

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

¹ Thomas Rivera was a black undertaker in Wilmington.

² Saffold did not exaggerate the excitement in Wilmington. Earlier Alex Manly, editor of the Wilmington *Sentinel*, had written an inflammatory editorial about the causes of lynching. He claimed that white women were attracted to black men and that many cases of alleged rape were not rape. Manly suggested that white men keep a closer rein on their women. The Wilmington white newspaper ran an edited version of Manly's editorial every day for a month prior to election day, and it served as an excuse for whites to attack the progressive black community, which by 1898 had gained substantial political and economic power. Following the election, a committee of whites gave Manly an ultimatum to leave town. A black committee responded in moderate terms, but the letter was not received in time to avert violence on Nov. 10. A white mob burned Manly's press and beat and shot blacks throughout the city. More prosperous blacks were given the "opportunity" to sell out and escape the violence. The state militia eventually restored order. No clear estimate emerged of the number of blacks killed, but it was probably between ten and thirty. The next day whites took over the city government, which formerly had included several blacks, and established authoritarian control over the social, political, and economic life of the city for many years.

³ See above, 2:325-26.

From Horace Bumstead

Intervale N.H. Sept. 7, 1898

My dear Mr. Washington: Where can I find a good report of your Ashfield speech? I have read with much satisfaction your brave words about the annexation of Hawaii and one or two other brief extracts, and wish to see the full address if I can. The painful weakness of the reply to your Hawaiian passage which the *Congregationalist*¹ of last week has made is a testimony to the essential truth of your statement. Yours very sincerely,

Horace Bumstead

ALS Con. 137 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ *The Congregationalist*, 83 (Sept. 1, 1898), 278, commented: "Booker T. Washington, whom the Boston *Transcript* calls the 'Negro Franklin,' made a speech at Ashfield [Mass.] last week which was admirable on the whole, but in which, we regret to say, he said of the United States: 'We went to the Sandwich Islands with the Bible and Prayer-Book in our hands to win the souls of the natives; we ended by taking their country without giving them the privilege of saying yea or nay.' In the first place, the evangelization of Hawaii was a work of individual initiative, not of governmental action. In the second place, the domination of Americans in Hawaiian commercial and social life was the inevitable result of superior physical and mental stamina, not of trickery or brutal disregard of native rights. In the