

Roanoke Island N.C.  
Feb. 20, 1864

Lt. Col Kinsman

Dear Sir:

An indispensable visit a few days at Washington N.C. delayed my coming here until today. I came to find Croatan Sound and Roanoke marshes so covered with thick ice as to impede boats, close communications, and make fishing impossible. If our nets had been set before this they would have been lost without a doubt.

Your note of \_\_\_\_\_ informing me that you had sent a quantity of gill-nets to me by the canal for Mr Streeter, reached me on the 11<sup>th</sup> but no one of us has seen the nets. We trust no evils will befall them, for we want them much. Seine twine is not to be had here in any quantity, but many here are able to make nets and would be glad to do it. Several parties of white people here desire to fish, and Mr Streeter and I agree that it is desirable that they should do so, they paying the proper tariff or tax to the government.

Col Heaton, Treasury Agent at Newbern, who seems earnestly disposed to help the black man, and give him facilities to get a living on land or water, informs me that he has let no fishing at Roanoke, leaving it for us to manage, and but one at Croatan in Tyrrell Co. on the mainland.

The seine 500 ft long sent via Beaufort on the Spaulding has not had time to reach here yet. We look out for it.

I hope nets and twine will be supplied speedily, for after this inclement spell of weather is past we shall be in the midst of shad-running.

Mr Streeter is writing you by this same mail informing you just what he needs.

I have the honor to be  
yours with respect  
Horace James  
Chap & Supt  
Neg Aff's

[Horace James to Lt. Col. {J. B.} Kinsman, 20 February 1864, Records of the Department of Negro Affairs for Virginia and North Carolina, Record Group 105, series 4108, National Archives.]