

subject to undue influences, as well as make it difficult to detect any fraud of which they may be made the victims. Not one in a hundred of them probably can write their names, and forged or fraudulent powers of attorney purporting to be executed by them may be used with comparatively little opportunity of discovery. They are all, I believe, or nearly all removed at this time from the State, and this adds to the difficulty of conveying to them their bounties or discovering any wrong they may suffer in failing to receive them.

The State designed these Bounties for the personal comfort and support of the volunteers and their families, and in case of their death leaving no family — or speaking more precisely in the words of the Bounty Act — leaving no wife or children, the unpaid bounty reverts to the State. To secure these results with the greatest possible certainty, and to prevent as far as practicable all abuses by which these ends may be defeated, I can suggest no better plan than to refuse altogether to recognise powers of attorney professing to be executed by colored volunteers, with perhaps the single exception of such as are executed in favor of the known wife or child of such volunteer and to whom you are thus able to make payment directly. Henceforth, therefore, I advise you to observe this rule!

To obviate as far as possible any inconvenience that may occasionally result from its observation, and to provide the safest and speediest mode of transmitting to volunteers of that description the bounties now in your hands, or that you may hereafter receive on such account, I would suggest the propriety of your selecting some well known and trustworthy citizen of your County to act as an Agent or Paymaster in the matter of such bounties, who may ascertain where these colored Volunteers now are, may personally visit and pay them the bounties respectively due them, or who may upon the order of any such volunteer bring back and pay to his family any such portion thereof as he may designate.

A proper and sufficient bond with security should be taken by you from such Agent, and I will undertake that their personal expenses and a reasonable compensation for their labor shall be paid.

Yours very Respectfully
 H. W. Bradford
 Governor of Maryland

I fully concur in the opinions expressed by the Governor in the above letter
 Henry H. Goldsborough
 Comptroller of the Treasury

A copy of the above circular was this day sent to Commissioners of the different Counties and to the Register of the City of Baltimore