

The GREAT HOUSE OF CHAS. M. STIEFF RECEIVES ANOTHER HONOR

H. ST. GEORGE TUCKER,
President.

ALVAH H. MARTIN,
Director General.

T. S. SOUTHGATE,
Governor of Exhibits.

JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION

JAMES L. FARMER,
Secretary of Jury.

JURY OF AWARDS:

Albert Shaw.....President.
Ambrose Swasey.....Vice President.

Norfolk, Va., U. S. A., Nov. 2, 1907.

Mr. Chas. M. Stieff,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to advise you that the Jury of Awards for the Jamestown Exposition has examined your exhibit and awarded you a DIPLOMA of a GOLD MEDAL for

CONCERT GRAND, PARLOR GRAND, BABY GRAND,
UPRIGHT AND SELF-PLAYER PIANOS.

The Exposition Company will forward to you in due season the Award Diploma above mentioned, together with replica in bronze of the medal.

By direction of the President of the Jury.

JAMES L. FARMER,
Secretary of the Jury.

Note:—The design of the Diploma and Medal will not be available until about December 1st, 1907.

CHAS. M. STIEFF

Manufacturer of the Stieff, Shaw, and Stieff Self-Player Pianos

Southern Wareroom 5 West Trade Street

Charlotte, North Carolina

C. H. Wilmoth, Manager.

The Nat Turner Insurrection

First Detailed Record of an Incident That Made History For North Carolina.

BY RED BUCK.

Students of North Carolina history will recall the short paragraphs in State histories of what is known as the Nat Turner insurrection, which took place in Southampton county, Virginia, on the 21st of August, 1831. Fifty-five men, women and children were killed by a band of negro slaves, and in turn, negroes were slaughtered like so many dogs.

Southampton county being on the North Carolina border line the people in Halifax and Northampton counties were very much excited and wrought up over the rumors and reports that were abroad in the land. Military companies were sent to the scene of trouble and towns were guarded by day and night. Several years ago, when in the town of Halifax, I became interested in the stories of the fearful days that Nat Turner, the fanatical negro preacher, and his allies brought and Mr. Norwood Hill helped me to secure the following facts from records and old papers.

RUMORS OF DREADFUL WAR.
The first story of the insurrection, printed in the Roanoke Advocate, of Halifax, read: "Owing to rumors reaching here from Virginia, of an insurrection of the slaves in Southampton county, our town has been, for three days, under arms, and business of every kind suspended for the time. The Roanoke Blues, commanded by Col. Jesse H. Simmons, left here on Tuesday evening last for Southampton to assist our neighbors in suppressing the negroes. We are happy to learn, however, by repeated expresses, that the ruin has been partial and circumscribed. As usual in such cases we have had all sorts of false alarms, without, we think, even the color of truth. Too much praise cannot be given Colonel Johnston for calling out the militia and the seal and promptness with which he responded to the calls of an anxious and excited community. We are now all quiet."

"We regret to learn that by an unfortunate accident Mr. Shepard Lee, of the Blues, was shot in the leg during an alarm, and such was the nature of the wound that all hope of his recovery is departed. Mr. Lee has resided but a short time among us, but was highly esteemed for his amiable and gentlemanly deportment and we know of no event that has excited so much sympathy and regret."

The foregoing appeared on the 25th of August, 1831. A week later, on the 1st of September, it was followed by this: "On Monday evening, the 24th, an express reached this place from Northampton, bringing the startling intelligence of an insurrection of slaves in Virginia, just across the line from this State, telling of fearful murder of men, women and children without discrimination. The stories were so alarming that some doubted them. The Roanoke Blues were called out, and a meeting of the citizens held for the purpose of taking some action. A committee of

tion. Accordingly, that afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the company left Halifax. At the river we were met by a fourth express, from a highly respectable gentleman, of Southampton, stating that the negroes had increased to about 1,000 or 1,500 and were still rapidly increasing.

