

1892

the northeast corner of Forsyth and Bridge (Broad) Streets laid with elaborate Masonic ceremonies.

May 11: Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans organized with 25 members. Officers elected: Captain, D. U. Fletcher; first lieutenant, S. C. Boyleston; second lieutenant, J. E. T. Bowden; secretary, F. B. Matthews; treasurer, C. N. Welshans.

May 15: Fire originating in a house on the south side of Adams Street between Second (Davis) and Third (Lee) Streets, LaVilla, destroyed eight dwellings and two stores in that block.

Riot of 1892

July 4: During a controversy over a trivial matter a fight ensued between Frank Burrows, a young white man, and a giant negro named Ben Reed. Reed struck Burrows on the head with an oak standard, crushing his skull. Reed was soon captured and taken to the city jail at the foot of Liberty Street. When the news spread that Burrows had been killed feeling ran high and there was talk by indiscreet persons of lynching. Early that night negroes began to congregate around the county jail at the other end of Liberty Street, to which Reed had been removed, and by 10 p. m. a mob of 500 or more had gathered to protect the prisoner. They placed sentinels at every corner in the vicinity and armed negroes patrolled the streets leading to the jail. That part of the city was entirely in their control. When a white man appeared, they surrounded and questioned him. A whistle signal was then given to the next corner and the pedestrian would be followed; if he went in the direction of the jail, he was surrounded and covered with cocked pistols and Winchester rifles and turned back. A number of prominent white citizens fell into this situation during the night. There was no hostile demonstration, however, when 20 policemen came up and went into the jail. Just before midnight a dispatch was received from the Governor ordering the three local military companies (Jacksonville Light Infantry, Metropolitan Light Infantry, and Wilson's Battery) to mobilize at their armories and hold themselves ready to resist any attack on the jail. In an hour they were under arms. The night passed without bloodshed, but was one of the utmost tension.