared with the Lists as to correctness of name and number. the cards then put up in packages by Townships, each class being kept separate, after which the entire number was place in one package and labeled with the number of the Sub-district, class to which they belonged and the number of cards contained.

Great care was exercised in this part of the labor, in order to prevent errors, and was specially superintended by the Commissioner of the Board, who counted the cards and put them up, as before stated, in sealed packages.

The Enrolment was corrected monthly, at which time these packages were opened and the and the names stricken off the Lists during the month taken out and those enrolled added. Return of this work was made in the "Report of Corrections" and always due exertion was made to have

this Report made out and forwarded as near the end of the month as possible. It was made the special duty of the Commissioner of the Board to superintend the making of the Report.

#### Quotas and Credits

The quotas assigned to this District under the various calls of the President of the United States for men are, as follows:

Call of February, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1864 and deficiency to date	1079
" March, 14 <sup>th</sup> , "	432
" July, 18 <sup>th</sup> , "	2618

[page 7]

Call of Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1864	1248
Total under all calls	5337

Now in order to ascertain the actual number which has been required from this District, we should add to this the number that had enlisted up to this date and were already in the U.S. service and for which no credit has been given. By a reference to the Report of the Adjutant General, State of Missouri for the year 1863, it will be seen that this District had furnished for the United States Service, troops, as follows:

Volunteers in U.S. Service	5056
" " " " msm	4127 [Missouri State Militia]
Total	9183

From the above aggregate there is to be deducted 2746 men. the number shown by the records in this office, to be the sum of additional credits given this District for men not heretofore credited and we have 6437 which being added to the total quotas assigned (5377) makes an aggregate of 11814, the number required.

It must be remembered that quite a considerable number of the citizens of this District in '61 and '62 went into the Rebel Service. I think it would not be an overestimate to place this number at 5000 and also that great numbers had left the District to Enrolment and Draft and the performance of military duty, who were subsequently enumerated in the Enrolment and formed a part of the basis upon which the quotas were assigned. In view of these facts, I think that it can be readily seen that the calls made upon this District for troops have been exceedingly heavy. I have no doubt, but that this District has suffered more in consequence of its being unavoidably overestimated than any other District in the United States. Being adjacent to the Border, affording easy facilities to the citizens for removal, it was impossible for the Board to ascertain who were temporarily absent, and who had permanently removed from the District, hundreds having, in the opinion of the Board left to return so soon as the war was over. The Board was soon thoroughly convinced that but few of the disloyal and Southern sympathizers could be caught by Draft, and I am of the opinion that Congress should have passed an Act authorizing the sale of so much of each man's property, absenting himself from his legal residence to avoid his responsibility to the Government, to hire a substitute to fill his place, and especially for those who leave after being drafted into the service.

The deficiency of this District in the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Nov. 1864, was only 1 man; the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> sub-districts had furnished in excess of their quota a surplus of 405 men, while in the remaining 12 sub-districts there existed a deficiency of 406 men, leaving as above stated at that date, one man due from the District.

#### The Draft

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1864, the Board was taken somewhat by surprise by the reception of the following letter:

"State of Missouri  
Office of A.A.P.M. Genl. Mo.  
St. Louis, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864  
Capt. Wm Fowler,  
Prov. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> Dist. Mo.  
St. Joseph, Mo.  
Captain:

You will proceed at once with the Draft in all deficient Sub-districts of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cong. District, without regard to aggregate credits of the whole District, commencing in those Sub-districts where there is the least volunteering going on. Telegraph to this office when you commence and forward daily Reports promptly

Very respectfully

Your Obed Servant

E. B. Alexander

Col. U.S.A. & A.A.P.M. G. Mo"

The Board proceeded at once to carry out the above order, immediately when the receipt of the foregoing letter, the Deputies were ordered to report forthwith at District Headquarters to assist in carrying out the Draft, and in order that they might proceed with as little delay as possible to the various Sub-districts with the notifications to be served upon those who should be drafted. All necessary preparations being fully completed, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1864, the Board proceeded to draft for the deficiency in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub-District, by Townships, verbal notice having been previously given that the draft would commence on this day. The package containing the Cards of this Sub-District was broken open in the presence of all present and the cards of the first Township drawn for were counted to see that the correct number of cards was in the package; the cards were then thoroughly shuffled and mixed and placed in the Draft Box, which had been previously prepared for the purpose, after which the Box was closed and the cards again well shaken up.