COMPANY TARRIED AND SLEPT.
"We arrived at Jackson about sunset the same evening, where we remained until 10 o'clock, and then proceeded with a determination to reach the State line by daybreak. At 3 o'clock Wednesday morning we took up at the home of Mr. Absalom P. Smith, 12 miles from Jackson, where we found a guard stationed. We were informed here that from circumstances and reports combined it was very probable that a party of negroes had crossed the Meherrin river near Haley's bridge and would come to the road about the Smith place. On account of this information, and being considerably fatigued, having ridden all night, we concluded to remain there until daylight, the guard we found there acting as sentinels. Fearing a surprise we gave strict orders previous to lying down that each man should lie on his arms so that in case of such an event we might be ready at a moment's notice. About 4 o'clock one of the company had occasion to leave the room, and hearing the tramping of horses' feet, approached the back into the house, and observed in a low voice that someone was coming. From this a general alarm was given, and while in a state of great excitement, every person got up preparing for an immediate attack. One of our men mistook the bustle for a surprise and grabbed his gun and fired on Mr. Shepard Lee, who did not wear a uniform and was in the act of raising his right hand, as if to stab someone! The wound received by Mr. Lee caused his death after 15 hours. Having rendered every possible assistance to our wounded comrade we left him under the care of our surgeon, Dr. W. A. Wilcox, and three members of the company, and again took up the line of march. We arrived at Cross Keys, Va., about 15 miles away, at 10 o'clock the morning.

THE SITUATION AT CROSS KEYS.
"The alarm and excitement there was great. The scenes and distress were beyond description. It is beyond the power of me to tell what we saw. Some were lamenting the loss of companions and others a father, a mother, or a child. The negroes had run riot and shed blood without regard to person or place. In many instances entire families had been killed. Some had made miraculous escapes from the blood-thirsty assassins."

"At Cross Keys we were told that all of the rioting negroes were either killed or routed. We learned that about 80 white people had been slain, their bodies being mutilated in the most shocking way."

"We were informed that the trouble began at a negro church, on Sunday, the 11th, the clergyman himself being the originator of the plot. The immediate cause of the rupture is said to be the chastising of three or four negroes, by some white gentlemen; the whipped negroes had been fighting. The whipping administered by the whites infuriated the negroes and they started out on their dreadful march to work havoc among the white people. On Monday, the day on which

most of the slaughtering was done, the leaders collected about 40 negroes. Thirty negroes had been killed, and a large number committed to jail."

"Finding a large number of troops there, under arms, and fresh troops arriving almost every hour, and nothing to do, we decided to return as far as Mr. Smith's that afternoon. Accordingly, about 2 o'clock, we departed, reaching our destination three hours later. We arrived here the next day."

"In volunteering ourselves to assist our distressed neighbors, though of another State, we claim no credit, having done only no more than our duty as men, as citizens of North Carolina and the Union. It was a call such as every patriot would respond to, and such an one as we feel ourselves ever ready to heed."

MANY EXAGGERATED REPORTS.
"The following account is from John H. Pleasant, editor of The Whig, of Richmond, Va."

"We have been astonished since our return from Southampton (whither we went in Capt. Harrison's Troop of Horses), in looking over the mass of exchange papers, accumulated in our absence, to see the number of false, absurd and idle rumors circulated by the press, touching the insurrection in that country. Editors seem to have applied themselves to the task of alarming the public mind as much as possible and of persuading the slaves to entertain a high opinion of their strength and consequence. While truth is always the best policy, and best remedy, the exaggerations, to which we have alluded, are calculated to give the slaves false conceptions of their number and capacity by exhibiting the terror and confusion of the whites and to induce them to think that, practically, which they see is so much feared by their superiors. We have little to say of the Southampton riot. The origin of the conspiracy, its extent and direction is a matter of conjecture. The universal opinion in that part of the country is that Nat, the slave, a preacher and a pretended prophet, was the first contriver, the actual leader and the most remorseless of the executioners. According to the evidence of a negro boy, whom they carried along to hold their horses, Nat commenced the scene of murder at the first house (Travis) with his own hand. Having called upon two others to make good their valiant boasting, so often repeated, of what they would do, and these shrinking from the requisition, Nat proceeded to dispatch one of the family. Animated by the example of their leader, having a taste of blood and convinced now that they had gone too far to recede, his followers dismissed their qualms and became as ferocious as their leader wished them to be."

