

such as you suggest are brought to your knowledge, what is necessary to be done, so far as the payment of the bounty is concerned, is that the County Commissioners or the Comptroller be apprised of the fact and furnished with the proof of the mistake, and that you report also to me the mistake you have discovered, referring to the number of the Roll so that I may correct the one on file here — Perhaps it would save trouble to return here the proof of the alleged mistake, and let me transmit a note of it with the proper directions to the Comptroller or Commissioners

You ask me for my views in regard to the true condition of a colored man born free and sold under judicial sale for crime &c. and whether such person is a slave within the purview of our County Act —

I would in this connection remark that Slavery under the laws of our State may exist in two conditions — Slavery for life and Slavery for a term of years — Many who were originally slaves for life have become slaves for a term by reason of such limitation prescribed in the terms of the instrument by which they have been sold and transferred, or under last will and testament &c

— And so also free negroes sold for crime, may be sold for life or for a term of years, but during the term for which they are sold they are regarded as slaves, and as our County Act in providing for the bounty to slaves, uses general terms and does not limit the slave bounty to slaves for life, my opinion is that a negro sold for a term of years under a judicial sale as well as directly by his former owner, is until the expiration of that term to be considered a slave.

Yours very Respectfully
A. W. Bradford

Leonardtown June 11th 1864

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 9th Inst. has been received and I am glad to see that you have communicated with the President in regard to the subject matter of my letter — I must say that I misunderstand my position — if the fact that I as States Atty. asking that Dr. Lynch be handed over to the Civil Authorities — could not be his Counsel in the event he should not be handed over.

If the President were to hand him over — I could not then defend him before the Military Court — If the President does not hand him over, why not defend him before a Military Court?

I do not apprehend the difficulty will arise with the President upon that point, if any — I hope sincerely that this case will be handed over — because when this mode of proceeding is once commenced, God only knows when and where it will cease — His trial has been postponed until Wednesday or Thursday next — you can receive this in time to have the Presidents determination sent by telegraph to Point Look-out

Yours Respectfully
G. Fred. Meadox

States Atty. for D. M. Co.