

given either to the Counties, Districts or State, for any of the recently enlisted men either white or black, and especially to the understanding lately had with you in regard to the colored troops being credited to the several Counties — I have since learned from Genl. Schenck that you have issued orders to Col. May to cause this credit of these troops to be made to the several Counties, which disposes of that part of the case — But from a letter which I received from him in reply written before Genl. Schenck's interview with you, it seems that his understanding is that we are to receive no credits whatever for late volunteers white or black because they do not number enough to cover existing deficiencies claimed of the State under the calls of 1861 and 1862 —

If by the call of 1862 he means as I presume he does, the draft for that year, certainly the State ought not to be charged with any deficiency on that account, as the whole number required of her was drafted, and quite as large a number as I have understood, reported for duty and were mustered in or provided substitutes as in any other State, and the residue being still subject to duty are at this time being considered and treated by the Government as deserters and their individual responsibility as such would certainly supersede as it seems to me, any claim upon the State on that account.

But independently of this, it has been the universal understanding in the State, by the different County and Municipal authorities as well as the volunteers themselves, that all the volunteers since the President's Proclamation of 15th of June last were to be credited to the coming draft — in proportion of course to their term of service — and that the volunteers themselves if drafted would be individually entitled to a credit on the drafted term in proportion to the time for which they enlisted — With this understanding some of the local authorities have been providing and paying liberal bounties, which certainly would never have been done had they supposed it possible that the fruits of these bounties were to be absorbed by claims on the old account and the expected draft in no measure reduced —

This understanding was not derived simply from the uncontradicted assertions of the Public Press which universally declared that we were to be credited with these volunteers on the coming draft, but the Proclamation of the President referred to could admit of no other reasonable construction. That Proclamation concluded with this assurance "The States aforesaid will be respectively credited under the Enrollment act, for the Militia services rendered under this proclamation."

Credited under the Enrollment Act can only mean a credit on the draft authorized by that Act and certainly can not be considered as contemplating preceding ones, and the Provost Marshal General will not I trust, be allowed to place any other construction upon it, nor to disappoint public expectation justly founded on this view of the President's proclamation —

Since that Proclamation and very much under the influence of the bounties provided as above mentioned, upwards of 3000 volunteers from this State have been mustered in, of whom above 900 have been for three years and the residue for six months — efforts are now being made and with good prospects