[page 8]

The drawing was done by the Dept. Prov. Mar. for the sub-district in which the draft was being made, who was blindfolded and drew the cards from the Box and handed them to the Commissioner of the Board who read the names aloud and numbered the tickets in the order in which they were drawn, first drawn being No. 1, and so on until the number required to fill the deficiency existing in the Township with 100 per cent added was obtained.

The cards were then handed to the clerk who entered them in the order in which they were drawn, upon lists previously prepared for the purpose, giving the name, Sub-district and Townships. The drawing continued until all the cards were drawn from the Box, in order that the count of the cards into the Box might be verified.

The number required from this District was 12 men, consequently 24 men were drafted, they being the first 24 names drawn.

Notices were immediately made out and placed in the hands of the Deputy for this Sub-district, to be served upon the parties drafted, in which they were required to report for examination by the Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst.



On the 18<sup>th</sup>, the drawing was made for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sub-districts and conducted in the same manner as on the previous day on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the drawing was in like manner made for the deficiencies in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Sub-Districts.

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the draft was made for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sub-District and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> the draft was resumed and completed in the 13<sup>th</sup> Sub-District[.]

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, draft was made in the 7<sup>th</sup> Sub-District[.]

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, drawing was made for the 9<sup>th</sup> Sub-District.

After which the drawing was discontinued until the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. at which time, the drawing was made for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sub-Districts, and the parties drafted were notified to report at Chillicothe, mo. as follows; those drafted in the 17<sup>th</sup> Sub-district were ordered to report on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, and those drafted in the 18<sup>th</sup> Sub-District on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1864.

#### Examination of Drafted Men.

Drafted men were informed, after reporting for examination, that if they proposed to make such a plea for exemption as was required to be substantiated by evidence, proof should be offered in their case, when examined, as the result of their examination would be final according to the Act of Congress, Approved, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863. Drafted men, after reporting were not examined by the Board, until the party expressed himself as being ready, but as a general thing, all were anxious and willing for examination as soon as possible, after reporting at Headquarters.

Drafted men previous to this examination and after reporting were not placed in quarters nor in any way restricted of their liberty each man expressing a preference of caring for himself rather than take Government fare. the Board did not regard it as necessary to do this and were of the opinion that after a man had once reported for examination there was little danger of his deserting, and in this they were correct, as I believe in no instance did any desert after they had reported and before examination.

As a general thing, drafted men were examined on same day of their reporting, in some instances a short time was granted where the party expressed a desire to procure a substitute or arrange some private business and the Board was disposed to show them all the leniency possible, when they were satisfied by so doing that it would not conflict with or be prejudicial to the interest of the Government.

Drafted men were examined in the presence of the Board, divested of all clothing or wearing apparel.

The Board found that the conduct of drafted men, under examination was quite different from that of volunteers and substitutes, the former would often endeavor to escape from service by pretending to be suffering from disease or by magnifying the disease or affection [affliction] which did exist, while the latter tried to conceal from the knowledge of the Board, the existence of any disease or imperfection, that would disqualify them from performing military duty.

While the drafted man was being examined in a nude state, an accurate descriptive list was taken of him in a book prepared for the purpose, and all marks, scars or peculiarities in each individual case was also carefully noted opposite to and under the head of Remarks, together with the acceptance or rejection of the party examined. In case of discharge, the drafted man was furnished with a certificate of the fact and setting forth the cause and signed by the members of the Board.

Where the party was held, he was immediately put in uniform and under proper guard sent to quarters which had been previously, by arrangement with the Post Commander, prepared for the purpose, where drafted men were subsisted, lodge and guarded, under the supervision of the officer in charge of the Camp, who was detailed for this duty by the Commander of the Post.

After a sufficient number had been obtained and put in quarters to form a squad, they were forwarded under proper guard to the General Rendezvous, Burton Barracks, mo. Duplicate Descriptive Lists

[page 9]

Form 33 accompanied each squad thus sent forward, one of these Rolls were receipted by the Comdg. [Commanding] Officer of the General Rendezvous and returned to this Office.

No drafted men escaped while enroute to the Genl. Rendezvous, and but three men deserted from the Local Rendezvous at these Headquarters.

