

Moses Ashley Curtis diary, September 1831 (page 2 of 7)

possess the country. It is thought that the insurrection was to have been extensive, but a mistake of a week as to the time has rendered the affair abortive, at least not general.

Sept. 10th — News to day of an intended insurrection in Wilmington & vicinity. This is a fine charge for our women after the previous priming news of Va. — It appears that a Baptist camp meeting was to be holden about the first of Oct. at which the blacks from several counties were to assemble & commence their work. It was communicated to a free black who reported it, & one Sam, of W. a freeman, formerly peaceable & trusty, accused of showing the magazine of powder & arms to the revolted. A number of those implicated are in jail, & Sam, it is said, will inevitably lose his life. A large corps of volunteers was speedily organized in W. for defence, & scouts sent out to reconnoitre.

Sept. 12th — Bless me! now the explosion has taken place indeed & the women (some of them her women) are in a desperate taking. — As I was sitting calmly with my brood this evening, our younger mistress returned from a neighbors, sat down, rose - sighed - clasped her hands behind her neck - went ^{out} & called to me. "Well, what?" — "Oh! — Oh! Mr. C. there's an excitement in town!" — "What sort of an excitement! you are very indefi-

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