

Allen, William Francis. A Yankee Scholar in Coastal South Carolina: William Francis Allen's Civil War Journals. Edited by James Robert Hester. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2015.

Preface

Named and described 188 former slaves of various ages

Kept three journals his time spent in the South

Edited Slave Songs of the United States in 1867

Strong faith in New England ways

A Note on Transcripts and sources

Letters and writings and journal at Wisconsin Historical Society

Journals written in form of letters to be circulated

Introduction

Born September 5, 1860 west of Boston

Precocity in both music and writing

Harvard, 1851, Phi Beta Kappa

Then extensive European travels--scholar

Taught at a Massachusetts school, married in 1862

Teacher on St. Helena (Sea Island, SC)

Became one of the famous "Gideonites"

Worked with antislavery free labor experimenter Francis Philbrick

His view of freedpeople as human beings, 3--do we measure by 19th century or 21st century standards?

Allen both teaching and studying the freedpeople-a kind of anthropologist

Remained on St. Helena island through June 1864

April 1865 becomes an assistant superintendent of schools in Charleston, SC

A number of conversations with ex-Confederates

Wrote letters to the Nation about his SC experiences

Had definite ideas on what approach should be taken toward southern whites, p. 12

Favored educational qualifications for suffrage for both races, p. 12

Also wrote essays for the Christian Examiner

Did not favor wholesale land redistribution, favored educational requirement for suffrage, 15--  
typical free labor position?

Generally defended Banks labor system in La.

Took balanced view toward freedpeople, p. 16

“Always the scholar, Allen saw things through the eyes of a scholar.” P. 19

St. Helena Island, 20ff

Description of sailing and land, valuable geographical descriptions throughout the journal, 20

General Terry, 21

Snobbery among officers, 22

Black chaplain forced sleep in companion way and eat with servants, 22

Officers' wives, 22

Description of first meeting with a former slave, 26

Good descriptions of rooms, 27

Describes in some detail appearance and manners of former slaves, 28

Details on appearance on fields and what is being grown there, 29

Praise house singing described, 32-33

Understanding black speech, 37

Philbrick's plantation operations, 38-39

Horses, 39

Describes former slave quarters, 41-42

Much about individual freedpeople, with names, 42

Strong sense of localism among former slaves, 42

Questions about government plantations and whether lands will be sold to former slaves, 43

School but students have no way of telling time, 50

Freedpeople give his wife eggs, 50

Kind master but whipping post, 52

Sunday school, singing, 53

Considers former slave children “something between foreigners and dumb animals.” 53

Former slaves know few words, 53

Former slaves, praise house, 58

Teaching slave children, good detailed description, 60

Children have hard time adjusting to school, fighting, 61

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 Freedpeople's wedding, 104-5  
 Letters, spelling, 105-6  
 Decided that slaves were less degraded but barbarities of slavery worse than he had assumed, he and niece? Discussed this, 110-11  
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 Former slaves complains about cruelty of mistress, 112  
 Talked to black about volunteering for the army but they talked "shamefully" p. 114  
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Only mechanics and black people here are loyal, 193-94  
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White and black teachers associate with each other more freely, 197-98  
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