

Secretary of War on this subject about six weeks ago, and in which I called to his notice the injustice that would be done to some of the Counties, if they were not severally credited with the volunteers he they had sent, he said that although he thought such subdivisions could not well be made, yet that before the principles of the apportionment was fixed he would have another conference with me on the subject. I saw him again on Saturday last and though our conversations related chiefly to other matters, it was expressly agreed by him that the colored troops from Maryland should be credited to the Counties — To do this we must of course start with the quotas due from each County and the only difficulty connected with such a division of the subject would be the ascertainment of the number of recruits coming from each County, which I think we can find means of doing —

The order for the Draft by Districts was probably prepared before the late conversation with the Secretary to which I refer, but he will confirm what I have said.

Yours very Respectfully  
A. W. Bradford

War Department  
Washington City  
October 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

His Excellency A. W. Bradford  
Governor of Maryland  
Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant. The amendments you suggest in the fifth and sixth sections of the General Order have been made.

Since you were here, the State of Missouri has been included in the operation of the order, in consequence of a letter from the General Commanding in that Department, an extract of which is enclosed to you. In both Tennessee and Missouri there seems to be less disposition to embarrass the Government upon this subject than in the State of Maryland, and much greater alacrity in affording the required assistance. The observations in regard to Kentucky were contained in my letter to the President, and it was not deemed essential to state in the order any thing more than the actual necessity for the troops to be recruited in the specific States where enlistments were ordered.

The declaration of freedom to slaves enlisted is designed to apply to all who enlist, whether with or without the consent of their masters, because, from the fact of their enlistment into the service of the United States, the Government is bound to give them their freedom, and settle with their masters for any damages they may sustain thereby. But it is also proper that when the Government does make compensation, the owner or claimant should stop himself from any further claim by a deed of manumission or release.

Yours truly  
Edwin M. Stanton  
Secretary of War