SOME OF THE DETAILS.
"To follow the bloody doings from the capture of Travis' house before day to their dispersion in Parker's cornfield, early in the afternoon, when they had traversed near 20 miles, murdered 63 whites and approached within three or four miles of the village of Jerusalem, the immediate object of their movement to describe the scenes at such a house, the circumstances of the murders, the hair-breadth escapes would prove as interesting as heart-rending. Many of the details have reached us, but not in so authentic shape as to justify their publication, nor have we

the time or space. Let a few suffice.

"Of the events at Dr. Blount's, we had a narration from the gallant old gentleman himself, and his son, a lad about 16, distinguished for his gallantry and modesty and whom we take leave to recommend to General Jackson, for a warrant in the navy or at West Point."

"The doctor had received information of the insurrection and that his house would be attacked, a short time before the attack was made. Crippled with the gout and indisposed to fly he resolved to defend his home. His force was his son, overseer and three other white men. Luckily there were six guns and plenty of powder and shot in the house. These were barely used, his force possessed the instructions given, when the negroes, from 15 to 30, strong, rode up about day-break. The doctor's orders were that each man should be particular in his aim, and should fire one at a time, he himself reserved one gun, resolved if the house was forced to seal his life as dearly as he could. The remaining five fired in succession upon the assailants at a distance of 15 or 20 steps. The blacks upon the first fire retreated leaving one killed and one wounded (a fellow called Hark) and were pursued by the doctor and his men with shouts. Had the shot been larger more execution would have doubtless been made."

TWO WOMEN KILLED.
"Mrs. Vaughn's was among the last houses attacked. A venerable negro woman described the scene, which she had witnessed, with great emphasis. It was near noon and her mistress had been making some preparations in the porch for dinner, when happening to look toward the road she saw a dust and wondered what it could mean. In a second the negroes, mounted and armed, rushed into the house, with an exclamation of horror and agony, Mrs. Vaughn ran into the house. The negroes dismounted and ran around the house, pointing their guns at the doors and windows. Mrs. Vaughn appeared at a window and begged for her life, inviting them to take all that she had. This was answered by one of them firing at her which was instantly followed by another, and a fatal shot."

"In the meantime, Miss Vaughn, who was upstairs, and unapprised of the terrible event until she heard the noise of the attack, rushed down, and begging for her life, was shot as she ran a few steps from the door. A son of Mrs. Vaughn, about 15, was at the stillhouse, when hearing a gun and conjecturing, it is supposed, that his brother had come from Jerusalem, approached his house and was shot as he got over the fence. It is difficult for the imagination to conceive a situation so truly and horribly awful as that on which these unfortunate ladies were placed, alone, unprotected and unconscious of danger, to find themselves without a moment's notice for escape or defense in the power of a band of ruffians, from whom instant death was the least they could expect. In a lively and most picturesque manner did the old negroes describe the horrors of the scene; the blacks riding up with imprecations, the look of her mistress, as she saw a shot, her prayer for her life and the action of the scoundrels surrounding the house and pointing their guns at the doors and windows, ready to fire as occasion offered. When the work was done they called for drink and food, and becoming sated

damned the brandy as vile stuff.

"The scene at Vaughn's may suffice to give an idea of what was done at the other houses. A bloodier and more accursed tragedy was never acted even by the agency of the tomahawk and scalping knife. Interesting details will no doubt be given in the progress of the trial and made known to the public."

WIVES BECOME BARBARIOUS.
"It is with pain that we speak of another feature of the Southampton rebellion, for we have been most unwilling to have our sympathies for the sufferers diminished or affected by their misconduct. We allude to the slaughter of many blacks without trial and under circumstances of great barbarity. How many have been put to death (generally by decapitation or shooting) reports vary, probably, however, some five and 20, and from that to 40, possibly a yet larger number."

"To the great honor of General Eppes he used every precaution in his power and we hope and believe with success to put a stop to the disgraceful proceedings."