There were 662 men drafted in this District, under the call of the President, dated July, 18<sup>th</sup> 1864, of these

140 were discharge for Physical Disability

9 were dead when drafted

40 in U.S. Service at time of draft

4 discharged as Aliens

43 were over 45 years of age

2 under 20 " " "

13 Non-residents

73 furnished Substitutes after being held to service

138 held and forwarded to General Rendezvous

178 failed to Report

3 deserted before reaching Genl. Rendezvous

1 died in Hospital St. Joseph, mo.

2 discharged quota being filled

4 Substitutes for drafted men deserted before reaching Genl. Rendezvous.

662 In the "Record of Drafted Men: the Sub-District, County and Township, in which each man resided when drafted was credited and so noted, together with the date of draft, examination and forwarding to the General Rendezvous.

Substitutes.

were usually presented by the principal in person, and their examination by the Board was conducted in the same manner as in the case of drafted men. more than great pains were taken by the Board Surgeon of the Board to detect any disease or defect which might exist.

Substitute Brokers were not permitted to lounge about the office and contract with Substitutes.

In most cases Substitutes presented to this Board by Brokers were of a suspicious and worthless character and were very apt to be bounty jumpers. I am well satisfied that these Brokers or thieves as they might be called have, in the prosecution of their nefarious calling, done great injury to the service and the Government.

Upon presentment to the Board of a Substitute by an Enrolled or Drafted man, he was asked, if he had contracted with and agreed to become the Substitute of his principal and if he was willing and ready to be enlisted and mustered as such, his answers being satisfactory, he was taken to the examination room and required to divest himself of all wearing apparel, he was then carefully examined in the presence of the Board and the Clerks of the Office only, at which time he was interrogated with regard to his physical condition and habits of life. If accepted he was immediately enlisted and mustered, clothed in uniform and sent to quarters where he subsisted and lodged as in the case of drafted men heretofore alluded to. No member of this Board took any notice of the price or pay which the Substitute was to receive and in no case nor

under any circumstances would have anything to do with money belonging to Substitutes, But in this examination great pains were taken to ascertain whether or not the Contract for Substitution was fully understood in the part of the Substitute in order to guard him against injury and imposition. Substitutes were credited to the Township and Sub-District in which the principal was enrolled or Drafted.

100 Substitutes have been enlisted and mustered into the U.S. Service at this Office, since the organization of this Board, of which number, only 4 have deserted before reaching the General Rendezvous.

Substitutes were provided for in all respects as drafted men, but were more closely guarded and restricted. They were forwarded to the Genl. Rendezvous in squads, under proper guard, accompanied by Duplicate Descriptive Lists, one for the Comdg[.] Officer of the Rendezvous, and the other to be returned to this Office, with their receipt, by said Officer by him thereon acknowledged.

I must be here permitted to state that the class of persons that usually presented themselves at this office as substitutes were not in the opinion of this Board calculated to make or form a reliable and efficient army. I will also here remark that all Canadians and Irishmen who thus presented themselves were bounty jumpers and would desert whenever they had the least opportunity to do so. Special instructions were given to the Camp Commander to keep a strict surveillance upon their every movement.

#### Recruiting, Enlisting and Mustering Volunteers.

Special attention was given by the Board to this duty, and every inducement possible was put forth for the enlistment of recruits for the United States Service.

But few recruits during the years of 1863 and 1864 presented themselves at this Office for Enlistment, from the fact, that

[page 10]

the Prov. Mar. was not authorized to Enlist men for New Organizations, and enlistments, at that time, were generally for organization under Completion, within the time mentioned, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Regts. Mo. Cav. and the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Regts Mo. Inftry [Infantry] were recruited in this District and composed for the most part of Citizens of the District.

Recruits were usually presented by Recruiting Officers and when either thus presented or voluntarily came before the Board for examination, they were stripped of all clothing and thoroughly examined as to their physical ability to perform military duty. while thus being examined, their description was accurately taken and recorded in a "Medical Record Book" prepared for that purpose and kept by the Surgeon of the Board. If accepted each recruit was properly enlisted and mustered, dressed in uniform and sent to quarters. As troops were stationed at this Post, arrangements had been made with the Commanding Officer to subsist, lodge and guard all Recruits, Drafted men and Substitutes that might be mustered at this Office, whereby the expense in this matter was materially lessened.

