

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Benjamin William Brice to Abraham Lincoln¹, January 20, 1865

¹ Colonel Brice was an 1829 graduate of West Point who had succeeded Timothy P. Andrews as Paymaster General of the Army on November 29, 1864.

Washington, January 20 1865

In reply to the President's card received by the hand of his friend, Mr Abel,² I beg to say to his Excellency that it is impossible for me to determine at present if the services of any new Paymasters will be required.

² Though Lincoln's note to Brice has not been located, this is probably a reference to Lieutenant Oramel H. Abel of the 114th Illinois. There is no record of a paymaster appointment for either Oramel Abel or anyone else with "Abel" as a surname. For more on Abel, see Abigail W. Abel to Lincoln, December 16, 1864 and Eliphalet B. Hawley to Lincoln, December 19, 1864.

I think it not impossible however that the reduction of that corps, from the proceedings of the Examining Boards, now in session, and other casualties, may make its increase necessary at an early day.

Mr Abel will be so informed from this office.

With highest respect

Your Excellency's

Obedient servant

B. W. Brice

Acting Paymr General

U S. Army