

Pictured above are the members of the famous old "Hook and Ladder Fire Brigade" in Winnsboro some fifty years ago. The brigade, composed entirely of Negroes, must have functioned about the year 1890. The News and Herald was able to obtain only the following names: John Smart, fire chief (in center); Pleasant Milli-

gan, John Wade, Brister Smith, Bill Lumpkin, Bill Ford, Jim Lewis, Isum Lewis, Hamp McCockrell, Dave Kelly, Bill Light (Woodward), Anderson Woodward, Frank Woodward, West Smith, Press Montgomery, Brooks Montgomery, Paul Wright, Tom Goode, Sam Garrison, Jack Archie, John

McCreight, Bob Ellison, Bob Henderson, Amber Goings, John Goings, and Jessie Goings.

The picture was taken approximately half a century ago. In the background is the Neil home. For the photograph The News and Herald is indebted to Mrs. E. D. Sloan, who secured same from

Fannie Smart, widow of the late fire chief, who still lives in Winnsboro, on Garden street. Prior to the turn of the century, John Smart was an architect of note, having constructed one of the buildings which stands near the Columbia hospital. He died about forty years ago.

Hook and Ladder fire company

...Among my [W. Oscar Brice] first recollections is the old fire company – a hook and ladder brigade – the apparatus being still in use as a part of the present fire department by a negro company. The uniform of this old company was a red flannel shirt, with brass buttons – a sort of slouch hat pinned on one side, cavalry fashion, and black trousers. As I recall it, this was a quasi military organization, all militia companies having been disbanded under the Radical regime. I remember though the parades they had, and a photograph was taken of them in front of the old Woodward house where Judge Buchanan now lives, which I thought was a great picture. This fire company afforded our community not only protection against fire, but it was the safeguard of the people from possible riot.

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