he had been home since the ninth, to his "Dear Miss Elizabeth" that as the WLI marched "out in the northern end of town where the negroes had congregated … I nearly stepped on negroes laying in the street dead. Oh, it was awful." Metts stated that they were fired at but that no one in his "crowd" got hurt. He stated that "we killed a 'few negroes'" and that it was his first experience "under fire" and "[I was] not near as much excited as I expected to be." He concluded his thoughts on the activities of the WLI during the riot: "I'll tell you things are stirred up and I am glad to say I am still living but we have not killed enough negroes—two or three white men were wounded and we have not gotten enough to make up for it."[78]

Several other groups were ready once the signal was given, namely the Red Shirts and Rough Riders who were assembled in Dry Pond. Once Moore's call activated the WLI, word spread to these men that fighting was taking place across town, and they quickly made their way to the scene.[79]

By noon violence was widespread in the Brooklyn section of Wilmington. Reports of shootings and fires are found throughout the historical record of the event. Volleys were echoing throughout the city. In addition to armed whites moving into action around Brooklyn, black workers found themselves in the midst of a veritable war zone, caught between the river and gunfire. The laborers, still wearing their work coveralls, moved into town to help their friends and neighbors along Harnett. A patrol of whites told them to go back and not approach, but, once the black men refused, the whites shot at them as they ran back towards the railroad. One of them died on the Carolina Central Railroad tracks.[80] Several black men were shot in the crossfire, including Sam Gregory, who was wounded and fell on Fourth between Harnett and Swann. Another unnamed man was wounded and seen crawling under the house of Mrs. W. H. Strauss on Fourth between Harnett and Swann where he was later found near death. He was picked up by a patrol on the eleventh and later died at the hospital of his wounds.[81] Another man, Sam McFarland, was shot as a group of laborers

[78] John V.B. Metts to "Elizabeth" November 12, 1898, Hinsdale Family Papers, Duke University Library, Durham.

[79] James H. Cowan, in his typed, undated recollection of the riot, wrote that Colonel Roger Moore was in control of the armed men of Wilmington until Walker Taylor and the military was activated. Moore turned "control" of his men over to Walker at that time. James Cowan, "The Wilmington Race Riot;" Prather, *Democracy Betrayed*, 33.

[80] *Wilmington Messenger*, November 11, 1898.

[81] Speculation has arisen that the man found under Mrs. Strauss' home at 1012 North Fourth Street, was either Sam McFarland, Sam Gregory, or John L. Gregory. The *Morning Star* stated that Sam McFallon was found under the house and taken to the hospital on November 11 but was expected to die. No McFallon can be found in the *Wilmington City Directory* before the riot although a black laborer, Samuel McFarlan, of 1014 North Second and another black laborer, Samuel McFarland of 512 Taylor Street, can be found in the 1897 *City Directory* but not the 1900 *Directory*. John L. Gregory, a black laborer who lived at 1301 North Fifth can be found in the 1897 *City Directory* but not the 1900. Perhaps the man who died was one of these men. Sam McFarland's death was well documented in the papers. He was shot on the Seaboard Air Line tracks as they crossed Harnett and was taken to the hospital The *Messenger* gave extensive coverage to McFarland's wounding, detailing his transport to the hospital, his death, his employer, his address and that he left a widow. Sam Gregory's death is widely described as the first one to result from the shooting at Fourth and Harnett, with the *Messenger* and *Dispatch* agreeing on his name and location of death. John Gregory's death is reported in the *Messenger,* and he was one of the men who were given an inquest on the twelfth with the location of his death given as on Third between Harnett and Swann. *Wilmington Messenger,* November 12, 1898, November 13, 1898, November 14, 1898; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 12, 1898; *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington), November 11, 1898.