

SERVICE IN AID OF THE CIVIL POWER.

REPORT OF GENERAL ANTHONY IN REGARD TO THE TROUBLE AT GOLDSBORO, N. C.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, N. C. S. G.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., Feb. 11, 1889.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES D. GLENN,

Adjutant General N. C. S. G.

SIR:—I have the honor to submit my report of operations under Special Orders, No. 1.

On the 7th, instant, I received the following:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 7, 1889.

[Special Orders, No. 1.]

Brigadier General W. H. Anthony is directed to proceed to Goldsboro, arriving there on the afternoon of Friday, February 8th, and will take command of such troops as are there, as well as of such as may be sent to that point. He will inform himself fully of the situation of affairs, of the need of an increased force, and will take such steps as may be necessary to protect property and preserve the peace. Col. W. C. Jones, of the Second Regiment N. C. S. G., has been directed to report to General Anthony. The action of the military in this emergency will be based upon a call for such aid from the civil authorities. General Anthony is further directed to keep the Commander-in-Chief advised of his movements and also of the situation of affairs, and, in no case, to use military force unless it is absolutely necessary.

DANIEL G. FOWLE,

Commander-in-Chief.

In compliance with this order I left Raleigh at 1 P. M., on the 7th, for Goldsboro, arriving there at 3:30 P. M. Upon my arrival I at once called on the Mayor and requested a conference with that officer and other prominent citizens of both political parties. I also sent for Rev. — Dillard and George T. Wassom, who were stated to be the authors of a very incendiary circular, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, marked "A." Dillard came at once and disclaimed having any knowledge of the circular. Wassom refused to appear, but requested that I should call on him. This I declined to do, and thereupon wrote him the following letter, marked "B."

Wassom then made his appearance, accompanied by several friends. He was very defiant at first; said he wrote the circular himself and defended it. I informed him that he would be held personally responsible for any breach of the peace which might occur, and that I was fully prepared to quell, at a moment's notice, any disturbance which might occur. I then adjourned the meeting.

Col. W. C. Jones, Second Regiment, was present, by order of the Governor. Saturday was one of the quietest days imaginable. There was not a great crowd of negroes, as word had been sent them not to assemble. Wassom disappeared and was believed to have left the county.

The impression of the people of Goldsboro is that if the meeting had not been stopped, and the quiet yet thorough plans made for the preservation of order, there would have been trouble of a serious character.

The Mayor of Goldsboro gave official utterance to this belief in his letter, marked "C." Only one arrest was made Saturday. That was of a white man who was using incendiary language.

The troops, which had been on waiting orders for forty-eight hours, were relieved Saturday afternoon, with the exception of Company D, First Regiment, at Goldsboro, which was relieved Sunday morning. The most complete arrangements had been made for the rapid transportation of troops, in case their services were necessary.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. ANTHONY,
Brigadier General.

"A."

To the Colored People of Wayne County:

WHEREAS, Favorable inducements are offered to the colored people of this section to go and settle in the State of Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, Some two thousand have already gone and have written back that they like the country, and

WHEREAS, The landlords of Wayne County held a secret meeting in the court-house on Saturday the 2d inst., and memorialized the Legislature to investigate and pass laws to prevent the colored people from going where they please, as free American citizens, and

WHEREAS, The landlords of the cotton belt of the State are trying to enslave the colored people under a system which will be worse than the old slavery of twenty years ago and keep you dependent. We are denied the rights of free citizens at the ballot-box, disfranchised in the most shameful and inhuman manner; cursed by the no-fence law, oppressed by the Farmers' Alliance, published to the world as thieves and convicts and outraged by the landlord and tenant laws of the State; not allowed to gather a mess of peas that we have cultivated unless we give the landlord five day's notice.

Therefore, we respectfully request all the colored men and women of Wayne County to assemble at the court-house in the city of Goldsboro on Saturday the 9th inst., at 1 o'clock P. M., at which time and place able men will address you on the subject of migration and the many benefits to be derived by going to the fertile lands of Arkansas. No whites will be allowed to be present, as they did not invite the colored in their meeting when forming their combinations against the interest of the race.

Let it go out to the world that this is a meeting strictly in the interest of the colored men of Wayne County.

God is at the head of this move, and not the Richmond & Danville Railroad Company.

The voice of John Brown is sounding in the ears of the sons of Ham, and the great Southwest says come, we have lands; and the oppressed conscience of the negro says go, and we are going.

Respectfully,

MANY COLORED CITIZENS.

“B.”

