

November 14, 1865

[Rev. W. G. Hawkins:]

Mr. Birdsall has been taking the census; the statistics will perhaps be interesting to you, as I have just received them from him: Male adults, 494; female adults, 1,150; male children, 670; female children, 643; adults who draw rations, 1,133; children who draw rations, 1,095. The people are leaving the island by scores; at least thirty of my scholars will leave before Christmas. They are now leaving daily, and I am filling their places with others. Today I had seventy in school, and usually spend six hours and longer with them.

Many of the large girls, who have left our schools, are now attending the Industrial School, and it seems to me an excellent thing for them. We must have more help in this school, or we can not take half of the number who wish to go.

Very respectfully,
E. P. Bennett

["Roanoke Island," *The National Freedman* 1 (15 November 1865): 320.]