The Regulations governing the Enlisting and Mustering of Volunteer recruits were carefully observed and freely carried out in every instance. Triplicate Enlistments and Quadruplicate Muster and Descriptive Rolls were made out in every case and were disposed of as follows: one copy of Enlistment with copy of Roll accompanied Recruit to the Rendezvous, one copy of MrD. [Mustered] Roll was forwarded to the Adjutant General, U. S. and one Copy was forwarded to the Adjutant General, State of Missouri and the 4<sup>th</sup> copy together with 1 copy of the *text*

*omitted*] was placed on file in this Office and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Enlistment was forwarded to the Office of A. A. P. M. Genl. State of Mo.

A record was also kept corresponding with the Muster and Descriptive Roll wherein the locality of the volunteers mustered was credited. The Board in every instance endeavored to place the credits properly, which could be readily done, where the person volunteering was enrolled, but often young men and others not subject to military duty under the law would claim their residence in those Townships or Sub-districts, offering the largest local County, and in some cases it was difficult to ascertain and determine the true place of residence, yet the Board always placed the credit to the place of their actual residence when it could be definitely ascertained, believing that those not enrolled by reason of under age and other causes should be credited to the place of their actual residence as well as men who were enrolled, in order that full justice might be done to all the Sub-Districts.

Notwithstanding the care exercised by the Board in this matter instances may have occurred when credits have been improperly given, yet I may here be permitted to say that no Board has taken more pains or labored more faithfully, to do justice to all part of their District, in the properly giving of credits, than this Head Prov. Marshal been authorized in '63 and '64 to enlist and muster volunteers for new organizations, the credits given for those is mustered would have been more correct and satisfactory to the Districts than it is, and at the same time would have also facilitated the operations of Board of Enrolment; no reports being made by mustering officers to Prov. Mar. Offices giving the names of persons mustered by them and belonging to their Districts, it was impossible for Boards to keep the Record of Enrolment correctly, as a consequence, when draft was made in this District, it was found that a number of those drawn were already in the service. Volunteers for the U.S. service have been enlisted and mustered at this office by the Prov. Mar. of this District to this date, as follows: in the year 1863. (6) six. in 1864. (47) Forty seven, and in 1865. (702) Seven hundred and two.

#### Arrest of Deserters.

This branch of the business was prosecuted with all the energy and perseverance possible, Dept. Prov. Marshals, Enrolling Officers and others Connected with the Office, that are negligence or delay would be allowed in this matter.

Copies of all Descriptive Lists as soon as received at this Office, were made out and sent to all Employe's [Employees] throughout the District and in some instances the names and descriptions of Deserters reported to this office, were given out to citizens who were requested to assist in making the arrest of the deserters named and were generally more successful than employe's, for the reason that deserters would endeavor to secrete themselves from those [MS. illegible] to be connected with the Prov. Mar. Office. These offices are held in great terror by deserters, and I have no doubt that many through the vigilance and activity displayed in their apprehension have been induced to return to their Commands.

When a man was brought before the Provost Marshal charged with desertion, his case was thoroughly investigated and he was allowed time and opportunity to adduce all

[page 11]

testimony desired, and in no instance was he turned over to the Military authorizes as a deserter until the Provost Marshal was satisfied of the fact, and I believe almost every person brought to this office as a deserter, acknowledged to the fact of having been absent from their Commands without authority.

In the disposition of persons held as Deserters, Duplicate Descriptive Lists were made out in each case, one of which was delivered with the deserter to the Commander of the Post and the receipt of the Post Commander was taken upon the other, acknowledging the delivery of the deserter, which last accompanied the "Monthly Return of Deserters Arrested" which was made at the end of each month. A Record Book prepared for the purpose was also kept in which was entered the Description of Deserters arrested, together with a condensed statement of the arrest etc. in each case. Where an arrest was made by a citizen, Private Soldier or Non-Commissioned Officer, a voucher was issued to the party making the arrest for the amount allowed by law, a copy of which was placed on file in this Office.

Below is given the number of deserters arrested at this office for the years, 1863, 1864, and 1865, with the amount of reward allowed for each year respectively.

Date	No. Arrested	Compensation allowed
1863	25	\$375.75/100
1864	67	1290.00/100
1865	5	30.00/100
	97	\$1695.75

No Deserters made their escape from this office after being arrested and before they were turned over to the military authorities.

Deserters were Kindly treated and cared for and none complained of their treatment while in charge of the Prov. Marshal of this Office.

#### Accounts.

All expenses incurred in the discharge of the duties of this office from every source, with the exception of the salaries of the members of the Board, were adjusted at the end of each month, as far as possible.

