

Appointment to a Slave Patrol

Salisbury, North Carolina, January 1856.

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PATROL FOR *January*, 1856

Horace L. Robards,

William Rouzee,

Julius D. Ramsey,

Class No. *1* for *January*, 1856

B.B. Roberts,

Richard B. Pendleton,

To *Horace L. Robards* and in his absence, to *William Rouzee*,

SIR: You are hereby appointed Captain of the *Ist* Class of Patrol for the month of *January*, 1856. It is your duty to summon your company to meet at such time and place as you may direct, and perform Patrol duty at least two nights in each week; and on the Sabbath day to disperse all collections of negroes or boys violating the Ordinances of the Town. On all slaves found off their owner's premises, without written permission from some person legally authorized to give such permission, you will inflict not more than fifteen lashes; no slave to be whipped except in presence of the Captain. You will arrest and carry before the Intendant of Police, all free colored men found associating with slaves in the night, or on the Sabbath day, in any kitchen, out-house, or place other than his own premises.

The usual hours for Patrolling shall be from 9 to 12 o'clock, at night; but these hours may be varied by special order of the Intendant of Police, to whom you will report within five days after the expiration of your month, the manner in which you have performed this service; and the names and times any of your company have failed to discharge their duty.

For a neglect of your duty as Captain, you are liable to a Fine of Ten Dollars.

By Order of the Commissioners of Salisbury.

Obadiah Woodson, CLERK.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT.

The weather during the last month has been so intensely cold that we have not discharged the duty as patrol (though regularly) as long on duty as we would otherwise have done. There has been no absentees without good excuses.

B B Roberts 2 nights absent frozen [illegible]

R B Pendleton 2 nights fiercely sick –

H L Robards 2 nights absent [illegible]

Respectfully submitted HL Robards

Feby 4th 1856

Notes: This document is partially printed. All handwritten text appears in **bold**.