

First African-American Squad from Chatham Leaves for Training

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FIRST COLORED SQUAD TO GO.

More Than Fifty Left Here Saturday for Camp Grant.

There was quite a large crowd of citizens, both white and colored, at the courthouse last Friday night to listen to short talks made by white and some colored citizens, of this place, to the fifty or more colored drafted men who were to leave next day for their training camp at Rockford, Ill.

Among the whites who spoke were W. P. Horton, R. H. Hayes, James L. Griffin, A. C. Ray and J. B. Atwater. They were followed by Revs. J. C. Stanton, W. W. Long, H. C. Carnish, G. C. Roberts, pastors of colored churches, Thos. Lach, Ben Scurlock and others.

Dick Ramsay, the colored porter at the Exline House, had composed a song for the occasion which was sung very lustily by many of the colored people present. The Record prints the first and last verses, the first verse running like this:

We are going out to Illinois,
We are going out to Illinois—
If we can.
We are going out to Illinois
So we can get ourselves in training—
If we can.

It is supposed that these Chatham county soldiers are going to get the kaiser, for Dick winds up his song as follows:

Put his head on exhibition,
Put his head on exhibition—
Won't that be fine.
Put his head on exhibition,
Then we can settle down this country
One more time.

After the speaking ice cream was furnished them by the citizens here.

Saturday morning a large number of colored people were on the streets and at the depot to say goodby to the drafted men. They were in charge of Lieut. G. F. Held, who was here to look after their needs and see that they were fed en route to camp. The lieutenant remarked to a citizen that this crowd of negroes was the most orderly and best behaved he had met up with, which speaks well for the colored peoples of the county. The following are the names of those who left:

Fred Taylor	Chas L Wilson
Excell Yates	Adolphus Clark
George Alston	Richard Alston
Harvey Nevels	Archie Headen
Billie Moore	Ernest Alston
Johnnie Farrar	Lemuel Harrington
Bunyan Cotton	Ernest Burnett
Sebbie Caviness	Edgar Brooks
Freeman Johnson	Murph Womble
Walker Womble	Percy Watson
Thadius Mitchell	Tom Alson
Chas Fearrington	Arthur Brooks
Hubie Alston	Willie Lambert
Birt Matthews	Robert Rieves
Guy Hooker	Wille Taolor
Isaiah Marsh	Rufus Cotton
Carl Pattishall	Frank Burnett
Charlie Poole	Rudie Johnson
Lossie Siler	Rob Brown
Floyd Baldwin	Wm Davis
Stanley Couch	Buck Jones
Wm L Lassiter	George Taylor
Mel Bynum	Hal Taylor
Ernest Thompson	Walter Page
Jesse Emerson	Jim Lee
Davitt Alston	Charlie Clark
R Fred Lutterloh	Willie Walden
Herbert Perry	Roland Burrfett
Tom Douglass	Prince McMaster