Purchases of articles for the use of this office, were made at the lowest rates possible and only in such quantities as were absolutely necessary, practicing always as much economy in this matter as was consistent with the service. Bills or invoices were required in all cases of purchases, upon which vouchers were given in quadruplicate and were disposed of, as follows: The original and Duplicate copy, were forwarded through the office of the A.A.P.M. Genl[.] State to Washington for payment, the Triplicate-copy accompanied the Monthly Return of Public Property received, issued etc for the month in which the purchase was made and the Quadruplicate copy was placed on file in this Office.

Accounts of Employe's, in accordance with "Report of Persons employed etc", were rendered monthly to the Department, who were if present required to sign the "receipt roll", and when absent, vouchers, Form, 19, were given for Services rendered and forwarded in Duplicate through the proper channel to Washington for Payment. Accounts for Postage paid, Advertising and Telegrams sent were also settle by voucher at the end of each month[.] No Record of the Accounts of the Office was kept, other than that copies of all vouchers issued and Receipt Rolls made out were placed on file in this Office, each month being kept separate for Convenience of reference.

All checks received at this Office for the payment of Employe's and other expenses incurred were entered in a book prepared for the purpose, giving the number and date of the same and to whose order payable. On the delivery of said checks, the party in whose favor drawn was

required to acknowledge the receipt of the same at the time of delivery by writing his name in the Margin of the book and opposite to the description of the check.

Below is given the expense of this Office, from the date of its establishment (July 15<sup>th</sup> 1863) to date, except salaries paid members of the Board.

1863

2 Clerks at Salary of 75\$ per month each	\$832.50	
21 Enrolling Officers	2223.00	
1 Special Agent	225.33	
3 Deputy Provost Marshals	1332.66	
Total paid Employe's	\$4613.49	

[page 12]

Purchase of Stationery, Fuel and Office Furniture	\$188.88	
Postage and Express Charges	25.50	
Printing and Advertising	369.62	
Rent	83.50	
Total	\$5280.99	

1864

Hire of Clerks	\$1900.00	
Enrolling Officers	4740.64	
Dept. Prov. Marshals	2260.00	
Asst[.] Surgeon	76.60	
Total paid Employe's	\$8977.24	
Office Rent	\$180.00	
" Furniture	16.00	
" Stationery	144.60	
" Fuel	96.00	
Draft Cards	11.50	
Articles for Drafted Men	400.33	
Total Purchases	\$668.43	
Postage, Telegrams and Express	\$92.63	92.63
Total:	\$9918.30	

1865, ending July 31<sup>st</sup>

Hire of Clerks	\$1189.83	
Deputy Provost Marshals	4832.00	
Total paid Employes	\$6021.83	
Rent	\$125.83	
Furniture	25.35	
Stationery	124.55	
Fuel and Lights	25.45	
Total Purchases	\$175.35	
Postage	\$68.00	
Printing	28.00	
Express	3.25	

	\$99.25
Total	\$6422.26
Grand Total	\$21609.72

Of the Difficulties encountered and how disposed of.

The law and regulations for the government of Prov. Mar. offices, and prescribing the respective duties of the members of the Board, being new and unfamiliar and having no established precedent to aid them in the discharge of the duties therein imposed, were sometimes at a loss to determine the best means to be adopted to carry out some of the requirements of the law, but earnestly endeavored to Amprehend fully all the orders and Circulars emanating from the Department and acted accordingly.

The most difficulties were encountered in making the Enrolment and Consolidation, especially in regard to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class to be enrolled, soldiers who were in the service of the United States in the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 1863, the regulations and orders not clearly defining, whether those who were in the service at the time of Enrolment only, or whether all who were in the service at time of Enrolment or had been discharge were to be enrolled, this together with others presented were only overcome by the Closest application to all the orders and instructions received from the Department Headquarters.

I would state that no resistance whatever was offered in any part of this District, by any person or persons, tithing the knowledge of the Board, to stop or impede the Enrolment or Draft.

The loyal portion of the Citizens of the District were always ready and willing to render assistance and give encouragement to the Board in its endeavor to carry out and enforce the law, whilst in the part of the Board, every facility was afforded the Citizens to aid them in having the Enrolment made as near perfect as possible.