To *Geo. T. Wassom*:

Under orders of Governor Daniel G. Fowle, Commander-in-Chief of the military of North Carolina, I am here to investigate the authorship of a certain incendiary circular issued to the colored people of this section, calling a meeting of the race in this city to-morrow, and, on a careful and authentic examination, I find that you are responsible for the call. You have been cited before me under authority of the Governor, and you have refused to appear. This is, therefore, to notify you that in the event of any trouble whatsoever that may arise from the meeting to-morrow, you will be held entirely responsible. In the meantime, I shall be on hand to protect the citizens and preserve the peace, with military power if necessary.

W. H. ANTHONY,
Brigadier General N. C. S. G.

“C.”

GOLDSBORO, N. C., Feb. 10, 1889.

GEN. W. H. ANTHONY.

DEAR SIR:—Learning that you will leave this city this A. M. to report to the Commander-in-Chief, Governor Fowle, as to the condition of things in this city, I deem it proper to submit this letter to you.

For two or three weeks there has been an exodus of colored people from this eastern country to Arkansas; the white people, the true friends of these colored people, only opposed this by kind reasoning with these people and an endeavor to know the true cause of their discontent.

Upon investigation it was learned that the most outrageous representations had been made to them by agents and their emissaries. One of these representations was that the colored people had sixteen days to quit the country; that a tribe of Indians were coming here to destroy and drive them out. Several white and several colored men were employed to create dissatisfaction, so that these people were worked up to feverish excitement and very much demoralized by designing men. In consequence of an inflammatory address (which has been submitted to you) calling on all the colored people of this county to convene here on yesterday, at which time bitter and incendiary appeals were expected to be made to them. the most prudent of our people feared that with such intense excitement the least disorder in the city, whether attributable to this or not, might lead to serious consequences. The Governor, in view of this fact, acted wisely in directing you and Col. Jones to report here and understand the true situation. I desire to thank you in behalf of our people for the discreet, yet firm, manner in which you have acted to obviate a trouble that would have been unpleasant and perhaps serious. After your action in the matter there was no secret meeting and everything passed off pleasantly during the day, only one arrest being necessary, that being a white man under the influence of liquor making some inflammatory appeals to the colored people. The city is perfectly quiet and no disorder is anticipated.

We do not think there was any concerted plan for any disorder here on yesterday by the masses, but if matters had gone on we might have had serious trouble; for when excitement is running so high the least trouble might lead to serious results.

I again desire to thank you for your kind sojourn in our city, and join with you and the Governor in feelings of gratitude that civil law is observed in our grand old State and that it has not been required to use more strenuous means. We know that you ever stand ready to aid the civil authorities in maintaining order. In conclusion, I will say that, from the present outlook, all good citizens, white and colored, will devote themselves to their daily avocations.

Yours very respectfully,

J. E. PETERSON,
Mayor.

EXECUTION AT ELIZABETH CITY.

REPORT OF CAPT. WOOD.

ARMORY PASQUOTANK RIFLES,
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., Nov. 30, 1889.

GEN. JAS. D. GLENN,

Adjutant General N. C., Greensboro, N. C.

SIR:—In obedience to an order received from His Excellency D. G. Fowle, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, supplemented by the request of the Sheriff of Pasquotank County, I ordered out my company, Pasquotank Rifles, Co. E, 1st Regiment, on Friday, Nov. 29, 1889, to preserve order during the execution of Matthew Banks, a negro man condemned to be hanged in the county jail at Elizabeth City, for rape.

The company met at its armory at 9:30 o'clock A. M., there being present ninety-six per cent. of the active membership, and marched them at once to the court-house and jail square. Arriving there I loaded with ball cartridges and posted guards around the entire square, allowing no one without a pass from the Sheriff to come on the sidewalks or streets adjoining the square.

Some fears had been entertained of violent disturbance or an attempt at rescue, but there was no visible movement of that character. Very few people were in the streets, and the whole proceedings were as quiet and orderly as a church assembly. By 11 o'clock the man had been executed and I marched my command to the armory and dismissed it. All were present who could possibly attend, and the men deserve credit for the prompt manner in which they performed a duty which, at best, was exceedingly distasteful and unpleasant and which might have been attended with danger. But for the presence of a well equipped and disciplined military company, very many thoughtful people feel sure there would have been a violent scene. The fact of its existence here is a strong deterrent to riotous deeds, and is in itself a preserver of the peace, not only to this city but to the country and counties surrounding. Happily, occasion seldom arises for military interference, and it is to be hoped the same conditions will continue.

Respectfully submitted.

J. E. WOOD,
Captain Commanding Co. E, 1st Regiment.