



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

Tennessee Assistant Commissioner, Registered Letters Received, Entered in Register 4, R–W, 1868

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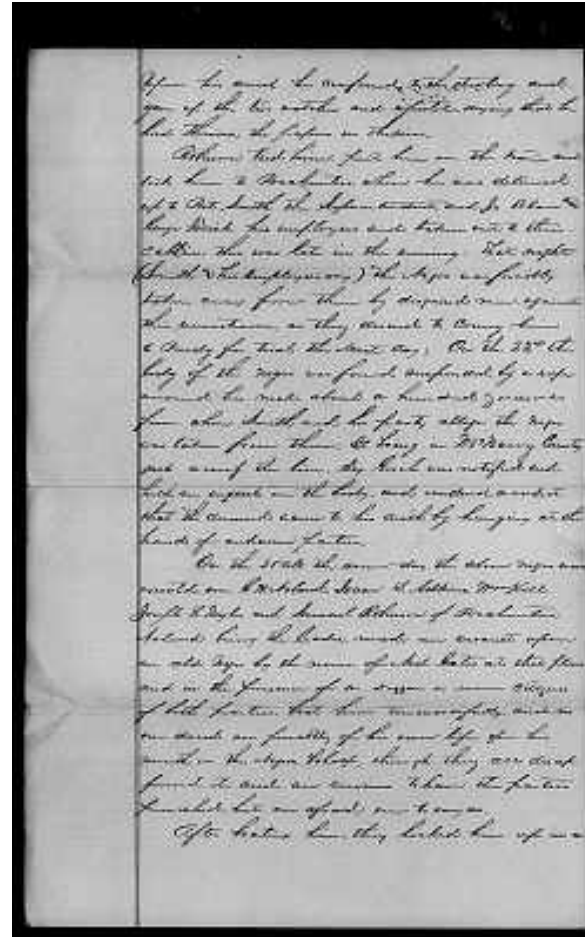
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before his arrest he confessed to the stealing and gave up the two watches and a pistol, saying that he had thrown the papers in the river.

Robinson tried him, put him on the train and took him to Pocahontas, where he was delivered up to Pat Smith the Superintendent, and Jo Blair and George Fosick his employees and taken out to their cabin; this was late in the evening; that night (Smith & his employees say) "The Negro was forcibly taken away from them by disguised men, against their remonstrance, as they desired to convey him to Pardy for trial the next day; On the 22nd the body of the negro was found suspended by a rope around his neck, about a hundred yards or so from where Smith and his party allege the negro was taken from them; It being in McNairy County just across the line, Esq. Gorich was notified and held an inquest on the body, and rendered a verdict that "the deceased came to his death by hanging at the hands of unknown parties.

On the 21st ult the same day the above negro was executed one G.W. Noland, Isaac L. Adkins, Wm. Hill, Joseph L. Taylor and Samuel Robinson of Pocahontas, Noland being the leader, made an assault upon an old negro by the name of Ned Cates at that place and in the presence of a dozen or more citizens of both parties, beat him unmercifully, and no one dared on finality of his own life, open his mouth in the negro's behalf, though they all disapproved it, and are anxious to have the parties punished, but are afraid even to say so.

After beating him, they locked him up in a



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