his work good."[90] Conversely, another black employee, known only by his first name of George, worked for James Worth and returned to work by the sixteenth. Worth wrote that George was "back at work again and is happy as can be whistling at his work—I am quite satisfied that he as well as all the best darkies are glad the change has been made."[91]

Democrats celebrate

Letters circulated among prominent Democratic North Carolinians rejoiced in the election victory but some also expressed regret at the violence of November 10.[92] Through it all, the state Democratic Party leaders planned for an immense celebration in Raleigh on November 15. The "jollification" was held at night, with the city illuminated by over 2,000 torches and 500 barrels of tar. Thousands of fireworks were set off along a parade route that wound through downtown. To mark the occasion, the Democratic Party assembled a booklet, *North Carolina's Glorious Victory, 1898*, that provided details of the campaign and biographical sketches of the men who facilitated the victory across the state.[93]

Wilmington whites also began to celebrate both the election victory and the victory over the blacks through violence as soon as the fighting stopped. Recalling Red Shirt parades of the campaign, the military held a parade of five companies of troops on the eleventh in which the men marched throughout the city along with two Colt rapid fire guns and the Hotchkiss gun of the Naval Reserves. White Wilmingtonians cheered the march and the parade, which a newspaper described as a "formidable

---

[90] According to the city directories, Macon was a plumber and lived at 508 S. Sixth Street in both 1897 and 1900. By 1903, his occupation listed as laborer. A review of the census indicates that Macon was born around 1870 and was married in 1890. He had three sons and one daughter. He rented his home on Sixth Street, and by 1910 he is not in the county. By that year, all three of his sons had moved to Rocky Mount and were living with their aunt and uncle, Ruffin and Anna Harris, and attending school. *Wilmington Messenger*, 11-11-1898; William Cumming, Pass for Henry Macon, November 11, 1898, Cape Fear Museum.

[91] Worth continued that he thought the rest of the "best darkies" were "glad that 'dark town' has been taught a lesson, as one bad nigger will harm the rest." James S. Worth to Josephine, November 16, 1898, James Spencer Worth Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

[92] Peter Mallett, a Fayetteville merchant with ties to Wilmington, recorded on the eleventh that he received a telegram from James Sprunt that indicated Wilmington was quiet but excited and that there was "great rejoicing over Democratic victory in N. C." Charles B. Aycock wrote Henry G. Connor on the 11th that he was happy about the election victory – "it is a glorious victory that we have won and the very extent of it frightened me. We shall need wisdom to prove ourselves worthy of it." He then said that he regretted "the Wilmington affair of yesterday greatly." Benehan Cameron of Durham received a note from a creditor in Virginia – "Now that we have white supremacy in North Carolina I hope you will sell your crops and send me a check." Cameron also received correspondence from Thomas W. Strange of Wilmington on the sixteenth which thanked Cameron for his offers of assistance during the riot. However, Strange expected Cameron to pay for the telegram because he was saving every cent and hoped that Cameron would understand his financial "plight." Another letter to Cameron arrived in late December from Julian Carr, Chairman of Durham's Democratic Party. In the letter Carr spoke of the election victory, hoping that "the results of our November victory long abide with us and our children," and provided Cameron with a "souvenir badge of that grand and glorious event." Peter Mallett Papers, Benehan Cameron Papers, and Henry G. Connor Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

[93] Part of the city's decorations were a series of "transparencies" that reflected as headlines the sentiments of many Democrats: "It is a hard pill, Governor, but shut your eyes and swallow it," "There is retribution in politics," "Hurrah for Wilmington," "White Supremacy means work for all," and "There's a hot time coming, Mr. Russell." *News and Observer* (Raleigh), November 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 1898; C. Poland, *Glorious Victory, 1898*.