

Office of Sup't. of Negro Affairs
Newberne, N.C., March 23d 1864

Lt Col. Kinsman A.D.C.

Dear Sir:

The accompanying roll of my assistants and clerks, and of the laborers at Roanoke Island would have been sent in much earlier but for the difficulty of getting together the facts from which to compile them. Sending them back for information and correction, a process long of itself, becomes more so where mails are uncertain and irregular. At your suggestion I will forward henceforth at the beginning of each month an estimate of the amount which will be needed. I have changed the rate of pay of my assistants from \$85.00 to \$80.00 per month at your suggestion.

The large number of hands employed in unloading the schooner of the mill is accounted for by the fact that she lay more than a mile from the landing, and all the heavy machinery, and sixty thousand of brick, had to be handled four times over, and at great disadvantage. It was the hardest work for us all that was done in the month.

Mr Saml M. Leathers, my assistant at Washington N.C. wishes a short leave of absence to go home to Lowell, and says that if he cannot be there by the first of April he shall suffer great loss. What shall be done about this? I am sorry to lose him for a day, but wish to do what is right in the case. Should not leave of absence in such cases be asked and obtained through yourself? Or do you prefer not to be troubled with it? And in case of such absence for a time will full pay be continued or not?

I have nearly ready to transmit an old pay-roll of labor at Roanoke, made up with great labor and difficulty. And if it is ordered paid promptly it will be an immense relief to the people there.

I have the honor to be

Very faithfully yours

Horace James

Supt of Neg. Aff's

[Horace James to Lt. Col. J. B. Kinsman, 23 March 1864, Records of the Department of Negro Affairs for Virginia and North Carolina, Record Group 105, series 4108, National Archives.]