When the draft was made in this District to fill the deficiency under the call of July, 18<sup>th</sup>, 1864, in those Sub-districts composed for the most part of loyal Citizens, but little trouble was experience in the part of the Board in procuring the required number from the names drawn; while on the other hand, where the majority were disloyal, the 100 per cent additional would not fill the deficiency. Few of this class went into the Army, those who supposed themselves to be subject to military duty and would be held by the Board, generally left the Country as soon as they ascertained that they were drafted.

I know of but one instance in this District, where a disloyal man went forward after being drafted and held to service by the Board, and then he went under

[page 13]

protest, supposing that he would be discharged by proper authority upon his arrival at the General Rendezvous, St. Louis, Mo. all others of this class, held by the Board, either put in Substitutes or deserted.

As far as I am aware, evry loyal man drafted, answered to his name cheerfully, making no complaint against the Government or law, in fact I was astonished to see the alacrity with which men, thus called into the Service, responded to the requirements of the law, without murmuring or reproaches.

In my opinion there could be through the means of draft raised from the material in this Government, the finest Army in the world, composed of the soundest and best men, physically

and morally, and in my judgment, that by draft is the only mode that should be employed in raising an army of men or keeping it up when raided to an efficient standard.

Drafted men are particular in pointing out any defection, imperfection, natural or acquired which would operate towards their release; whilst volunteers endeavor to conceal everything that might tend to their rejection.

Through the usual mode pursued in recruiting volunteers and their examination by Post Surgeons, thousands of volunteers have been mustered into the Service during the late war, that have been more than worthless to the Service becoming nothing in fact but Hospital charges, encumbering the army rather than giving it strength.

Within my own knowledge, parties have been presented at this Office for examination by the surgeon of this Board, by recruiting Officers, and found to be totally unfit for the service, who were afterwards enlisted and mustered into the service by other authority.

By means of Draft, the burden imposed upon the country of furnishing men for the armies, is equalized, no locality having to furnish more than its proportionate share of the number required to be raised: It is also best in an economical point of view. to illustrate: By the draft in this District, under call of July, 18<sup>th</sup>, 1864, there were obtained by Draft and Substitution 238 men, whereas the expense of this Office from its establishment to this date will not exceed 23000\$, being less than 100\$ each, besides which, 755 volunteers have been examined and mustered at this Office all of whom, with few exceptions were good men and I doubt not, have rendered efficient service to the Government.

The Board of Enrolment for this District has been in session daily since its organization, except on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> days of Nov. 1864, when relieved on those two days to enable the members of the Board and the Employe's of the Office to attend the Presidential election.

I cannot close this Report without making honorable mention of Capt[.] William Fowler, Provost Marshal of this District. Capt[.] Fowler was present and in duty every day from the organization of the Board on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1863, until honorably relieved, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1865, scarcely being absent one hour during the whole time he was on duty, and no officer has discharged his duties with more fidelity to the Government than he, or labored more faithfully to promote its interests. The new or Revised Regulations, considering the short time that has elapsed since the passage of the law has been brought to a great degree of perfection and is well adapted to the carrying out of the practical working of the law. yet in my opinion it might be made better in regard to the manner of substitution.

Principals should be to some extent held responsible for the conduct of their Substitutes, as it now is, the result of Substitution has worked great injury to the service and been of little benefit to the Government, from the fact that (so far as my observation has extended) the class of persons usually Substituted, are generally inferior to the their principals, in intelligence, morals and other qualities essential to the making of good soldiers, and generally have deserted the Service as opportunity afforded; thus the Government not only loses the Services of the drafted man, who has been examined by the Board and found to possess the qualifications necessary to make a good soldiers, but also of the Substitute, who, having relieved his principal from the obligations of the law, deserts the Service. If Substitution is allowed, the principal should be made to become responsible for the faithful performance of the duties undertaken by the Substitute, specified in the agreement for Substitution, and through which the principal obtains his release. If this is made the case, principals will be more



particular in their selection of Substitutes, both in regard to their character for honesty and fidelity, as well as for their physical ability to perform military duty.

In conclusion, I would respectfully state, that in the opinion of this Board, great praise is due Brig. Genl. James B. Fry, Prov. Mar. Genl. U.S. for the able and satisfactory manner in which he has discharge the arduous duties of his Office.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am Colonel, Very respectfully

Your Obot Servant

A. C. Miller

Commissioner in Charge and Actg[.] Prov. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> Dist. Mo.