

Office of Sup't. of Negro Affairs  
Newberne, N.C., June 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Lt. Col. Kinsman, A.D.C.  
Genl Supt Neg. Aff's  
Dear Sir,

Your note of inquiry, respecting A.R. Stover, bering date June 22d reached me today. Mr. Geo. O. Sanderson is indeed my duly accredited assistant at Roanoke, but the amount of labor there is so great that it is impossible for one man to perform it. Mr Stover has therefore actively and in person carried out the labors planned by Mr Sanderson, and "bossed the gangs" of colored workmen in their various employments. He has also taken an important part in superintending the issue of rations, every ten days, and in keeping correctly the ration list which is a difficult and important matter. It is my deliberate judgment that the striking off from the roll of a second man at Roanoke would cost the government four times his pay in rations wasted and misapplied, and in labor lost.

I shall soon be able to meet the pay of all my assistants in the earnings of the Negro department. The mill, now hourly going forward to completion, will do much toward this result. I think it is the best piece of machinery in eastern N. Carolina.

I design transferring Mr Stover, after this month, to a sphere in which he will support himself in trade on the island, and substitute for him Mr. Spalding, who is even better fitted for the place than himself. But I can not get along without one such person.

I am glad to hear that funds are soon to be forwarded for the payment of the March and April Rolls.

We are steadily reducing the number drawing rations in the Dist. And the labor of the negros is becoming better organized.

I have the honor to be  
Dear Sir, yours faithfully  
Horace James  
Capt & Supt N.C.

[Horace James to Lt. Col. J. B. Kinsman, 28 June 1864, Records of the Department of Negro Affairs for Virginia and North Carolina, Record Group 105, series 4108, National Archives.]