"Officers of Battalion in service during race conflict or revolution at Wilmington, November 10th, 1898." Seated, third from left, George Morton, fourth, Walker Taylor, and fifth, T.C. James. The rest of the men in the photo are officers and staff of the Maxton Guards, the Kinston Naval Reserves, and the Sampson Light Infantry.
Image: Cape Fear Museum

lines.[88] Workers, fearful of leaving their factories, were provided with special police units by Waddell to escort them safely home. Following the lead of prominent Democrats, the papers emphasized that the new "administration will guarantee protection to all—white and black—who are worthy of citizenship."[89] One man, Henry Macon, opted to leave town for a short time and secured a note from leading Democrat William Cumming to ensure his safe passage through the city. Dated the day after the riot, the note explained that Macon was "frightened on account of the recent riot" and that he wished to leave town. Cumming vouched for Macon's character as "peaceably disposed and quiet man, and neither took part in the recent riot nor voted in the last election." He described Macon as a plumber who had done a "good deal of work for me in the last three or four years and I have found his charges reasonable, and

[88] Many of the accounts point out that blacks were routinely searched at every street corner, regardless of age or sex. Some of the searches were done by young men and boys who were considered too young to be carrying guns in the armed guard units. Although these searches were intended to find weapons, only a few small items were found such as knives or brass knuckles. Hayden, *WLI*, 93, 105; "Minutes of the Association of the WLI," North Carolina Collection.

[89] *Wilmington Messenger*, November 14, 1898.