"We met an individual of intelligence, who said that he himself had killed between 10 and 15. He justified himself on the ground of the barbarity committed on the whites, and that he thought himself right, is certain from the fact of his having narrowly escaped with his own life in an attempt to save a negro woman whom he thought innocent, but who was shot by the multitude in spite of his exertions."

"We (the Richmond Troop) witnessed with surprise the sanguinary temper of the population who evinced a strong desire to inflict immediate death upon every prisoner. Not having witnessed the horrors committed by the blacks, or seen the unburied and disfigured remains of their wives and children, we were unprepared to understand their feelings and could not at first admit of that extenuation, which a closer observation of the atrocities of the insurgents suggested. Now, however, we individually feel compelled to offer an apology for the people of Southampton, while we deeply deplore that human nature urged them to such extremities. Let the fact not be doubted by those whom it most concerns, that another such insurrection will be the signal for the extermination of the whole black population in the State who it occurs."

GANG HAD ABOUT 50.
"The numbers engaged in the insurrection are variously reported. They probably did not exceed 40 or 50, and were fluctuating from desertions and new recruits. About 40 are in Southampton jail, some of them on suspicions only. We trust and believe that the intelligent magistracy of that county will have the firmness to oppose popular passion, should it be disposed to involve the innocent with the guilty and to take suspicion for proof."

"The presence of the troops from Norfolk and Richmond alone prevented retaliation from being carried much farther."

"At the date of Capt. Harrison's departure from Jerusalem, Gen. Nat Turner had not been taken. On that morning, however, Dred, another insurgent chief, was brought prisoner to Jerusalem, having surrendered himself to his master in the apprehension no doubt of starving in the swamps

or being shot by the numerous parties of local militia who were in pursuit. Nat had not been heard of since the skirmish in Parker's cornfield, which was in fact the termination of the insurrection, the negroes after that dispersing themselves, and making no further attempt. He is represented as a shrewd fellow, reads, writes and preaches and by various artifices has acquired great influence over the minds of the wretched beings whom he has led to destruction. It is supposed that he induced them to believe there were only 80,000 whites in the country, who, being exterminated, the blacks might take possession; various of his tricks to acquire and preserve influence had been mentioned, but they are not worth repeating. If there was an ulterior purpose, he probably alone knew it. For our own part we still believe there was none, and if he be the intelligent man represented, we are incapable of conceiving the arguments by which he persuaded his own mind of the feasibility of his attempt, or know how it could possibly end but in certain destruction. We, therefore, are inclined to believe that he acted upon no higher principle than the impulse of revenge against the whites as the cause of his own and his race's that being a fanatic he possibly persuaded himself that Heaven would interfere; and that he may have convinced himself, as he certainly did his deluded followers to some extent, that the appearance of the sun some weeks ago, prognosticated something favorable to their cause. We are inclined to think that phenomenon exercised considerable influence in promoting the insurrection; calculated, as it was, to impress the imaginations of the ignorant."

POSSIBLY A LARGE CONSPIRACY.
"A more important inquiry remains—whether the conspiracy was circumscribed to the neighborhood in which it broke out or had its ramifications through other countries. We, at first, adopted the first opinion; but there are several circumstances which favor the latter. We understand that the confessions of all the prisoners go to show that the insurrection broke out too soon, it is supposed, in consequence of the last day of July being on Sunday, and not, as the negroes believed, the Saturday before. It is reported that the uprising was fixed for the fourth Sunday in August, and that they, supposing the 31st of July to be the first Sunday in August, were betrayed into commencing the third Sunday as the fourth."

"This is the popular impression founded upon the confessions upon indication of an intention of the negroes in Naumound and other to General Nat, extended his preaching excursions, which, however, we disbelieve. It is more than probable, nevertheless, that the mischief was concerted and concocted under the cloak of religion."

"The trials which are now proceeding, or impending, in Southampton, Naumound, Sussex and elsewhere will develop all the truth. We suspect the truth will turn out to be that the conspiracy was confined to Southampton and the idea of its extension originated in the minds upon the southeast of Virginia. Such we believe to be the summary outline of the Southampton insurrection. That insurrection